

# Research on the Contemporary Value and Pathways for the Transmission of the Red Culture of the Dongjiang Column

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## Abstract

*This study focuses on the inheritance of the red culture of the Dongjiang Column, an armed force led by the Communist Party of China during the War of Resistance Against Japan in South China. Through literature review, field research, and in-depth interviews, the study systematically examines its historical contributions and spiritual essence. The findings reveal that the Dongjiang Column's spiritual qualities of "bravery, unity, and patriotism" hold significant educational value. Currently, the Dongjiang Column Memorial Hall effectively disseminates red culture through diverse exhibitions and artistic performances; however, awareness among younger generations remains limited. The study recommends: 1) developing "Dongjiang Column-themed" educational programs to strengthen youth education; 2) utilizing VR technology to create immersive red tourism experiences; and 3) leveraging new media to disseminate heroic stories. The study also emphasizes the need for comparative analysis with other red cultural traditions to comprehensively assess its unique value. The spirit of the Dongjiang Column, as a shared heritage of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, holds practical significance for enhancing cultural confidence and driving regional development.*

**Keywords:** Dongjiang Column Red Culture Cultural Transmission

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## I. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Research Background

#### 1.1.1 Macro Background

General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that "Red resources are the witnesses of our party's arduous and brilliant struggle."<sup>Error! Reference source not found.</sup>

From a macroscopic point of view, there is an inevitability in researching the culture related to the Dongjiang Column. It is clearly stated in the report of the 20th Party Congress<sup>[1]</sup> that, firstly, "we comprehensively strengthen the leadership of the Party, make it clear that the most essential feature of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the greatest advantage of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics is the leadership of the CPC, and that the CPC is the supreme political leadership force"; secondly, "We have established and adhered to the fundamental system of the guiding position of Marxism in the ideological sphere, and socialist core values have been widely disseminated"; and lastly, "We have implemented the overall concept of national security, and we have not yielded an inch on issues of principle and safeguarded the interests of the country's sovereignty, security, and development with firmness of will and quality of character ". This explains the political background of this research in terms of party leadership, ideology, and national security, i.e., the research on Dongjiang Column culture is an echo of the call of the 20th Party Congress Report, an echo of the modernization of new China, and an echo of the strategic goal of building a strong cultural country in this new era of firming up cultural self-confidence and enhancing cultural soft power.

In addition, the continuous attention to the culture of Dongjiang Column in the academic field is also one of the macro backgrounds of the research. According to the data of China Knowledge Network, in the past two

decades, the theme of "Dongjiang Column" has never been neglected by the academic circles, and many scholars are still digging the value of Dongjiang culture to us, especially since 2023, there are 19 articles about Dongjiang Column published in academic journals or newspapers. This research report will be based on the previous works, and will promote the exploration and development of the academic value of "Dongjiang Column Culture".

### **1.1.2 Micro perspective**

The red mark left by Dongjiang Column in Dongjiang area carries the memory of our forefathers who fought bravely and defended the country. However, the younger generation knows less and less about the specific stories and spiritual connotations of the Dongjiang Column on the land around them, so there is an urgent need for in-depth research and sorting out to pass down these valuable cultures in the local area, so as to make the jigsaw puzzle of the regional culture more complete and vivid.

Many communities involved in the activities of the Dongjiang Column are now committed to building a community cultural environment rich in characteristics and heritage. The communities hope to create a cultural atmosphere full of positive energy and a sense of historical importance based on the unique local Dongjiang Column red culture<sup>[3]</sup>. Schools around the Dongjiang Column activity area lack vivid and localized first-hand information when carrying out patriotism education, local history and culture education and other courses. Now only some textbook knowledge is far from enough, need to go deeper to explore the Dongjiang Column from the formation, fighting to the development and growth of the specific historical facts of the various stages, to understand the real experience of the soldiers, in order to fill the gaps in the educational resources of this feature<sup>[4]</sup>.

In recent years, red tourism has flourished everywhere, and the areas where the Dongjiang Column has been active have rich potential for red tourism development, but at present, the relevant departments and tourism practitioners are unable to grasp the complete red cultural connotations of the Dongjiang Column behind these resources, and they are not clear about which stories can impress tourists more, and which cultural elements can be better combined with the tourism experience. Through this research, it is expected that the highlights of the Dongjiang Column red culture can be deeply excavated to help the scientific development and rational layout of local red tourism programs.

## **1.2 Research Objectives**

### **1.2.1 In-depth excavation of historical details**

The purpose is to accurately restore the Dongjiang Column from the beginning to the development and expansion of the process of many specific historical events, including battle strategies, key battles, the organization and construction of the team, and other micro-level details, through the field inspection of the Dongjiang Column once fought the site, stationed at the base and other locations, as well as the interviews with the revolutionary fighters or their descendants, the relevant history witnesses, and make up for the possible existence of the previous understanding of this red culture. to make up for the lack of a comprehensive and detailed understanding of this history that may have existed in the past.

### **1.2.2 Sorting out cultural and spiritual connotations**

Analyze the unique spiritual qualities contained in the red culture of Dongjiang Column, such as bravery, unity and cooperation, tenacious resistance and deep affection for home and country, etc., and make it clear how these spiritual connotations were formed and developed in the historical background at that time, and influenced the actions of every soldier, and then summarize and refine a set of systematic and infectious red cultural and spiritual system of Dongjiang Column so that it can be better inherited and passed on to the next generation. system, so that it can be better inherited.

### **1.2.3 Helping cultural inheritance and dissemination**

Based on the first-hand information obtained from the in-depth research, organize the publicity content of Dongjiang Column red culture suitable for different groups, through diversified dissemination channels, let more people know the glorious history and great spirit of Dongjiang Column, enhance the influence of local red culture in the region and even the country, and promote the transmission of red culture from generation to generation.

## **1.3 Research Methods and Ideas**

This research mainly adopts offline interview method, literature collection method and field research method. Specific research ideas are as follows: first in the research preparation stage, clear to the main activities of the Dongjiang Column area as the scope of the research, access to library documents, network reports and other collection of existing information. Into the research implementation stage, planning the field trip route in

chronological order to visit the relevant sites, develop an interview outline, through a variety of ways to carry out interviews and organize information<sup>[5]</sup>. Then, in the stage of data collation and analysis, we integrated and categorized all kinds of data, used statistics and content analysis to interpret the data, and refined the cultural connotations. Finally, in the stage of presenting results and feedback, a research report covering various aspects with cases and charts will be written to promote the dissemination and development of Dongjiang Column culture.

## **1.4 Innovations and Shortcomings of the Research**

### **1.4.1 Innovations**

This research combines online and offline methods, which not only broadens the sources of information, but also enables the research to cross the geographic limitations and reach a wider group of interviewees. The innovation of online interviews lies in the ability to record the content of the interviews in real time, which is convenient for subsequent analysis and citation. Meanwhile, the interactivity of the online platform also enhances the degree of participation in the research and the immediacy of feedback.

Social media and other interactive platforms were used in the research, which not only increased the interactivity and participation of the research, but also made the information collected more real and diversified. Through these platforms, the research team was able to obtain feedback and suggestions from the public in a timely manner, so as to more accurately grasp the society's perception and attitude towards the Dongjiang Column.

### **1.4.2 Shortcomings**

#### **As for the research sample**

The coverage of the sample is not broad enough to accurately reflect the knowledge, feelings and expectations of all tourists towards the Memorial Hall and the red culture of the Dongjiang Column, and there is a certain degree of one-sidedness. The research mainly focuses on tourists visiting the Dongjiang Column Memorial Hall in Pingshan as well as local people, which makes the assessment of the influence of the Dongjiang Column Red Culture in the whole country and the grasp of the communication needs not comprehensive enough.

#### **Research Depth**

Although we have consulted a lot of information about the Dongjiang Column before the research, and have learned a lot of historical information in the Memorial Hall, we still lack more in-depth academic excavation of the deeper reasons behind some specific historical events of the Dongjiang Column, the complex social background at that time, and the more detailed connection with other anti-Japanese forces, etc. We are still more confined to combing through the basic historical facts that have been presented. It is more at the level of combing the basic historical facts that have been presented.

#### **Research Methodology**

During the whole research process, it mainly focuses on the Dongjiang Column itself and its memorial hall, and does not make horizontal comparative analysis with other red cultural resources and memorial halls of the same type and with similar historical background or equal influence, which makes it difficult to make clear the unique advantages of the red culture of the Dongjiang Column and the gaps in the national red culture system, and is not conducive to the targeting of the development proposals that are more constructive and differentiated. It is difficult to identify the unique advantages and gaps of Dongjiang Column Red Culture in the national red culture system, which is not conducive to putting forward more constructive and differentiated development suggestions.

## **1.5 Significance of Research**

### **1.5.1 Theoretical Significance**

The red culture of Dongjiang Column has important educational significance, which is not only a symbol of the resistance spirit of the Chinese nation, but also an important source of stimulating national pride and patriotism. Through practical research, we can understand the red culture of Dongjiang Column more deeply and explore the ways and methods of its dissemination in modern society. The anti-war spirit of Dongjiang Column is of great significance in enhancing national identity and national cohesion. Practical research helps to excavate and promote this spirit, which has a positive effect on enhancing national soft power.

The historical relics and red cultural resources of Dongjiang Column have potential tourism development value. The research can provide theoretical support and practical guidance for the development of related tourism products and promote local economic development. The story and spirit of the Dongjiang Column is a valuable part of Chinese culture. The research helps to protect and pass on this cultural heritage,

and plays an important role in promoting cultural diversity and innovative development of cultural creation<sup>[6]</sup>. The research helps to enhance the public's knowledge of history and promotes the society's respect and memory of the heroes. At the same time, the anti-war spirit of the Dongjiang Column can also inspire people to show resilience in the face of difficulties and challenges.

### **1.5.2 Reality significance**

Through the research and subsequent publicity, the visibility of the Dongjiang Column and its red culture in Shenzhen can be increased. This will not only help enhance the value of the Dongjiang Column as a historical and cultural heritage, but also promote the development of related cultural industries.

The results of the research can provide a basis for the construction of related memorial facilities and the planning of cultural activities, and enhance its social education function. For example, through the research to understand the public's cognitive needs of the Dongjiang Column, more targeted educational activities and commemorative activities such as stage plays and study tours can be designed.

The research helps to excavate and utilize the historical resources of Dongjiang Column and promote local cultural tourism and economic development. For example, through the research to understand the protection status and development potential of Dongjiang Column historical sites, it can provide reference for the local government to formulate cultural heritage protection and tourism development planning. Through understanding the heroic deeds of the Dongjiang Column, national self-confidence and pride can be enhanced.

## **II. Research -- The Past of the Dongjiang Column**

### **2.1 Literature Collection**

Dongjiang Column, one of the anti-Japanese forces led by the Communist Party of China (CPC) during the Anti-Japanese War, was a powerful anti-Japanese brigade operating in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao. On October 25, 1938, the Japanese army advanced north-south along the Pinghan Railway and the Guangdong-Hankan Railway, and the major towns of Guangzhou in South China and Wuhan in Central China fell, and the Anti-Japanese War in China entered into the stage of strategic stalemate. After the anti-Japanese war entered the strategic phase of confrontation, in order to strengthen the anti-Japanese forces in Guangdong, the Central Military Commission of the Communist Party of China (CPC) decided to integrate the anti-Japanese armed forces dispersed in Guangdong into the Dongjiang Column of the Guangdong People's Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army, with Zeng Sheng as the Commander and Wang Zuoyao as the Political Commissar, which was under the command of the South China Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and to open up and develop the anti-Japanese bases on the Dongjiang River.

After the establishment of the Dongjiang Column, it actively carried out anti-Japanese guerrilla warfare in Luofu Mountain, Baiyun Mountain and various places along the Guangzhou-Kowloon Railway, combating Japanese and pseudo-Japanese forces, establishing grass-roots democratic regimes, and helping the people to improve their lives. Between 1939 and 1940, Chiang Kai-shek set off the first anti-Communist climax. In 1939~1940, Chiang Kai-shek launched the first anti-Communist climax, and the Kuomintang hardliners in Guangdong began to launch. In addition to fighting against the Japanese and pseudo-Japanese forces, the Dongjiang Column. The Dongjiang Column, besides fighting against the Japanese and pseudo-armies, also had to guard against the attacks of the Kuomintang.

On December 8, 1941, after the outbreak of the Pacific War, the Japanese army started to invade Hong Kong. On December 25, Governor Moses Yeung surrendered to the Japanese commander Liansuke Isogaya and Hong Kong fell. After the fall of Hong Kong, the Dongjiang Column set up the Hong Kong and Kowloon Independent Brigade, secretly infiltrated into Hong Kong along the Shenzhen River and the Guangzhou-Kowloon Railway, and in addition to actively raising military supplies in cooperation with the Eighth Route Army Office in Hong Kong, they also planned to rescue the cultural celebrities and famous patriotic and democratic personalities and their family members who were stranded in Hong Kong, as well as attacking the invading forces of the Japanese army and navy stationed in Hong Kong.

In 1943, in order to adapt to the situation of the world anti-fascist war and China's anti-Japanese war, by order of the Central Military Commission, the Guangdong People's Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army was reorganized into the Guangdong People's Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army, and Zeng Sheng continued to serve as the Commander of the Army, and cooperated with the U.S. Naval Forces to collect the information on the deployment of the Japanese forces in the coastal areas of South China and their weaponry, and made great contributions in cooperating with the U.S. Army's landings along the coasts of China. Contribution.

On August 15, 1945, the Japanese invading forces announced their unconditional surrender, and Zeng Sheng, on behalf of the anti-Japanese forces in the Guangdong area, accepted the surrender of the representatives of the invading Japanese forces in Dongguan. During the Liberation War, the Dongjiang Column and the Liangguang Column were merged into the Liangguang Column of the Chinese People's Liberation

Army, which fought bloody battles in Guangdong, Hunan, Hubei and Henan, and made great contributions to the founding of New China.

## **2.2 Walking into the Dongjiang Column Memorial Hall**

### **2.2.1 Background of the construction of Dongjiao Column Memorial Hall**

The background of the construction of the Dongjiang Column Memorial Hall in Pingshan is far-reaching and rich, behind which carries a deep historical and cultural heritage and the mission of the times.

With the progress of society and people's deeper understanding of history, red culture, as an important spiritual wealth of the Chinese nation, has received more and more attention and attention<sup>[7]</sup>. As an important part of the anti-Japanese war in South China, the historical and cultural value of Dongjiang Column cannot be ignored. Through the construction of the Memorial Hall, the history and culture of the Dongjiang Column can be more deeply excavated and inherited, so that more people can understand and recognize this history and inspire people's patriotic feelings and national spirit. It can also become an important carrier to promote the development of red tourism and red culture industry. Through the display and publicity of the Memorial Hall, it can attract more tourists to visit and learn, and promote the development of the local economy and cultural prosperity.

The background of the construction of the Dongjiang Column Memorial Hall in Pingshan is based on the important position and contribution of the Dongjiang Column in the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, as well as the importance attached by all sectors of the society to the inheritance and promotion of red culture. Through the construction of the Memorial Hall, it can better commemorate and honor the heroic deeds and revolutionary spirit of the Dongjiang Column, pass on and carry forward the red culture, and contribute to the promotion of the harmonious development of the society.

### **2.2.2 Geographic location**

Pingshan Dongjiang Column Memorial Hall is located at No. 230-1 Dongzhong Road, Pingshan Street, Pingshan District, Shenzhen City, Guangdong Province. Its geographical location advantages are mainly reflected in the following aspects:

- 1.The Memorial Hall is located in the center of Pingshan Street, with a well-developed peripheral bus network and several bus stops nearby, which is convenient for citizens and tourists to visit.
- 2.Pingshan District has a rich history, culture and natural resources, the location of the Memorial Hall also facilitates the formation of a linkage effect with the surrounding attractions.
- 3.Since Shenzhen is one of China's special economic zones, densely populated and economically developed, the Memorial Hall's location enables it to attract more tourists to visit.

The geographical location advantage of the Dongjiang Column Memorial Hall in Pingshan makes it an important historical and cultural attraction, providing citizens and tourists with a valuable opportunity to understand and learn the history of the Dongjiang Column.

### **2.2.3 Introduction of Dongjiang Column Memorial Hall**

The Dongjiang Column Memorial Hall in Pingshan District of Shenzhen covers an area of about 5,000 square meters, with a floor area of 1,500 square meters for the exhibition hall, and the Dongjiang Column Memorial Hall sits in the northwest facing the southeast. The exhibition hall is a closed square enclosure shape. The front side is a two-story building, and the other three sides are a one-story gallery.

Shenzhen pingshan district dongjiang column memorial hall display has 4 parts: exhibition building in the dongjiang column history exhibition hall, zengsheng cultural relics room, building outside the courtyard has forward newspaper former site, east column martyrs monument.

## **2.3 Field Research**

### **2.3.1 Interviewing tourists**

In order to gain a deeper understanding of the role played by the Dongjiang Column Memorial Hall in inheriting the red culture and promoting the spirit of patriotism, as well as the tourists' experience and feelings about visiting the Memorial Hall, I interviewed the visitors of the Dongjiang Column Memorial Hall.

Interview results and findings:

1. Visitors' overall appraisal of the Memorial Hall is high

They think that the exhibition of the Memorial Hall is rich and vivid, and can well show the history and culture of the Dongjiang Column. Meanwhile, the clean and orderly environment of the Memorial Hall has left a deep impression on the visitors.

2. Visitors are satisfied with the exhibition content of the Memorial Hall



When talking about the exhibition content of the Memorial Hall, visitors generally expressed their satisfaction. They thought that the exhibition content was rich and diversified, illustrated, and could well restore the historical scenes and characters. At the same time, the memorial hall also adopts multimedia and other modern technical means for display, making the exhibition more vivid and interesting.

### 3. Visitors' affirmation of the educational significance of the Memorial Hall

Tourists generally believe that the Dongjiang Column Memorial Hall plays an important role in passing on and carrying forward the red culture. By visiting the Memorial Hall, tourists can gain an in-depth understanding of the history and culture of the Dongjiang Column and enhance national pride and patriotism. At the same time, the Memorial Hall also provides an important platform for young people to understand history and learn the spirit of revolution, which helps to cultivate their patriotic feelings and revolutionary spirit.

Through this research, I realize more clearly that it is the responsibility of every Chinese to inherit and carry forward the spirit of Dongjiang Column, and we should actively participate in related activities to learn the history of Dongjiang Column and inherit its spirit.

## III. Conclusion & Insights

Dongjiang Column culture is an important part of the spirit of resistance of the Chinese nation and has irreplaceable historical value and educational significance. It is not only an important source to stimulate national pride and patriotic feelings, but also a key factor to promote cultural diversity and innovative development. The Dongjiang Column Memorial Hall has played a remarkable role in passing on the red culture and promoting the spirit of patriotism. Visitors have highly evaluated the exhibition contents and educational significance of the Memorial Hall, believing that it can effectively display the history and culture of the Dongjiang Column and enhance national pride and patriotism. Although the culture of the Dongjiang Column has gained attention in academia and among some members of the public, the younger generation still has insufficient knowledge of the specific stories and spiritual connotations of the Dongjiang Column, indicating the need to further strengthen publicity and education efforts. The areas where the Dongjiang Column operated have rich potential for red tourism development, but the complete cultural connotations behind these resources cannot be grasped at present, which requires more in-depth excavation and scientific planning.

This research has deficiencies in sample coverage, depth of historical excavation, comparative research and fieldwork time, etc. It is recommended to optimize the research in the future to obtain more comprehensive and in-depth research results.

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