

LIBERAL STUDIES

時事聚焦

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中英社評

「反國教」應休矣
立會勿節外生枝



▲梁振英宣布擱置德育及國民教育科課程指引，但無需撤科
本報攝

特首梁振英昨日宣布接受「德育及國民教育科委員會」的建議，擱置有關課程指引，辦學團體及學校可根據專業判斷，自行決定何時及如何在校內開展國民教育。

有關「國教」的推行，在梁振英政府上任以來引發了一場較大的社會風波，部分青年學生一度圍堵政府總部，數以十萬計的家長亦表達了不同程度的擔憂，亂港傳媒更以「洗腦」二字蠱惑人心，以至特區政府窮於應付。

在此種情況下，特區政府昨日作出擱置課程指引、任由學校自決的決定，是不得已而為之，也是明智的做法。「強扭的瓜不甜」，眼下條件既不具備，就無硬推的必要，說到底，國民教育也不是什麼十萬火急的事；相反，通過此次爭議可能令到更多師生家長正視有關認識國家和兩地關係等問題，有望日後推行國民教育水到渠成、阻力減少。

不過，必須指出，部分師生家長對「國教」的不理解、不接受，與反對派政客和亂港傳媒的扭曲事實、製造「洗腦」白色恐怖，性質是截然不同的兩回事。部分師生家長的疑慮是出於長期的隔閡和不了解所造成，誤信什麼「愛國就是愛黨」那一套胡謔，實質上他們並不反對學生和子女認識國家，更不是要反對「一國兩制」。但反觀反對派政客和亂港傳媒，他們的起勁反對，根本不是為了學生、為了教育，而是為了要挑撥港人和內地的關係，攻擊「一國兩制」已「名存實亡」，達到不可告人的政治目的。

事實是，港人社會對此一發生在回歸十五年的「反國教」風波，必須要以清醒的頭腦和公平公正之心去對待。香港特區的未來離不開祖國，香港經濟發展已納入國家「十二五」規劃之內，國民教育正正是為了替下一代融入更廣闊天地、開創更美好的前途打下基礎，絕對是德政、好事而不是壞事。今天仍然鼓吹香江要「劃地為牢」、自絕於祖國，是絕對的居心叵測和立心不良。

事實是，這一場「反國教」風波，對港人在內地社會的形象已經構成不利影響，不少內地同胞對香港今天仍有人在那裡喋喋不休什麼「洗腦」，感到十分不解，更驚訝其無知。

因此，港人社會有必要從此次「反國教」風波中吸取教訓，動輒將問題政治化不僅於事無補，只會給亂港分子以可乘之機，自己也會不自覺被拖入抗中亂港的政治迷霧當中。試想，當全球都在為中國的和平崛起而謀求接觸合作、國家經濟發展正因國際金融風暴衝擊而改變模式升級轉型、全國人民包括海內外華人都為保衛釣魚島而發出怒吼之際，一些港人卻在那裡身穿黑衣、莫名其妙地交叉雙手「反洗腦」，實在是貽笑大方，和香港這個國際都會級大城市以及一貫的民主法治形象大相逕庭。

新一屆立法會明天就要開啓運作，反對派議員已經揚言要以「反國教」和要求教育局長吳克儉下台為「第一波」的攻擊。特區是要讓梁振英政府集中精力幹實事、發展經濟、改善民生，還是又要再蹈前屆覆轍，立法會變成「亂法會」，今天動議倒台、明天阻撓撥款，還有沒完沒了的「拉布」以至什麼「五區總辭變相公投」，是禍是福，是支持特區政府依法施政，還是任由反對派政客繼續亂會亂港，廣大市民必須拿出主人翁的態度認真對待。

9/10/2012 大公社評

Putting an end to “anti-national education”

Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying yesterday announced that he had accepted the recommendation of the Committee on the Implementation of Moral & National Education (MNE) and decided to shelve the curriculum guide for the MNE subject, allowing Sponsoring Bodies of Schools and schools make their own decisions on whether to implement the subject, when and how to implement it.

The government's plan to introduce the MNE subject has caused quite a social turmoil after the Leung administration took office. Some young students once besieged the government headquarters. Tens of thousands of parents have also to varying degrees expressed their concerns. Trouble-making media outlets even branded it as “brainwashing” to confuse and poison people's minds. The SAR Government has been *“tied down”* to coping with the situation.

Under such circumstances, the SAR Government has no alternative but to make yesterday's decision on shelving the MNE curriculum guidelines. This is a wise move. “Nothing done forcefully is going to be desirable.”

Right now as conditions are not ripe, there is no need to forcefully implement the MNE subject. After all, national education is not the most urgent task. On the contrary, the controversy and debate this time may attract attention from more teachers, students and parents to the issue of understanding our country and the relationship between Hong Kong and the Mainland. So hopefully, in future when conditions are ripe, there will be less resistance against the introduction of national education.

However, it must be pointed out that, some teachers, students and parents’ not understanding and accepting national education is something totally different in nature from some opposition politicians and trouble-making media outlets’ twisting facts to create the “brainwashing” *“White Terror”*. Some teachers, students and parents have their suspicion due to their misunderstanding or lack of understanding for a long time, so much so that they mistakenly believe the nonsense about “loving the country being meant to love the (communist) party”. In fact, they do not oppose students or their children learning about our nation, let alone oppose “one country two systems”. On the other hand, opposition politicians and trouble-making media outlets’ intense opposition to national education is not in the interests of students or education. Their purpose is to *“drive a wedge between”* Hong Kong people and the Mainland and to defile “one country two systems” as “ceasing to exist except in name”, so as to achieve their ulterior political aim that cannot *“see the light of day”*.

As a matter of fact, Hong Kong society must cool-mindedly, fairly and justly view this “anti-national education” turmoil that happens 15 years after Hong Kong's return to the Motherland. Hong Kong SAR's future cannot be separated from the Motherland. Hong Kong's economic development has been included in the country's 12th Five-Year Plan. National education is exactly to lay a foundation for the next generation to integrate themselves into a far vaster field of activities for a far more beautiful future. It is absolutely a benevolent policy, a good thing rather than a bad thing. Those who are still advocating today for Hong Kong to restrict its activities within its boundaries and to isolate itself from the Motherland are absolutely with concealed intention and *“have got some dirty tricks up their sleeves”*.

In fact, this “anti-national education” turmoil has already damaged the image of Hong Kong people on the Mainland. Many Mainland compatriots find it hard to understand why in Hong Kong today there are still some people talking endlessly about “brainwashing”, and feel astonished by their ignorance.

Therefore, it is necessary for Hong Kong society to learn a lesson from the “anti-national education” turmoil. To indiscriminately politicise any issue not only is not helpful but will also present an opportunity that can be exploited by trouble makers to their advantage. People involved will also unconsciously be dragged into the political fog of resisting against China and making trouble for Hong Kong. When the whole world is seeking contact and cooperation with a peacefully rising China, when our country's economy is changing its development mode to upgrade itself to cope with the impact of the international financial crisis, when people all over the country

including Chinese descendants overseas are bursting into angry shouts to show their determination to protect the Diaoyu Islands, it is really ridiculous to see a few Hong Kong people in black oddly crossing their hands to oppose “brainwashing” – which runs entirely contrary to this international metropolis as Hong Kong and its consistent image of democracy with the rule of law.

The newly formed Legislative Council (Legco) will start its session tomorrow. Opposition lawmakers have already spread the word that they would launch their “first wave” attacks by opposing national education and demanding Secretary for Education Eddie Ng Hak-kim to step down. Whether Hong Kong society wants the Leung administration to concentrate on dealing with practical matters, developing the economy and improving people's livelihood or wants to see Hong Kong take the disastrous road again letting the Legco become the “chaos creating council” with motions to demand this or that official to step down or to obstruct fund allocation, plus endless “filibustering” and even “resignation on masse for de facto referendum”; whether Hong Kong will suffer misfortune or enjoy happiness; whether Hong Kong society will support the SAR Government's administration in accordance with the law or tolerate opposition politicians to continue making trouble for Hong Kong – vast majority of citizens must decide with the attitude of being the master of society.

09 October 2012

Words and Usage

Tie sb down (phrasal verb) – To restrict someone's activities or freedom. (牽制，束縛)

Examples: 1.The reason he remains single is that he does not want to be tied down by marriage.

2.We were tied down by an impossible schedule and had to put off all vacations.

White Terror (noun) – 即「白色恐怖」。該詞起源於18世紀末法國大革命時期。法國波旁王朝 (Bourbon monarchy) 崇尚白色，革命黨人就用紅色代表自己。1794年，反對革命的保皇黨大規模鎮壓和殺害革命黨人，史稱第一次「白色恐怖」。此後，紅色多用來代表「革命」，而白色則代表「反革命」。

Drive a wedge between A and B (idiom) – To cause a division between two people or groups. (挑撥離間，破壞……之間的關係)

Examples: 1.It would be silly to let things which have happened in the past drive a wedge between us today.

2.We should not allow differences of opinion to drive a wedge between us two.

See the light of day (idiom) – To be publicized, made available or known to the public. (見光，公開)

Examples: 1.The film banned by authorities may see the light of day.

2.The company promised the embarrassing advertisement would never again see the light of day.

Have (got) a trick up one's sleeve (idiom) – If you have a trick up your sleeve, you have a secret plan to use when the time is right. (袖裡玄機，秘招)

Examples: 1.Does Apple have more tricks up its sleeve after iPhone5?

2.If he won't cooperate, she has a few tricks up her sleeve she could try.

時事點晴

德育、國民和公民教育是學校教育的重要一環，學生接受這方面的教育是理所當然的。世界各國都推行國民教育，每一個公民接受自己國家的國民教育是天經地義的事。比如美國的國民教育圍繞着憲法、獨立宣言以及美國的價值觀進行灌輸。而且特別注重教育者的政治素質，十分嚴格。據美國社會學家昂納·戴維斯的報告，美國高校教育者失聘的原因中，比例最高的是政治思想有危險傾向，佔到32%，而因學術水平不合格只佔到19%。

2011年6月16日立法會議案辯論，時任教育界議員張文光發言（部分）：

我必須重申：我們不反對國民教育。我們只是反對一種由上而下、長官意志或違反教育原則的國民教育。

失去中國的歷史，失去民族的認同，失去人類的普世價值，無論國民教育或公民教育，都會流於空洞和偏頗。「苟利國家生死以，豈因禍福避趨之」，愛國不是因為國家強大、經濟發達，甚至陞官發財，而是用生命的真誠，批判國家的缺點，推動國家的進步。

香港學生需要的是建基於人文關懷的國史教育、國民教育和公民教育，我們沒有否定國民教育。究竟我們希望國民教育培養出怎樣的下一代呢？是見利忘義、虛偽狡猾、膜拜權力的下一代，還是具有歷史視野、普世價值、獨立思考、明辨是非、真誠愛國的下一代呢？

時任教育局長孫明揚就「德育及國民教育科」動議辯論的總結發

擱置，求同存異

言（部分）：

在中、小學推行德育及國民教育科，是希望達到六個目的：

第一是配合社會發展，優化課程。自香港回歸，我們下一代與國家的發展已不可分割。這學科的開設，並非由零開始，而是在現有基礎上有效培育學生的價值觀及態度。

第二是重視核心價值及普世價值。課程理念重視全人素質的培養，學習目標蘊含核心價值及普世價值，包括「堅毅」、「尊重別人」、「責任感」、「國民身份認同」、「承擔精神」、「自由」、「民主」、「人權」、「法治」等。香港是一個資訊發達自由及多元社會，無論老師還是學生，每天都會從不同渠道接收不同資訊。我們不相信學生會被個別課堂「洗腦」，而老師亦有足夠的專業能力促進學生多角度討論。教師不需迴避任何教學題材或議題。

第三是與各學習領域及學科相輔相成。本科擁有獨特地位和特色。

第四是課程富彈性及靈活的學與教。鼓勵教師採用生活情境進行教學，並可因應需要作出調適。

第五是持續專業支援，推動學科發展。繼續提供「德育及公民教育津貼」，協助教師規劃有關德育及公民教育的學習活動，提升學與教的成效。

第六是多元化評估及促進學與教成效。不設立公開試的評估模式，不要求教師就學生學習成果打分。

讓教育回歸教育

在辦學團體和學校專業的的自決原則之下，委員會認為政府既不規定學校是否一定要開設，或要如何開展，或者推行該科，也不應及不必禁止或干預學校自決開科，在此情況下，一方面容許學校開班，另一方面也不能夠禁止的情況下委員會贊成不應該撤銷這個科目。

時人名句

有關國民教育的爭議已持續多月，造成分化和衝擊，亦對學校運作和教學造成負面影響。政府接納開展德育及國民教育科委員會的建議，正式擱置該科的課程指引。學校可按專業判斷，自由採納認為合適的教學指引和相關教材，政府不會為該科提供任何規定性或官方的課程指引。期望能平息爭拗和重建社會上的互信，讓教育回歸教育，學生可以在不受干擾的環境中學習。

行政長官 梁振英

開展德育及國民教育科委員會主席 胡紅玉

時事英語

既屬「扶貧」就須審查資產

新一屆立法會尚未正式開始運作，一些政黨的議員就已先聲奪人，揚言若政府不取消「長者生活津貼」計劃中的資產審查（means test），就會投反對票云云。

特首梁振英履行競選時的承諾，於7月16日宣布增設每月2200元的「長者生活津貼」（Old Age Living Allowance, OALA）。有需要的長者，須申報入息及資產（declare financial means），通過審查後方可領取。政府表明，這是一項針對老年人的「扶貧」（alleviation of poverty）政策。既然是扶貧而非全民退休保障（universal pension），資產審查不僅必要也是合理的。每月2200元對有需要的長者來說，無疑是「雪中送炭」（timely assistance），但對身家豐厚者不過是聊勝於無（better than nothing）。

若取消資產審查，公共開支勢必大增。按社署估計，如果所有年滿70歲以上（aged 70 or above）的申請人不需設經濟狀況的限額，首年的額外開支預計會由約62億元增至近100億元。若所有年滿65歲的申請人也受惠，這項開支更會增至約136億元。而且，隨着香港人口老化（population aging）加速、長者增多，此開支勢必逐年遞增。

政府估算本港65歲以上的人口將從目前約90萬急升至2030年的210萬，屆時65歲以上人口將達總人口的四分之一。而且香港人越來越長壽（longevity），香港男性去年平均壽命（life expectancy）為80.5歲，連續多年保持世界第一，女性去年平均壽命達86.7歲，打破日本女性保持了26年的世界紀錄。另一方面，香港生育率（fertility rate）在過去20多年持續維持在低水準，2003年生育率跌至千分之0.9的歷史低位，2009年雖回升至1.04，但仍屬世界最低，也遠低於每名女性生育2.1名子女的更替水準（replacement level）。如果這個趨勢不改變，香港老年人會越來越多，而越來越少的年輕人便要承擔越來越重的公共開支負擔。

因此，鼓吹取消資產審查、發放「全民」長者生活津貼，是完全不負責任和缺乏政治道德的。

亦然