



*Research article*

## The contribution and role of the CPC Special Branch of Lanzhou during the Great Revolution

Yue-wen Wang<sup>1\*</sup>

1. Bai Middle School, Zhuanglang County, Zhuanglang 744600

\*Corresponding author: Yue-wen Wang

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### ABSTRACT

Lanzhou special branch of the Communist Party of China is the earliest party organization established by the Northern District Committee of the Communist Party of China in Gansu, which has made great contributions to the first cooperation between the Kuomintang and the Communist Party in Gansu and the successful completion of the Northern Expedition. In the early 1920s, due to the influence of the May 4th Movement, Marxism was gradually introduced into China, promoted the development of revolution, promoted the awakening of the people of Gansu, and laid the ideological and organizational foundation for the establishment and activities of the Communist Party of China in Gansu.

**Key words:** Lanzhou special branch, Gansu special branch, Xuanxia father

After the outbreak of the May 4th movement in Beijing in 1919, in Beijing and other places to study Gansu students actively participate in, and established in early 1920 "new club", founded "new" Gansu monthly influence, the May 4th movement in Gansu, Lanzhou and other places of school teachers and students took to the streets, organize demonstrations, support of Beijing students' patriotic action.<sup>①</sup> After the founding of the Communist Party of China in 1921, young students from Gansu province studying outside began to accept Marxism and embarked on the road of revolution. In October 1925, by the northern District Committee of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and Li Dazhao, in the second division of the political work of the national army came to Lanzhou, and the Gansu Communist Party member Zhang Yiwu and others to build the CPC Gansu organization.<sup>②</sup> In December 1925, Xuan Xia fu, Qian Quan and others had secret contact with Zhang Yiwu, a Communist Party member from Lanzhou, and established the Gansu special branch of the Communist Party of China, with Zhang Yiwu as secretary, Xuan Xia fu and Qian Quan as members. Party members included Jia Zongzhou, ShouYuenan, Li Yinping, Qiu Jiming and others. After the establishment of the communist party of China in Gansu

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About the author: Wang Yuewen (1997-), male, Han Nationality, Pingliang, Gansu province, master of history, now working in Zhuanglang County Wenbao Middle School, mainly engaged in modern Chinese history research, 17361667049.

<sup>①</sup> Gansu Province, Lanzhou: Gansu People's Publishing House, 2008, p. 1.

<sup>②</sup> Gansu Provincial Local Chronicles Compilation Committee, Gansu Provincial Communist Party Chronicles Compilation Committee: Gansu Provincial Communist Chronicles, Lanzhou: Gansu People's Publishing House, 2008, p. 2.

province, resolutely implement the communist party three and the kuomintang a big spirit, actively to the public propaganda "united Russia, communist, help the farmers" three big policies, promote the kuomintang and the significance of the northern expedition held people night school, youth progress publications, widely publicized revolutionary ideas, a broad masses of workers, farmers, youth, women actively participate in anti-imperialist and anti-feudal warlords.<sup>①</sup>

## **1. Contribution of the CPC Special Branch of Lanzhou**

### ***1.1 Extensive publicize the masses and actively develop party members***

From January to March 1926, under the leadership of the special branch, the students of Lanzhou No.1 Middle School, the young teacher, initiated the establishment of "Xingshe" and founded "Xingshi Weekly". XuanXia and Qian Quan organized and coordinated the provincial supervision office to allocate printing funds, published and distributed Minsheng Weekly to spread new culture and new ideas.<sup>②</sup> CPC Gansu special key in Lanzhou schools, factories and suburban rural widely publicized the new three people's justice, the October revolution experience and the revolutionary situation in southern China, founded the "revolutionary youth", "opinions", "wake division" and other publications, further reveals the imperialist crimes against China, called on people to organize,

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<sup>①</sup> Party History Office of Lanzhou Municipal Committee: Historical Events of the Communist Party of Lanzhou (1925-2000), Lanzhou: Gansu People's Publishing House, 2001, p. 1.

<sup>②</sup> Party History Office of Lanzhou Municipal Committee: Historical Events of the Communist Party of Lanzhou (1925-2000), Lanzhou: Gansu People's Publishing House, 2001, p. 1.

down with the powers, down with the warlords.<sup>①</sup> The Gansu special branch of the Communist Party of China also actively and prudently established the party's underground organization, expanded the ranks of party members, the first development of wang Tao, Qin Yizhen and other advanced elements as Communist party members.<sup>②</sup> During the Great Revolution, the Gansu Special Branch of the Communist Party of China carried out the Party's principles, policies and decisions, publicized the New Three People's Principles and communism; and secretly developed Communist Party members. We actively carried out mass movements, and established the Communist Youth League, youth societies, trade unions, farmers' associations and other mass organizations in Lanzhou, Pingliang and Dahe to support the Northern Expedition and carry out vigorous anti-imperialism and feudalism.<sup>③</sup> At the same time, the Gansu Special Branch of the Communist Party of China also used the National Army Political Personnel Training Institute to publicize the revolution and develop party members. In the winter of 1926, the National Army established a political personnel training institute in Lanzhou. Yan Guofu, the member of the Standing Committee of the Kuomintang, was the director, and Qian Quan was the director of educational affairs. Zhang

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<sup>①</sup> Wei Qilong: The Contribution and Role of Gansu Special Branch of the Communist Party of China during the Great Revolution, Party History, People and Things.

<sup>②</sup> Party History Office of Lanzhou Municipal Committee: Historical Events of the Communist Party of Lanzhou (1925-2000), Lanzhou: Gansu People's Publishing House, 2001, p. 2.

<sup>③</sup> Compilation of Local Chronicles Compilation Committee of Gansu Province, Annals of Gansu Province Compilation Committee: Annals of the Communist Party of Gansu Province, Lanzhou: Gansu People's Publishing House, 2008, p. 14.

Yiwu, Qiu Jiming and Bao Zhongliang taught the Three People's Principles, The Outline of the Founding of the Republic, historical materialism and military lessons. During the training period of the political training institute, the political atmosphere was strong and the teaching was lively, which paid special attention to the training of young activists. Before the graduation, 28 outstanding students were recruited to join the Communist Party of China, which developed a number of effective forces for the revolution.<sup>①</sup> At the same time, Qian Quan went to Yulin, Shaanxi province and other places to recruit a group of young students, many of whom are Communist Party members.

### ***1.2 Organize social associations and mass organizations to publicize revolutionary ideas***

In December 1926, according to the decision of Gansu Special Branch, The father of XuanXia and Qian Quan established a trade union organization among the barber workers and water workers in Lanzhou, and developed more than 130 members, as the backbone to mobilize the workers to carry out the struggle against imperialism and feudalism.<sup>②</sup> In addition, Gansu special branch also widely mobilized women to join the revolution, strive for democracy and freedom and their own liberation. Special attention was paid to the training of women activists. First, 28 advanced members were recruited from the 48 young women who

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<sup>①</sup> Party History Office of Lanzhou Municipal Committee: Historical Events of the Communist Party of Lanzhou (1925-2000), Lanzhou: Gansu People's Publishing House, 2001, p. 3.

<sup>②</sup> Party History Office of Lanzhou Municipal Committee: Historical Events of the Communist Party of Lanzhou (1925-2000), Lanzhou: Gansu People's Publishing House, 2001, p. 3.

participated in the political training institute to join the Party. Under the mobilization and guidance of the special branch, the majority of women went to the society and actively participated in the anti-feudal struggle. At the same time, they also founded the progressive publication "Women's Voice of Women" and opened up the propaganda position of the women's liberation movement.<sup>①</sup>

In April 1927, according to the decision of the CPC Shaanxi-Gansu District Committee (in January 1927, the CPC Central Committee decided to establish the Shaanxi-Gansu District Committee with separate Shaanxi and Gansu Provincial Party committees, and Geng Bingguang was appointed secretary of the District Party Committee and Secretary of the Shaanxi Provincial Party Committee), Lanzhou Special Branch held the founding meeting of the youth club in the Gansu Provincial Education Hall. Wang Xiaoxi, chairman of the congress, announced the central task of the youth club, that is, to unite all patriotic youth, anti-imperialism, anti-colonial and anti-feudalism, and fight for the liberation of the Chinese nation. The congress elected Wang Xiaoxi as the president, Ma Lingshan as the secretary, Wang Youzhang, Huang Shaonan, Lei Weizhi, Feng Yujie, Dou Xiangju 6 as the executive committee members, Li Yu as the standing committee member.<sup>②</sup> At the beginning, Lanzhou Youth

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<sup>①</sup> Party History Office of Lanzhou Municipal Committee: Historical Events of the Communist Party of Lanzhou (1925-2000), Lanzhou: Gansu People's Publishing House, 2001, p. 4.

<sup>②</sup> Party History Office of Lanzhou Municipal Committee: Historical Events of the Communist Party of Lanzhou (1925-2000), Lanzhou: Gansu People's Publishing House, 2001, p. 5.

Club had more than 300 members, most of whom were graduated from secondary school. Lanzhou Female Teachers as the venue, and the activities were always working under the leadership of Lanzhou Special Branch of the Communist Party of China. The head of the Lanzhou Special Branch of the Communist Party of China often organizes the members to learn communism, Historical Materialism and the Three Major Policies to educate the members on revolutionary ideology. The youth club also uses the provincial school magazine to publicize, spread the party's thoughts and lines, and introduce new culture and new ideas. The special branch also decided that Feng Yujie and Dou Xiangju would be in charge of the work of the Lanzhou Women's Teachers' Youth Club. Influenced by the activities of the Lanzhou Youth Club, Pingliang and Linxia later set up the youth clubs one after another. By the end of May 1927, eight trade unions in Lanzhou, including machinery, postal service, water man, barber and cook, had been established successively, and the Lanzhou Federation of Trade Unions had been established. Bao Zhishan, the minister of agriculture and industry of the provincial Party department, was the chairman of the Municipal Federation of Trade Unions.<sup>①</sup> Farmers' associations in Gaolan County, Tianshui County, Baohe County and Jingchuan counties in the suburbs of Lanzhou were also established one after another. Under the leadership of trade unions and farmers'

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<sup>①</sup> Ding Huanzhang, *Modern History of Gansu Province*, Lanzhou: Lanzhou University Press, 1989, p. 299.

associations, the movement of workers and peasants has developed vigorously. The women's association and the Tianfoot Association and other organizations with female intellectual youth as the main body were also established. Chen Zongtao, the minister of women of the provincial Party department, as the chairman, vigorously promoted women's liberation, advocated equality between men and women, freedom of marriage, and so on, and launched a fierce attack on the feudal ethics.<sup>①</sup>

In order to carry out revolutionary propaganda to the officers and soldiers of the national army and the people, Xuan afu, Qian Quan, Jia Zongzhou, Qiu Jimin and other people preached the new Three People's Principles, the history of imperialist aggression against China, the history of the national revolution and the history of social development to the officers and soldiers of the national army. Political propagandists posted posters, slogans and leaflets of "national humiliation" map ", " down with imperialism ", " overthrow warlords ", " do not forget the national humiliation ", " save the country " to the death and so on. The Provincial Party Department established the Gansu People Daily, the Women Committee founded the Women Association, organized the Evolution Drama Society among young students, and performed the Workers' Home and the traitor to the general public, students and the army. These publications and associations were mainly edited and directed by the

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<sup>①</sup> Ding Huanzhang, *Modern and Modern History of Gansu Province*, Lanzhou: Lanzhou University Press, 1989, p. 298.



Communist Party members, and played an important role in publicizing the revolutionary situation, encouraging the revolutionary enthusiasm of the army and the people, and guiding the mass movements.<sup>①</sup>

### ***1.3 Adhere to the correct policy of the united front and fight resolutely against the Kuomintang rightists***

In September 1926, the news of Feng Yuxiang's pledge in Wuyuan came to Lanzhou, and the mass revolutionary mood was high. Changsha Mingyuan, who calls himself a "special party member" of the Kuomintang, recruited a group of small and medium-sized gentlemen from the Lanzhou Education Bureau, held a so-called joint meeting of teaching staff, and issued a public declaration, claiming to "purge the municipal party headquarters" and expel the Kuomintang left from Lanzhou.<sup>②</sup> Therefore, the struggle between the left wing of the Kuomintang and the right wing of the Kuomintang for the revolutionary leadership became increasingly acute.<sup>③</sup> Xuan Xiafu, Qian Quan, Qiu Jimin and other parties, with the open identity of the Kuomintang left, united with the Kuomintang left Yan Guofu, and fought resolutely with the Kuomintang right parties who tried to usurp the leadership of the Kuomintang provincial and municipal party departments.<sup>④</sup> In order to adapt to the needs of the development of the revolutionary situation, the

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<sup>①</sup> Ding Huanzhang, *Modern History of Gansu Province*, Lanzhou: Lanzhou University Press, 1989, p. 300.

<sup>②</sup> Party History Office of Lanzhou Municipal Committee: *Historical Events of the Communist Party of Lanzhou (1925-2000)*, Lanzhou: Gansu People's Publishing House, 2001, p. 2.

<sup>③</sup> Ding Huanzhang, *The Modern and Modern History of Gansu Province*, Lanzhou: Lanzhou University Press, 1989, p. 294.

<sup>④</sup> Ding Huanzhang, *Modern and Modern History of Gansu Province*, Lanzhou: Lanzhou University Press, 1989, p. 295.

communist party of Gansu branch appointed XuanXia father, assist the kuomintang Lanzhou city party, after a series of work, in the provincial, municipal party joint meeting, the discussion through about expelled Sha Mingyuan party for six months, and instruct immediate remove zhang pu (provincial one principal) and Yang Ken hall (female principal) principal position.<sup>①</sup> After that, the members of the staff contact meeting disappeared, and the Kuomintang left wing was strengthened.

In February 1927, the kuomintang provincial, municipal party headquarters nearly 200 party members in Lanzhou wan jiang hall held the Spring Festival party, because the kuomintang rightist exclude communist party members, refused to perform "Russia, communist, help the farmers" policy, the Gansu special decision, thoroughly expose tian kunshan kuomintang rightist conspiracy and counter-revolutionary activities. At the gala, the conference chairman Qian Quan revealed tian kunshan ten crimes, cause the present personnel public indignation, according to the deployment of the CPC and communist party member proposed at the meeting, in the name of the congress announced stop tian kunshan correspondent position, the election new temporary provincial party executive committee, Qian Quan, character, Li Shijun, Ding Yishan nine people elected as executive committee, at the same time also adjust

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<sup>①</sup> Party History Office of Lanzhou Municipal Committee: Historical Events of the Communist Party of Lanzhou (1925-2000), Lanzhou: Gansu People's Publishing House, 2001, p. 2.

the kuomintang Lanzhou city party members.<sup>①</sup>

***1.4 Publicize the policy of national equality and help the Tibetans in Gannan to fight against the brutal rule of Ma Qi***

In July 1926, according to the decision, XuanXia father as a representative of Gansu province supervisory, with Huang Zhengqing, Luo biao biao to gola grass temple to solve the problem of labrang temple, successively and jia wood five and his father yellow middle Tibetan upper people talk many times, unity and the general Tibetan struggle against warlords, XuanXia father initiative in more than 230 tribal leaders to attend the meeting, passed the declaration of the Tibetan alliance, formed the GanQing Tibetan alliance. After Xuan Xia's father returned to Lanzhou, he reported the situation of the visit to Liu Yufen, asking him to order Ma Qi to withdraw from Labrang quickly. However, Liu Yufen went to Shaanxi with an army, lacked strength and expressed powerless. In December, when Xuan Xia's father went to Xi' an to take office as the political director of Sun Liangcheng Department, he asked Yu Ren to urge Liu Yufen to order Ma Qi to withdraw his troops. In the right of electricity, Liu Yufen sent political director Gu ZongZhou processing, in the spring of 1927, under the Gu ZongZhou attend, the two sides represent after negotiated final agreement, signed the conditions of solving the case, according to the agreement, establish a Labrang set bureau, directly affiliated to the Gansu province government, appointed by the provincial

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<sup>①</sup> Party History Office of Lanzhou Municipal Committee: Historical Events of the Communist Party of Lanzhou (1925-2000), Lanzhou: Gansu People's Publishing House, 2001, p. 4.

government.<sup>①</sup> Ma Qi was forced to order his troops to withdraw from the Labrang Temple in April 1927, and the living Buddha of the fifth life returned to the Labrang Temple, and the struggle won the final victory.<sup>②</sup>

## **2. The influence of the early activities of the CPC Gansu Special Branch**

### ***2.1 Lay the foundation for the development of the Communist Party of China in Gansu***

The establishment of the Gansu Special Branch of the Communist Party of China (later changed to the Special Branch of the Communist Party of Lanzhou) laid the foundation for the people of the Communist Party of China in Gansu to participate in the organized revolutionary struggle. The Gansu Special Branch of the Communist Party of China extensively publicized the masses, actively recruited party members, actively organized the work of workers and women, and resolutely fought against the Kuomintang rightists. At the same time, the special branch of the Communist Party of Gansu held a commemorative conference to explain the bright future of the Chinese revolution.

### ***2.2 The establishment of Gansu special branch of the Communist Party of China has laid a foundation for the training of various cadres in Gansu***

Gansu province and political office to solve the problem of the political work cadre, held the political personnel form, appointed delay character, xuan father for director, Qiu Jimin for general affairs, ShouYaoNa for the

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<sup>①</sup> Ding Huanzhang, Modern History of Gansu Province, Lanzhou: Lanzhou University Press, 1989, p. 303.

<sup>②</sup> Party History Office of Lanzhou Municipal Committee: Historical Events of the Communist Party of Lanzhou (1925-2000), Lanzhou: Gansu People's Publishing House, 2001, p. 2.

instructor, recruit political propagandist and young intellectuals, trained a group of political staff, through the students to sing "national revolutionary song", "great alliance of workers, peasants and soldiers", "the internationale", "young vanguard song" and other revolutionary songs. The loud song of "Overthrow the foreign powers, except the warlords, strive for the national revolution, and struggle together" spread across the bank of the Yellow River and under the Gaolan Mountain, greatly inspiring the fighting spirit and revolutionary spirit of the vast army and the people.

### ***2.3 Publicize Marxism***

According to the decision of the Shaanxi-Gansu District Committee of the Communist Party of China, Lanzhou Special Branch held the founding meeting of the youth club in the Education hall of Gansu Province. Wang Xiaoxi, chairman of the president of the association, announced the central task of the youth club, that is, to unite all patriotic youth, anti-imperialism, anti-colonial, anti-feudalism, and struggle for the liberation of the Chinese nation. Lanzhou Youth Club has more than 300 members, most of whom are secondary school students. With Lanzhou female teachers as the activity base, the activities are always carried out under the leadership of the Special Branch of Lanzhou, the head of the CPC, who often organizes members to learn communism, Historical Materialism and The Three Policies to carry out revolutionary ideological

education. The youth club also used the provincial Lanzhou First middle school magazine to publicize communism, spread the party's ideas, introduce new cultures and new ideas, and attack the conspiracy activities of the Kuomintang rightists.

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