

The Governance of Chengdu's Drug Problem in the Early Days of the Founding of the People's Republic of China

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Abstract. In the early days of the founding of the People's Republic of China, Chengdu faced a very serious drug problem, which seriously threatened the physical and mental health of the Chengdu people and the stable development of the city. In order to build a new Chengdu, the Chengdu Municipal Government led the people to carry out a drug control campaign, and after about 4 years, achieved a great victory in drug control work. In the early stages of urban governance in Chengdu, social tumors such as pornography, gambling, and drugs, including opium, were eradicated in one fell swoop, which deeply rooted the new socialist ideas in people's hearts, promoted the comprehensive improvement of urban social atmosphere, and created good social conditions for the comprehensive construction of a modern Chengdu. The drug control work in Chengdu is carried out under the unified leadership of the central government, and its success is a microcosm of the success of the national drug control work.

Keywords: Chengdu; Drug; Governance.

1. Introduction

In the early days of the founding of New China, the anti drug campaign in Chengdu was the greatest and most successful anti drug campaign in the history of anti drug in Chengdu. From the liberation of Chengdu to 1954, only four years or so later, the CPC and the Chengdu People's Government basically banned the cultivation, trafficking and smoking of opium, eradicated the epidemic of tobacco and drugs in Chengdu for more than a hundred years, and liberated the people of Chengdu from the serious disaster of opium. In the early days of liberation, there was an urgent need to develop the economy and liberate the people of CPC from the poison of opium, which greatly improved the physical quality of the people, liberated the productive forces, and improved the prestige of the Communist Party of China among the people of Chengdu, creating a good social environment for economic development. In the early stages of urban governance in Chengdu, social tumors such as pornography, gambling, and drugs, including opium, were eradicated in one fell swoop, creating a stable environment for the stable development of the city. The new socialist ideas and customs were deeply rooted in people's hearts, promoting the comprehensive improvement of urban social atmosphere, and laying a solid social foundation for the construction of a new Chengdu. The drug control work in Chengdu is carried out under the unified leadership of the central government, and its success is a microcosm of the success of the national drug control work.

2. The Drug Problem in Chengdu was Severe in the Early Days of the Founding of the People's Republic of China

Chengdu is a typical traditional political center city. Since modern times, the modernization transformation of the city has not been smooth, and the city's industry is backward. It is still a consumer city. In a large population, the population structure is deformed, and the ruling class and the population dependent on them are large and have a high proportion. At the same time, a large number of unemployed individuals and refugees are flooding the city, while the citizens, as the main body of the city, are struggling in their daily lives and have insufficient consumption capacity. The combination of these factors has led to a distorted consumption in Chengdu in modern times, with insufficient normal production and consumption capacity, while abnormal consumption such as drugs has been sought after. The problem of pornography, gambling, and drug abuse was one of the three

major persistent diseases in old Chinese society. These three social problems were interrelated and influenced each other. Brothels have always been important places for drug collection, trafficking, drug use, and gambling. Prostitutes, clients, and gamblers are often one of the main groups of drug users, and their mutual influence further exacerbated the spread of drugs. The gambling trend is prevalent in Chengdu, with a wide variety of styles, streets and alleys, and numerous casinos. The types of gambling are complete, with a large number of participants, including small and medium-sized merchants, middle and lower level officers, staff, robo brothers, bandits, cigarette vendors, prostitutes, and so on. There are also many indiscriminate soldiers and hooligans. They mostly gamble in cash, and the casino owner takes a draw, which is worth five out of ten, without any entertainment. These casinos are often crowded with hundreds of gamblers, with people coming and going all day long, making them even more lively than market events. Casinos also sell opium cigarettes, making it easy for gamblers to indulge.[1]

In Sichuan, smoking opium and drugs became a common practice during the Republic of China period. Until the early days of the founding of the People's Republic of China, there were more than 20000 opium dens in the province, with over 2 million addicts. [2] Chengdu was one of the centers of opium trafficking in Sichuan. Until the early days of the founding of the People's Republic of China, there were over 700 opium dens scattered throughout various regions, disrupting social atmosphere, disrupting production and life order, and hindering urban socio-economic development. Citizens have long complained about this, but they have no choice but to accept reality. After the establishment of the People's Republic of China, the Chengdu Municipal Government, under the leadership of the central government, responded to the wishes of the people and carried out extensive governance work to completely eradicate this major cancer.

3. Prohibition and Eradication: Governance of the Tobacco and Drug Problem in Chengdu

After the establishment of the People's Republic of China, the military control committees of newly liberated cities, under the instructions of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, carried out a comprehensive and step-by-step anti smoking movement. The anti smoking process roughly went through three stages: the first stage, from the liberation of cities in various regions to February 1950, mainly to investigate the situation of drug abuse and carry out preliminary crackdowns on drug trafficking and drug abuse; In the second stage, from February 1950 to the end of 1951, under the unified leadership of the Central People's Government, the fight against smoking and drugs was carried out nationwide; In the third stage, from the beginning of 1952 to the end of 1952, the anti smoking and drug control movement developed in depth nationwide, especially in conjunction with the "three anti" and "five anti" movements, deepening the anti smoking and drug struggle. [3] Chengdu is the last major city liberated in mainland China, and the progress of drug control is slightly later than that of the same period in the country. However, it has drawn on the experience of other cities and regions in the country, greatly improving the targeted and effective nature of the anti smoking movement.

In the first stage, we will unify our understanding and initially crack down on drug trafficking and drug abuse. According to statistics from the early days of the founding of the People's Republic of China, there were 367 secret drug factories and workshops in Chengdu, with 568 people producing drugs, 5211 drug traffickers, and 5260 sellers.[4] There are over 700 smokehouses of all sizes, scattered throughout the city, which are harmful to people's health. Some drug traffickers risked their lives for huge profits, even corrupting government officials. In the western Sichuan region, there were 155 government officials involved in drug trafficking from December 1949 to July 1950, and 317 government officials involved in drug trafficking from July 1950 to June 1952.[5]

Given the rampant use of drugs in Chengdu, the Chengdu Municipal Government has issued a series of regulations and measures to carry out a smoking ban campaign. In December 1950, the People's Government of Chengdu issued a notice on the prohibition of smoking and drugs, which stipulated that all businesses that trafficked opium and similar drugs, or opened smokehouses, should submit

their stocks and smoking utensils to the public security bureau within a time limit, and those who manufactured white noodles and other similar drugs should also be registered, submitted and confiscated. The public security department, in collaboration with the Anti smoking and Drug Control Commission, the Residents'committee, the farmers' association and other People's organization, should hold a mass meeting and burn them in public. On December 7th, the Chengdu Municipal Commission for Smoking and Drug Control held a smoking and drug control conference in People's Park, attended by over 10000 resident representatives. 5380 taels of tobacco, over 2000 packets of morphine, and over 10000 smoking utensils were burned in public. He also sentenced the highly criminal drug abusers and achieved a preliminary victory in smoking and drug control.[6]

In the second stage, a large-scale anti drug struggle will be carried out throughout the city. In the second stage, the city's anti drug struggle revolves around not only eliminating the phenomenon of drug abuse and trafficking at the social level, but also cutting off the roots of drug abuse and trafficking, fundamentally achieving victory in the anti drug struggle. Starting from three aspects: promoting and educating on the dangers of drugs, cracking down on drug abuse and trafficking, and prohibiting opium cultivation, we will comprehensively carry out drug control work.

In terms of publicity and education, after the establishment of the Chengdu Municipal Government, from July 1952 to the end of November of the same year, Chengdu organized two centralized search operations, cracking down on and dealing with 6279 drug traffickers. In order to make drug control deeply rooted in people's hearts, 9600 meetings attended by representatives of various social classes and groups were held during this process, bringing the number of educated people to 1.1 million.[7] In addition, education and publicity activities in various forms were held, such as speeches, Street performance, literary and artistic performances, and the stories of drug addicts and drug traffickers, which met the cultural and aesthetic standards and practical needs of the citizens at that time. A strong atmosphere of guilt in drug abuse and drug trafficking, a glorious atmosphere of devotion to socialist construction, and an atmosphere of public opinion conducive to the fight against drugs were formed in the whole society.

In the fight against drug abuse and trafficking, the organization focuses on public security, with the participation of all government agencies, enterprises, and institutions to carry out practical struggles. The main measure taken is to register smokers. The second is to establish a smoking cessation center to forcibly quit the drug addiction of smokers. Thirdly, the public security department should be the main force, mobilizing various forces to eradicate opium during the sowing and harvesting seasons. The fourth is to severely punish a group of ringleaders who manufacture and sell drugs, and announce their sentences with great fanfare.

In terms of prohibiting the cultivation of opium and other drugs, we will mobilize the surrounding areas of Chengdu to make great efforts to prohibit the cultivation of opium. After more than a year of continuous prohibition after the founding of the People's Republic of China, opium cultivation has been basically banned in the surrounding rural areas of Chengdu. Opium cultivation is mainly concentrated in the Aba area, and drug trafficking and abuse are also mainly concentrated in this area. A drug control campaign against Aba has rapidly unfolded, mainly focusing on three aspects: banning poppy cultivation, banning the consumption of tobacco, and prohibiting the sale of tobacco.

In the third stage, taking advantage of the favorable opportunities of the "Three Anti" and "Five Anti" movements, we adopted the means of pursuing and attacking drug abuse and trafficking to achieve victory in the fight against drugs. In April 1952, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China issued the "Instructions on Eliminating the Drug Epidemic", and in May, the State Council issued the "General Order on Prohibiting Opium Smoking and Drugs", further requiring governments at all levels to further focus on carrying out mass anti smoking and drug campaigns under the favorable situation of significant progress in the "three anti" and "five anti" movements.

In the Chengdu region, after the first two stages of struggle, drugs were not completely banned. According to a survey in the first half of 1952, there were still 6679 people selling drugs in the city, including 1896 people with less than 100 taels, 2523 people with 100-500 taels, and 2260 people with

more than 500 taels. Under the high-pressure crackdown of the government, these drug trafficking activities have become more covert and even infiltrated some government agencies. In the illegal drug trafficking activities of the Transportation Department's car team in western Sichuan, drivers have confessed to them, with 60% of the drug traffickers taking advantage of their driving experience. Over the past two years, they have trafficked over 10000 taels of opium, 986 taels of fertile water, and 315 taels of white flour.[8] Although this is data from over two years ago, it can be seen that the infiltration of drug traffickers is very powerful, and by 1952, the phenomenon of drug abuse and trafficking was still relatively serious. Therefore, it is necessary to use the "Three Anti" and "Five Anti" movements to carry out drug control work. The first phase of the Chengdu operation was launched on August 11-14, 1952, during which two campaigns were planned. The first campaign was on August 11-14, when the public security organs raided and arrested drug traffickers; On August 22-23 of the second campaign, a group of major case clues were discovered during the public prosecution and interrogation of drug offenders; On this basis, a second campaign was launched, in which a total of 7616 drug criminals were captured, and a total of 14788316 taels of tobacco and raw materials were seized. At the same time, efforts to promote and educate drug control have continued to increase. Since August 1958, Chengdu has held 9600 meetings of the Political Consultative Committee, the People's Congress, the Smokers' Association, and the Family Meeting of Drug Abusers, with 1.1 million people receiving education. At the same time, a general prosecution and prosecution meeting was held, and 35633 cases of drug offender materials were reported and exposed by the public. The massive publicity forced 5006 drug dealers and drug users to confess and register with the government.[7]

Through three stages of drug control struggle, Chengdu has legally prohibited drugs, formulated practical and feasible drug control measures, adopted a high-pressure posture to continuously crack down on drug abuse and trafficking, closely focused on the four main links of drug cultivation, transportation, trafficking, and smoking, adopted a strategy of persuading the two sides and cutting off the middle, and actively mobilized and educated the public to stay away from drugs, report drug crimes, and carry out strict investigations and punishments on drug abuse and trafficking. By 1954, over 100000 smokers in the city had completely quit smoking and drugs, achieving victory in the fight against drugs.

4. Enlightenment from the Anti-Drug Campaign

After the establishment of the People's Republic of China, in just a few years, the long-standing problems that could not be solved in modern times were solved, and the success achieved left a lot of valuable experience for future generations. First, the strong leadership of the CPC. On February 24, 1950, the 21st session of the Government Affairs Council of the Central People's Government passed the Circular on Prohibiting Opium Smoking and Drug Abuse, which was the first national anti smoking law and regulation issued after the founding of the People's Republic of China. It not only has important guiding significance for the nationwide large-scale anti smoking and anti drug campaign, but also marks the official start of the national anti smoking and anti drug campaign. In April 1952, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China issued the Instruction on Eliminating the Drug Epidemic, requiring local Party committees to carry out a more in-depth and large-scale mass anti drug campaign in combination with the "Three-anti and Five-anti Campaigns". The Chengdu Municipal Government firmly implements the central resolution, formulates corresponding regulations, and strictly carries out drug control work in Chengdu. In accordance with the unified leadership and deployment of the central government, it is divided into three stages, with the principle of putting the people first, resolutely and severely cracking down on drug production and drug trafficking criminal activities, and systematically promoting drug control work. This is the key to winning the battle against drugs. Secondly, correct and effective measures have been taken. The Chengdu Public Security Bureau strictly implements the central policy of "combining severe punishment with education" and the policy of "cracking down on and punishing the minority, and educating and transforming the majority". It uses two methods, severe punishment and education, to

use different punishment measures for drug traffickers and drug users. It severely punishes drug manufacturers and drug traffickers, conducts public trials of major criminals, and resolutely executes them, forming a strong deterrent against drug traffickers and providing patient education to drug users. Assisting in drug rehabilitation and imposing severe penalties on those who persist in education have achieved good results. The prohibition of the production and sale of opium and drugs is a key link in the anti smoking movement. Public security organs firmly grasp this central link, cut off the drug chain, and prevent the sale of cultivated opium and the purchase of opium by smokers, thus leading to the decline of the drug market. This series of strong anti drug measures is the fundamental guarantee for achieving victory in the anti drug movement. The third is to fully mobilize the people. Combine the anti smoking laws and regulations with the specific situation of the harm caused by smoking and drugs in various places, fully mobilize the people, repeatedly carry out publicity and education, and use various forms to widely carry out anti drug publicity, so as to truly mobilize the people and carry out a People's war against drugs. At the same time, a mass campaign of persuasion and prosecution was widely carried out, making drug production, trafficking, and drug use nowhere to hide, thus forming a high-pressure situation in society to combat drugs. Drug traffickers and smokers became street mice without a foothold and had to give up engaging in drug criminal activities. Therefore, mobilizing the people to carry out the anti drug movement is an important method for achieving complete victory in the anti drug movement.

Acknowledgments

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