

## MAINTAINING THE LEADERSHIP ROLE OF THE PARTY – DETERMINANT OF VICTORY OF CURRENT VIETNAMESE NATION CONSTRUCTION AND DEFENSE

Nguyen Thi Luyen  
Lam Thi Kho

---

### ABSTRACT

*The ruling Communist Party of Vietnam leading Vietnamese revolution is an indispensable requirement of history. The leadership of the Party is the major factor determining the victory of the revolution throughout the process since the Party's establishment until now. However, in current situation, it is necessary to properly realize the role of the Party in national construction and defense. In this article, the author wishes to generalize and analyze more deeply the current role of the Communist Party of Vietnam from the perspective of political science.*

Keywords: The leadership role of the Party; victory; Vietnamese nation construction and defense

---

### The Inevitability Of The Establishment And Leadership Role Of The Communist Party Of Vietnam

Stemming from the reality of Vietnamese revolution in the late 19th century and early 20th century, it was necessary to have an organization with a new ideology to take on the mission of leading Vietnamese revolution to victory.

In the process of finding a new way to save the country, Ho Chi Minh studied Marxism-Leninism very deeply, including the theory of establishing Communist Party. From the reality of the world revolutionary movement, He affirmed the need for the Communist Party to lead Vietnamese revolution. It is because, Ho Chi Minh pointed out, the force of the workers and working people is very large and infinite, but that force needs the Party's leadership to be sure of victory. In the work "The Revolutionary Road" ("Duong Kach Menh"), He affirmed: "A revolution must first have a revolutionary party, in order to mobilize and organize people inside, and communicate with the oppressed nations and proletariat class everywhere. Once the Party is strong, the revolution will be successful, just as a strong boat is driven by a qualified helmsman"<sup>1</sup>. The revolutionary party that Ho Chi Minh mentioned is the Communist Party, which considers Marxism-Leninism as its ideological foundation. Therefore, the establishment of the Communist Party of Vietnam is an inevitability.

The Communist Parties in Russia and European countries were established as a product of the combination of Marxism-Leninism and the workers' movement. On the basis of applying and developing Lenin's theory on the new-style Party of the proletariat class in accordance with the conditions of Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh believed that the establishment of Communist Party of Vietnam is product of the combination of three factors: Marxism-Leninism with the workers' and patriotic movement. When participating in establishing Communist Party of France and becoming the first communist of Vietnam (December, 1920), Ho Chi Minh began to prepare all aspects for the establishment of the Communist Party. In 1930, the Communist Party of Vietnam was established and assumed the role of leading Vietnamese revolution.

According to Ho Chi Minh, the proper leadership of the Party is the major factor determining the victory of Vietnamese revolution. He pointed out: In order not to go astray, the masses must have a leading Party to clearly understand the situation, policy and orient correct motto. Revolution is an arduous struggle while the enemy force is strong. To win, the masses must be well organized and have resolute will. Therefore, a Party is necessary to organize and educate the masses into a strong army which overthrows enemy and fight for power.

The establishment, existence and development of the Communist Party of Vietnam is in accordance with the society's development rule because the Party has no purpose on itself, apart from the interests of the workers, working class, entire Vietnamese people as well as progressive people in the world. Besides interests of the nation and the people, the Party has no other interests.

The leadership role of the Communist Party of Vietnam in Vietnamese revolution has been proven by historical facts that no political organization can replace it. The Party has been given the mission of leading the country in the cause of national liberation by the whole nation. Until the revolution is successful, the masses still need the Party to lead to protect the revolutionary achievements, helping the whole country successfully build socialism. It can be affirmed that the Communist Party of Vietnam was established, existed and developed to meet the indispensable needs of Vietnamese people in the struggle for national liberation and building socialism.

The Party establishment is a very important turning point in Vietnamese revolution history, as President Ho Chi Minh wrote: "It proves that our proletariat class has matured and is capable of leading the revolution"<sup>2</sup>. Since then, Vietnamese revolution has experienced many ups and downs, becoming increasingly clear as a pioneering force of workers, working people and the Vietnamese nation. The more movements the Party has passed, the more clearly the Party shew its quality, capacity and prestige of power entrusted by the masses. It is also a testament to President Ho Chi Minh's great thesis: "A successful revolution must have a Party which leads it." That is, the Party must have right political credo and line; have scientific revolutionary method; always ensure the legitimate interests and earnest aspirations of the class, the nation, working people and for the common progress of mankind.

---

<sup>1</sup> Ho Chi Minh: *Full episode*, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2011, Episode 2, p. 289.

<sup>2</sup> Ho Chi Minh: *Full episode*, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2011, Episode 22, p. 406.

15 years after its inception, the Communist Party of Vietnam led the People to stand up together and struggle for power throughout the country. The successful August Revolution (August 1945) led to the birth of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (September 2, 1945), an important historical milestone affirming the leadership capacity of the Communist Party in the Vietnamese revolution. Understood in a common and popular way, the Communist Party of Vietnam has become the ruling party leading the revolution since then. Thus, It is the Communist Party that is the ruling Party in Vietnam, the sole party continuing the mission of leading the people to carry out the revolution for national liberation, class liberation and human liberation.

When becoming the ruling Party, the Party leads in all fields of politics, economy, culture, society,... and leads all organizations in society. Over the past 35 years (1986 - 2021), Vietnam's renewal process has achieved a lot of outstanding achievements. From a country that was severely damaged from many wars of aggression by imperial forces, was surrounded by sabotage and economic trade embargo from hostile forces, and was suffered from natural disasters and climate change, Vietnam has quickly recovered, including the socio-economic development, the improvement in people's living standards, political stability, the economic growth, stability, and the enhancement of the country's position, prestige in the world. In all humility, it can be affirmed that the sole leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam is the reason for the victories of the Vietnamese revolution in the period of renewal.

The Party is responsible for the destiny of the country and of the whole nation. In order to fulfil its mission, the Communist Party of Vietnam dares to admit its own mistakes, shortcomings and correct them. The Party constantly improves its leadership capacity and combat strength, in which a task the Party pays great attention to is to build stronger and stronger Party cells which are really the core foundation of political leadership in all regions of the country. In order to fulfill its mission, the Party constantly strengthens and improves its leadership capacity and combat strength, in which the task concerned by the Party is to build stronger and stronger branches to be the political leadership nuclear foundation in all regions of the country.

The Party is not simply individual party members and Party organization, but also a special organization. The Party strength is the political, ideological and organizational strength, the synergy of Party organizations from the central to the grassroots. Since its inception, the Communist Party of Vietnam has established right to lead the revolution, since then the Party has always been maintaining and raising the flag of Vietnamese revolutionary leadership. Despite ups and downs or the Central Committee's being fiercely persecuted, brutally suppressed and sometimes having to declare the Party dissolution, the Party's revolutionary leadership role has never been interrupted, fragmented and ceded leadership to other political parties and organizations. Our Party can stand firmly on the political arena because the Party always determines right revolutionary goals, guidelines and methods which meet the masses' aspirations and are in line with the development trend of the times. At the same time, in the process of leading Vietnamese revolution, the Party always has a sense of innovating, rectifying and drawing valuable lessons from which to improve itself and enhance its leadership capacity and combat strength.

### **Context and challenges to maintain the leadership role of the ruling Party in Vietnam today**

When mentioning the Party establishment, Ho Chi Minh affirmed: The Party needs developed and strengthened. Worker members need developed. New party members need educated. Farmer party members and intellectual petty bourgeoisie's ideology needs reformed. Party establishment has three aspects: ideology, politics and organization.

While leading the government, building and defending the Fatherland, the Party not only has advantages but also faces obstacles and challenges. In general, fighting against the backwardness and bad things to create the new and good ones is a huge battle. Therefore, in order to fulfil its mission, the Party must maintain its leadership role and constantly improve its ruling capacity and combat strength to bring the cause of national construction and defence of Vietnam to victory.

Our masses' cause of defending the Socialist Vietnamese is taking place in the context that the world and the region continue to experience complicated and unpredictable developments. World war is unlikely, but local wars, armed, nations, ethnics and religions conflicts with activities of intervention, terrorism, and secession are taking place fiercely and complicatedly in many places. Notably, they carry out "street revolutions", "color revolutions", which are in fact the strategy of "peaceful evolution", riots and overthrows of reactionary forces.

Our country is in the period of accelerating country industrialization and modernization, we are also facing difficulties and challenges besides the achievements and basic advantages. The risks pointed out by our Party still exist and have complicated developments. Our country is still a key point in "peaceful evolution" strategy, riots and overthrows of hostile forces. Currently, the hostile forces are focusing on sabotaging the Communist Party of Vietnam with many sophisticated and malicious conspiracies and tricks in order to lower the Party's prestige and role to the masses, aiming at abolishing the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam to Vietnamese revolution. They make arguments that: The Communist Party of Vietnam's exclusive leadership is "undemocratic", "tyrannic", "privilege and interest", "democracy strangling"; political pluralism and opposite multi-party must be conducted for "democracy" in the Party and social life. They demanded the annulment of Article 4 of the 2013 Constitution of Socialist Republic of Vietnam, denying the Party's leadership, aiming at removing achievements of socialist revolution in Vietnam. To achieve this goal, they focus on attacking in many areas with very sophisticated and malicious conspiracies and tricks. The negative effects of the market mechanism, social evils, corruption, and complaints in some localities are still lingering, which are potential risks of factors causing socio-political instability affecting a large number of party members day by day. The scientific and technological revolution is developing strongly, requiring cadres and party members to know how to apply creativity to serve their professional work. The long-lasting situation of the Covid-19 pandemic with very complicated developments causes great human and property losses of the State and people. The pandemic has had a great impact on every aspect of people's lives. For that reason, it is necessary to have the right and creative leadership of the Party and the spirit of synergy and consensus of the entire people in order to overcome difficulties.

It can be said that the international and domestic context in the new period is posing the necessity to improve the leadership capacity and combat strength of Party members and organization. Only this can the Party strengthen the "absolute and direct" leadership of the Party, successfully completing all tasks in all situations.

In the national struggle for independence, under the wise leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam, our people made the historic victory of Dien Bien Phu resounded in five continents, shook the earth, and reached the Great Victory in the spring of 1975, victory over the northern and southwestern borders of the country, firmly defending the Socialist Vietnam. Today, in response to the new requirements of the task of protecting the nation, the leadership capacity and combat strength of the Party organizations have been improved, especially the leadership capacity to carry out political tasks and lead to build a comprehensively strong organization's construction. In which, the focus is on political and ideological leadership, building government, training discipline and solidarity, and taking care of the masses' material and spiritual life,... and strengthening the close relationship with the masses.

However, facing the development of the task situation and the arising complex problems, the comprehensive leadership capacity and combat strength of some Party committees and branches, mainly at the grassroots level, still revealed limitations, especially in organization and implementation, manifests as: Ambiguity, loss of vigilance, confusion in handling newly arising problems. A part of cadres and party members lacks self-discipline to study, cultivate and practice; their management and administration capacity and tasks performance has not yet met the requirements of the duties; combat strength in self-criticism and criticism is not high. Some branches are still weak and have not been completely overcome. The inspection work in some places is still inactive, having not been combined with regular inspection of the implementation of leadership, organization direction of political tasks with Party establishment and the implementation of regulations on what Party members are not allowed to do.

Some Party committees and branches have not managed cadres and party members comprehensively, have not timely discovered, improved and attracted talents: the number of leading cadres in some positions is still small, especially political cadres. The evaluation and analysis of the quality of Party members and Party organization at Party committees and branches still show that they are pursuing achievements, not linking building clean and strong party committee to building comprehensively strong unit and combativeness in life of a part of cadres and party members is still limited. The role of some party committees and secretaries has not really been promoted for that they do not bravely fight to commensurate with their positions.

The above problems stem from objective and subjective factors. In terms of objective factors, Vietnam's economy has increasingly and deeply integrated into the world's in the context of globalization with many unpredictable fluctuations and developments, causing difficulties in analysis, forecast, and autonomy. The Party leading the cause of building socialism in Vietnam is brand-new. In addition, acts of sabotage by hostile forces have been increasingly sophisticated and complicated. The dark side of the market economy has left significant impacts on the political quality, ethics and lifestyle of some Party members, cadres, civil servants and public employees. In terms of subjective factors, the Party admits that "The perception of several issues about the socialist-oriented market economy has not been deep and united enough yet, especially the relationship between the state, the market and society, Thought in building and organizing institutions in accord with the requirements of the fourth industrial revolution has been slowly innovated"<sup>3</sup>.

### **Solutions to contribute to maintaining the leadership role of the ruling Party in Vietnamese nation construction and defense today**

*Firstly*, to continue to promote propaganda and education to make all cadres, party members and the masses aware of the malignant and malicious nature, conspiracies and tricks of the current hostile forces.

Currently, in the context of globalization and international integration deepening with the explosion of the Internet, it is required that all cadres and party members must always uphold the spirit of revolutionary vigilance, be conscious discern to analyze and recognize the malignant and malicious nature, conspiracies and tricks of hostile forces, on that basis, strengthening resistance, creating power to fight effectively against the enemy. To closely combine forms and measures of education and propaganda to make all cadres, party members and the masses clearly aware of the enemy's malignant and malicious nature, conspiracies and tricks; to fight resolutely to protect and maintain the ideological foundation of the Party, apply and develop Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's ideology; to resolutely fight to protect and develop the Party's credos, lines and perspectives, especially the goals, ideals and lines of national renovation, and protect the Party's principles of organization and operation; to oppose wrong ideology and point of views of the hostile forces and the intention to carry out political pluralism and opposite multi-party. To continue to enhance education on Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's ideology, Party's lines and perspectives to help cadres, party members and the masses to be aware of the relationship between cooperation and struggle, partners and objects, clearly distinguishing friends and enemies in the process of international economic integration, multilateralization and diversification as that Vietnam is a friend and a reliable partner, to take advantage of all resources to construct and defend the nation. To proactively and resolutely struggle to overcome ambiguous and unwary expressions, consolidate and build belief, combat will, determine to defend the Party's ideological foundation and uphold the Party's leadership principles.

*Secondly*, the Party must regularly self-correct, self-rotate, and focus on building the Party on morality.

The Party's power is entrusted by workers, the working people and the whole nation. The Party must constantly correct itself. Ho Chi Minh said that the Party did not have a purpose on itself, it was not an organization to make any fortune, it did come from the society and worked for the sake of the rich and strong nation and the happy compatriots. Regular self-correction, therefore, becomes an extremely important task in Party building. This is more important when the Party faces great challenges in its operation.

The success of the revolutionary cause in general and the national renovation cause depends entirely on the quality, including the purity of the Party itself. Regularly make internal adjustments so that the Party is worthy of being the ruler and its members always deserve to be both the leader and the faithful servant of the masses. The Party must always be "the Party is morality and civilization". What the Party lacks the most today is the unity between speech and action in itself. Strengthen

<sup>3</sup> The Communist Party of Vietnam (2021), *Documents of the 13th National Congress of Deputies*, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, Episode 1, p. 78.

inspection and supervision so that the Party can use and promote the best the power entrusted by the masses to serve the development of the nation, taking the country forward firmly to socialism, and making the nation mighty, people's life prosperous, free and happy.

Cadres and party members must be absolutely loyal to the Party, dedicating all their lives to strive for the revolution's interests and the Party's ideal goals, they are those who "put the Party's interests above all because the Party's interests are the nation and the country's." At any time, no matter in what, party members and cadres must put the Party's interests above all and personal interests below... If it is encountered when the Party's common interests conflict with the individual's, personal interests must be resolutely sacrificed for the Party's.

*Thirdly*, the contingent of cadres and party members must be truly virtuous, talented, and impartial.

The contingent of cadres and party members must be those who strictly implement the Party's credos, lines, perspectives, guidelines and resolutions and the principles of Party building. Must always cultivate, train and improve revolutionary morality, study to enhance qualifications in all aspects, have a close relationship with the masses, always be responsible, dynamic, creative and always prevent and combat the negative.

Party members who are cadres and civil servants must be exemplary, proactive, active and creative in performing their assigned responsibilities and tasks for civil servants who are not party members to follow. Actively fight against ideology of conservatory, stagnation, fear of innovation at work, locality, fear of difficulties, fear of difficulties and suffering, indifference, insensitivity, lack of responsibility towards the organization and the masses, bureaucracy, negativity, prodigality, formalism, luxury, people alienation and implement frugality.

For the head, it is necessary to clarify: Responsibility of the party organization's head in all aspects. It can be said that authority is associated with responsibility (obligation, duty). If there is a separation between authority and responsibility, as well as confusion and overlap between the authority and responsibility of the head of the party committee and that of the government, between individual and collectives at all levels, agencies and units, an obstacle will be created to the proper authority performance, leading to wrongdoing, authority contravention and the state of responsibility abdication, failure to handle defects, omissions and mistakes in accordance with the responsibility regime. The consequence is to weaken the organization and corrupt the cadres. Pay attention to the principle of that how large the authority is, so is the responsibility.

*Fourthly*, to strengthen the inspection, supervision and control of the implementation of the Party's lines, guidelines and policies in the activities of the government through Party and party members organization.

Through inspection and supervision to clearly identify advantages, effectiveness and practicality of the guidelines and policies proposed by the Party. Therefore, promote and replicate the positive and effective aspects and promptly overcome and correct deficiencies in leadership. Without discipline, there is no unity of ideology and action. From abiding by the Party's discipline, every party member, regardless of position, or committee at any level, must strictly comply with the Party and organizations' discipline, and the laws of the Government. He believed that without inspection, it is considered as without leadership. Inspection and supervision help leaders at all levels know whether the Party's resolutions, directives, regulations and conclusions are correct and in line with reality and help the Party organization and leaders and managers know how to implement. Consequently, solutions are found to improve the Party's leadership effectiveness, the effectiveness of the fight against corruption and frugality, and prevent abuse of power, authoritarianism and patriarchy. If necessary, by the strength of the organization, the discipline of the Party in association with administrative discipline, ensure all party organizations and party members to operate within the framework of the constitution and law.

To concretize this content, it is necessary to study to increase the authority so that the inspection committees at all levels can perform their tasks better and more effectively; strengthen the Party's leadership role for party organizations and party members in Government agencies, in all aspects of social life from planning, propaganda, education, implementation in reality to the observance and example of cadres and party members, especially key cadres and leaders.

## Conclusion

During the building, fighting, growing up and leading the revolution, over the past 90 years, our Party has always maintained its political bravery, revolutionary and scientific nature; steadfastly adhered to Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's ideology, the nation and socialism's goal of independence; constantly renovated, self-corrected and grown stronger and stronger. Vietnam's revolutionary practice and achievements over the past 90 years have proved the rightness and absoluteness in the leadership guidelines, demonstrating the bravery and wisdom of the Communist Party of Vietnam. Summarizing the achievements of the revolution in the renovation period, the Resolution of the 13th Party Congress affirmed: "Our country has never had such opportunity, potential, position and international prestige before. This is our pride, motivation, important resource and belief for the entire Party, masses and army to overcome all difficulties and challenges to firmly walk on the path of comprehensive and synchronous renovation"<sup>4</sup>

However, in the context of fluctuations in the country and the world, maintaining the leading role of the Communist Party of Vietnam in the cause of national construction and defence poses new requirements and challenges. Therefore, in order to achieve further progress of the Vietnamese revolution and make Vietnam's aspiration to be a high-income developed country come true, the Party needs to focus on several issues: (1) attach special importance to the task of propaganda and education in all party members and the masses, fight against all wrongdoings going against the national and human interests, and protect the Party's ideology; (2) The Party must improve its capacity and combat strength; (3) build a team of the Party members, cadres and officials with true ethics and talents; (4) pay great attention to inspecting, supervising and controlling the implementation of the Party's

<sup>4</sup> The Communist Party of Vietnam (2021), *Documents of the 13th National Congress of Deputies*, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, Episode 1, p. 104.

guidelines in practice. With the mission of leadership assigned by the people, we believe that the sole leadership of the Party will make Vietnam become a prosperous country with happy people.

**Reference:**

1. Ho Chi Minh: *Full episode*, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2011, Episode 2, p. 289.
2. Ho Chi Minh: *Full episode*, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2011, Episode 22, p. 406.
3. The Communist Party of Vietnam (2021), *Documents of the 13th National Congress of Deputies*, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, Episode 1, p. 78.
4. The Communist Party of Vietnam (2021), *Documents of the 13th National Congress of Deputies*, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, Episode 1, p. 104.
5. Le Huu Nghia (2016), "Maintaining the Party's worker nature in new situation", *Journal of Political Theory*, Episode in December.
6. Vo Nguyen Giap (Chief author) (1997), *Ho Chi Minh's Ideology and Vietnamese revolutionary path*, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi.
7. Nguyễn Danh Tiên: <https://www.qdnd.vn/chinh-tri/cac-van-de/su-lanh-dao-cua-dang-nhan-to-quyet-dinh-moi-thang-loi-660520>, 24/5/2021.
8. Lê Văn Yên, <https://noichinh.vn/nghien-cuu-trao-doi/202001/vai-tro-lanh-dao-cua-dang-la-nhan-to-quyet-dinh-moi-thang-loi-trong-tien-trinh-cach-mang-viet-nam-307494/>, 26/01/2020.

Nguyen Thi Luyen  
*Hanoi University of Natural Resources and Environment*

Lam Thi Kho  
*Academy of Politics Region IV*