

# The Ruling Communist Party of Vietnam and the Leadership Role of the Party in Building Socialism in Vietnam at Present

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**Abstract:** The leadership role of Communist Party of Vietnam towards Vietnamese revolutions is an interesting topic that draw attention of many scholars and researchers in Vietnam as well as around the world. This study aims at clarifying the Party's leadership role in building socialism in Vietnam in the current context. The Party has led and governed the Vietnamese people by the Platform and led the State to concretize and institutionalize the guidelines into policies and laws. Proper understanding of the relationship between the Party's leadership, the State's management, and the people's ownership is a decisive factor for the success of the revolutionary cause of Vietnam. In this study, the author only focuses on studying some aspects of the role of the Communist Party of Vietnam in building socialism in Vietnam, including four aspects: 1. Developing a socialist-oriented market economy. 2. Building and perfecting the Socialist rule of law State in Vietnam. 3. Building and promoting socialist democracy; 4. Discussing socialist happiness in Vietnam today. The author has used scientific research methods such as analysis and synthesis, deduction and induction, abstraction and generalization, logic and history, and comparison to reach the results of the study. The finding of the study shows that the Communist Party of Vietnam has played a crucial role in every success of Vietnamese revolutions and in building socialism in Vietnam at present.

**Keywords:** Communist Party of Vietnam, Ruling Party, Role, Socialist

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## 1. Introduction

Since its establishment (February 3, 1930), the Communist Party of Vietnam, founded and trained by President Ho Chi Minh, has led the Vietnamese people to wage a long and arduous revolutionary struggle, and overcome many difficulties and challenges to achieve great victories: the victory of the August Revolution in 1945, smashed the colonial and feudal domination and established the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (now the Socialist Republic of Vietnam)- the first worker-peasant state in Southeast Asia, bringing the Vietnamese people into the era of independence and freedom; the victory of resistance wars against invasion, culminating in the historic victory of Dien Bien Phu in 1954, the Spring uprising in 1975, completing the cause of national liberation and reunification of the country, defending the Fatherland and fulfill international obligations; the victory of the renovation (doi moi) and integration, bringing the country

to continue its transition to socialism [1].

The Vietnamese revolution for the past 91 years has been associated with the process of building, maturing, and developing the Communist Party. Under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam for more than 90 years, with more than 76 years of ruling, including 35 years of implementing the cause of renovation, Vietnam has transformed from a semi-feudal colonial country into an independent, free one, following socialism. Our country has overcome poverty and backwardness to promote the cause of industrialization and modernization. It now has extensive international relations and an increasingly important position in the region and the world.

“Current context” is understood as the situation in which the world and the country are facing up with advantages as well as difficulties, threats, and challenges. The world today

shows that the trend of peace, cooperation, and development is still an indispensable trend, but still facing many obstacles and difficulties. Strategic competition between major countries and local conflicts continue to take place in more complicated, and acute forms, increasing risks to the international economic, political, and security environment. Globalization and international integration continue to progress but are challenged by competition for influence among major powers and the rise of nationalist extremism. International law and global multilateral institutions face great challenges. The world situation continues to change in the direction of multi-polarity and multi-centers. Big countries still cooperate and compromise, but fight and contain each other more fiercely. Extreme nationalism, great powerism, and pragmatism in international relations are on the rise. Developing countries, especially small ones, are facing many new difficulties and challenges [2]. Economic competition, trade war, market competition, resources, technology, high-quality human resources, and foreign investment attraction among countries are increasingly fierce, strongly affecting the production chain and global distribution [3]. The Fourth Industrial Revolution, especially digital technology, has developed strongly, creating breakthroughs in many fields, and creating both opportunities and challenges for all countries and peoples.

After 35 years of renovation, Vietnam's position and power, international prestige, and people's trust have been increasingly enhanced, creating important prerequisites for the national construction and defense. Vietnam's international integration is deeper and broader and will have to fully and effectively fulfill its commitments when joining new-generation free trade agreements. The economy has not developed sustainably. It has many limitations and weaknesses and faces many new difficulties and challenges caused by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the global economic crisis. The trend of rapid population aging, the speed of industrialization, and urbanization increased sharply; severe and complex climate change is increasingly affecting the development of the country [4]. Therefore, research on the ruling Communist Party of Vietnam and its leadership role in socialist construction in Vietnam today has both theoretical and practical significance.

## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1. *The Concept of Ruling Party and Ruling Communist Party of Vietnam*

"Ruling party"- a concept used in political science, refers to a political party representing a class holding and leading the government to run and manage the country to realize its interests. In the study "On building the Party's governing capacity", Liu Zhenhua said that the three ruling methods of the Communist Party of China are: scientific rule, democratic rule, and rule by law [5]. Liu Sun Hong, in "Research on the ruling rule of the Communist Party of China" presented the concept of the ruling party and improved the effectiveness of

ruling both in the content and the method of the ruling Communist Party in China [6].

The concept of the "ruling Communist Party" was first introduced by V. I. Lenin. Then, this concept was used by President Ho Chi Minh and our Party to talk about the ruling role of the Party. For instance, the Party won power, took power, and led the government. In President Ho Chi Minh's testament, he wrote: "Our Party is a ruling party." The Party Charter approved by the 10<sup>th</sup> Party National Congress also affirms: "The Communist Party of Vietnam is the ruling party" [7].

In the book "Ho Chi Minh Thought on the Party's leadership and combat power in the conditions of the ruling Party", Le Van Ly clarified the concept of the ruling Communist Party of Vietnam and showed the role of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the role of Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's thought on the Party's leadership and fighting power in the communist regime. At the same time, he affirmed that Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thoughts are of great value, guiding all victories of the Vietnamese revolution, effectively contributing to raising the level of theory and leadership for building and defending the Fatherland, realizing the goal of rich people, strong country, democracy, justice and civilization [8].

Before the government, the Party's leadership method was mainly based on party organizations and members who directly propagated and disseminated the guidelines and policies to the mass organizations, even each citizen; thereby organizing the people to implement the Party's guidelines and policies. The Party's relationship with the people is a close relation; any separation from the people can lead to losses for the revolution and the party organization itself and its members. In the absence of government, the Party has no conditions to arise and develop evils such as bureaucracy, orders, and mass bullying. Once there is a government, it is the strongest and sharpest tool to carry out the Party's guidelines, and policies, ensuring the Party's leadership over the whole society. Regarding the methods of governance, in addition to propaganda, education, and persuasion of the people, the Party has led the government (the State) to institutionalize the Party's guidelines, and policies into the Constitution, laws, and plans and organize the people to implement. Therefore, the essence of the ruling Party is: The Party leads the government and, through the government, lets the people master the State and the society. In the condition that the Party had power, V. I. Lenin warned of dangers such as mistakes in the methods, bureaucracy, separation from the masses, and communist arrogance. Immediately after taking power, President Ho Chi Minh also warned of the risk of mistakes in the direction and deterioration of cadres and party members [9].

My research agree with and inherited the above viewpoints. The concept of the ruling Communist Party of Vietnam refers to the role of the Party when it has won power, and it leads the whole society by the government, through the government and people's organizations in Vietnam. With this concept, the research analyzes the role of the ruling Communist Party of Vietnam in building socialism in

Vietnam today in terms of the market economy, the rule of law, democracy, and socialist happiness.

### **2.2. The Goals of the Communist Party of Vietnam**

The Communist Party of Vietnam is the vanguard of the working people and the entire Vietnamese nation - a faithful representative of the interests of the working class, people, and the country.

The Party aims to build a peaceful, independent, prosperous country, a democratic, justice, and civilized society, and successfully implement socialism and communism. The Party takes Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thoughts as the ideological foundation, a guideline for action, upholding the nation's fine traditions, absorbing the intellectual quintessence of humankind, and firmly grasping the principles of law, the trend of the times, and the reality of the country to set out the political platform and the right revolutionary line conforming to the people's aspirations.

### **2.3. The Principles of Organization and Operation of the Communist Party of Vietnam**

The Communist Party of Vietnam is a strict organization, united in will and action, taking democratic centralism as the organizing principle, implementing collective leadership and individual responsibility, and at the same time carrying out other tasks: self-criticism and criticism; solidarity based on the Political Platform and the Party Charter; closely associated with the people; The Party operates within the framework of the Constitution and the law [10].

The Communist Party of Vietnam is the sole ruling party, leading the State and society. The Party leads the people by the platform, strategy, and orientations on policies and major undertakings; by propaganda, persuasion, and advocacy; by the work of the organization, staff, and inspection; by the example of each cadre and party member.

The Party unified leadership in cadre work and management of cadres and introduced qualified and capable party members to work in the leading bodies of the political system. It respects and promotes the people's right to mastery and is subject to the people's supervision; rely on the people to build it.

The party leading the political system is also a component of that system. The Communist Party of Vietnam has led and enhanced the role of the State, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, and socio-political organizations. The party has linked genuine patriotism with the pure internationalism of the working class, actively contributing to peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress of the world's people.

According to the author, the view of the nature, purpose, and organizational principles of the Communist Party of Vietnam, will guide the operation mode of the ruling Communist Party of Vietnam in building socialism in Vietnam today, including the construction of the market economy; on the rule of law; on democracy; on socialist happiness.

## **3. Results and Discussion**

### **3.1. The Leading Role of the Communist Party of Vietnam in Socialist Construction in Vietnam**

The results of this study proves that during the term of the 12th National Party Congress, the Party has taken advantages and chances, overcome difficulties and challenges, especially the serious influence of the global economic crisis and recession caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Party, people, and army have unified to carry out the tasks, and gained many comprehensive achievements, creating many breakthroughs. The macro-economy is stable, inflation is under control, growth is maintained at a high level. The potential, scale, and competitiveness of the economy are improved. Social and environmental aspects have made big progress. People's lives have been significantly improved. Special attention has been paid to Party building and rectification and political system building, comprehensive, synchronous, and effective implementation. The work of inspection, supervision, discipline, and fight against corruption, wastefulness, and negativity has changed dramatically, there has been a breakthrough in closely linking "construction" and "fighting", effectively and deeper. The socialist rule of law state in Vietnam has been continuously strengthened. The leadership of the Party and the State, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, and socio-political organizations has been strengthened, and the coordination relationship has become increasingly close and synchronous. Social and political stability; national defense and security are constantly consolidated, resolutely and persistently maintain independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, and national interests; foreign relations and international integration are deepening and effective; Vietnam's position and prestige in the international arena are promoted.

Specifically, in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic brought about a lot of socio-economic damage, but thanks to enhancing the strength of national unity, the superiority of the socialist regime, with the synchronous and drastic participation of the whole political system under the correct leadership of the Party and the unanimous support of the people, our country has gradually effectively controlled the COVID-19 pandemic; gradually restore production, business and socio-economic activities; stabilize people's life; contribute to strengthening the people's trust in the Party, State and the socialist regime; maintaining the bravery, will and good traditions of our people and nation.

Another finding is that in the Document of the 13th Party National Congress [3], the ruling role of the Party is shown as follows:

First, in regards to building a socialist-oriented market economy: The market economy is a value of humankind, developed in capitalism. Since the 9<sup>th</sup> Party National Congress, our Party has affirmed: The socialist-oriented market economy is the general economic model of our country during the transition to socialism. Inheriting the 12<sup>th</sup>

Party National Congress, the document of the 13<sup>th</sup> Party National Congress stated: It is a modern market economy, international integration, fully and synchronously operating according to the laws of the market economy, under the management of the State. Socialist rule of law, led by the Communist Party of Vietnam; ensuring the socialist orientation for the goal of "rich people, prosperous country, democracy, justice and civilization" suitable to each development stage of the country. Vietnam's socialist-oriented market economy has many forms of ownership and economic sectors, in which: The state economy plays the leading role; the collective economy and the cooperative economy are constantly consolidated and developed; the private sector is an important driver; Foreign-invested economies are increasingly encouraged to develop following socio-economic development strategies, master plans, and plans. The document of the 13<sup>th</sup> Party National Congress clearly states the position and role of economic sectors. The state economy is a critical material force and tool for the State to maintain macroeconomic stability, orient, regulate, lead, and promote socio-economic development, and overcome its shortcomings in a market mechanism. The State's economic resources are used following the national development strategies, master plans, and are allocated according to the market mechanism. State-owned enterprises focus on key areas, national defense, and security; operating under the market mechanism, modern management according to international standards; taking economic efficiency as the main evaluation criterion, competing equally with enterprises of all economic sectors.

Cooperative economies and cooperative groups provide services to their members; linking, coordinating production and business, protecting interests, and creating conditions for members to improve productivity, the efficiency of production and business, sustainable development. Strengthen linkages between cooperatives, form associations and unions of cooperatives. The private economy is encouraged to develop in all industries and fields that are not prohibited by law, especially in the field of production, business, and services, and is supported to develop into companies and economic groups, in strong, highly competitive private sector. To encourage private enterprises to cooperate and associate with state-owned enterprises, cooperatives, and household economies; developing joint-stock companies with the wide participation of social actors, especially employees. A foreign-invested economy is an important part of the national economy, plays a big role in mobilizing investment capital, technology, modern management methods, expanding export markets [11].

The document of the 13<sup>th</sup> Party National Congress defines the relationship between the State, the market, and society: In a socialist-oriented market economy, there is a close relationship between the State, the market, and society. The State builds and perfects institutions, protects property rights, business rights, maintains macroeconomic stability and major balances of the economy; creating a favorable, public and transparent

environment for businesses, social organizations, and the market to operate; regulate, orient, and promote economic development, associate economic development with cultural and social development, protect the environment, ensure national defense and security. The State manages the economy by laws, mechanisms, policies, strategies, master plans, standards, norms, and state economic forces following the requirements and laws of the market economy. The market plays a decisive role in determining the prices of goods and services; creating motivation to mobilize and allocate resources; regulating production and circulation; regulating the operation of enterprises, purge weak enterprises. Social organizations have the role of creating links, coordinating activities, solving problems arising among members; representing and protecting the interests of the members about other subjects and partners; providing support services to members; reflecting the aspirations and interests of all classes of people to the State and participate in criticizing the laws, mechanisms, and policies of the State, supervising agencies and the contingent of state cadres and civil servants in the law enforcement.

Second, on building and perfecting a socialist rule of law state: Since the 2nd plenum of the 8th Party Central Committee, our Party has officially used the concept of a socialist rule of law state and has continued to be developed through congresses. Compared with the 12th Party National Congress, the Political Report defines more clearly the tasks and solutions to build a socialist rule of law State: Continue to build and perfect the people's socialist rule of law state in Vietnam., by the people and for the people led by the Party is the central task of the political system reform. Improve the capacity, effectiveness and efficiency of the State's operations. To better define the roles, positions, functions, tasks and powers of state agencies in the exercise of legislative, executive and judicial rights on the basis of the rule of law, ensuring the right to State power is unified, has a clear division, closely coordinates and strengthens control over state power [12]. Building a synchronous, unified, modern, feasible, public, transparent and stable legal system, taking the legitimate rights and interests of people and businesses as the focus to promote innovation, ensure fast and sustainable development requirements.

Third, regarding building and developing socialist-democratic democracy: Democracy is a common value of mankind. Since its inception, our Party has become more and more fully aware of the nature, position, and role of democracy and promoted democracy. Compared with the 12th Party National Congress, the Political Report defines more clearly the tasks and solutions to promote democracy: Continue to concretize and perfect the institution of democratic practice in the spirit of the Platform for national construction in the transition period to socialism (added and developed in 2011) and the 2013 Constitution, ensuring that all state power belongs to the people. To properly and effectively implement direct democracy and representative democracy, especially grassroots democracy. Implement well and effectively in

practice the motto "People know, people discuss, people do, people inspect, people supervise, people benefit" [13]. The Party leads, the State manages, the Fatherland Front, and socio-political organizations act as the core for the people to master. Party committees, party organizations, and organizations in the political system, party members, cadres, civil servants, and public employees set an example in practicing democracy, obeying the law, and upholding social ethics. The Party and State promulgate guidelines, policies, and laws, creating a political and legal foundation, respecting, ensuring, and protecting the people's right to mastery. Uphold the role of the subject, the central position of the people in the national development strategy, in the entire process of national construction and defense. Bringing into play the socio-political positivity, intelligence, rights and responsibilities of the people to participate in building and rectifying the Party, building a socialist rule of law state, the Fatherland Front and other political organizations, political – social organizations, building a contingent of party members, cadres and civil servants; encourage people to participate in economic development; social management and self-governance; building, managing and enjoying culture; to build an all-people national defense, people's security, and people's diplomacy in association with the all-people defense posture, the people's security posture, and the people's heart-warming posture. Timely and strictly punish organizations and individuals that take advantage of democracy, cause internal disturbances, destabilize socio-political stability or violate democracy, and harm the people's right to mastery.

Fourth, regarding socialist happiness: After the successful August Revolution, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam was born, our country's national name was the Democratic Republic of Vietnam: Independence - Freedom - Happiness. President Ho Chi Minh highly valued happiness. The documents of the 13<sup>th</sup> Party National Congress promoted the aspiration to develop a prosperous and happy country, bringing happiness to the people. The world today attaches great importance to people's happiness index to assess the progress and preeminence of nations. This was also a highlight in the documents at the 13<sup>th</sup> Party National Congress.

### ***3.2. Discussion on the Key Tasks of the Communist Party of Vietnam's Leadership in the Current Period***

Promoting Party building and rectification, building a socialist rule-of-law State and a comprehensive, clean and strong political system. Renovating the Party's leadership and ruling methods. Building the organizational apparatus of the political system to be upright, effective, and efficient. Continue to step up the fight against bureaucracy, corruption, wastefulness, negativity, "group interests", the manifestations of "self-evolution", "self-transformation" internally [14]. Building a contingent of party members and cadres at all levels, especially at the strategic level, with qualified, capable, reputable, and equal leaders. Consolidate the people's trust and attachment to the Party, State, and the socialist regime.

Focusing on controlling the COVID-19 pandemic, mass vaccination of the community with COVID-19 vaccine; socio-economic recovery and development, strongly renovating the growth model, restructuring the economy, building and completing synchronously the development institutions suitable to the full and current market economy, modernity, integration; develop synchronously and create linkages between regions, regions, economic sectors, production, and business types; have policies to effectively support enterprises in agriculture; promote research, transfer, and application of scientific and technological advances and innovation, especially achievements of the Fourth industrial revolution, implement a national digital transformation, and develop the digital economy, improve productivity, quality, efficiency and competitiveness of the economy; mobilize, allocate and effectively use resources, create motivation for rapid and sustainable economic development; perfecting the legal system, especially the law on intellectual property protection and settlement of civil disputes, overcoming bottlenecks hindering the development of the country.

Maintaining independence and self-reliance, continue to improve the quality and efficiency of external activities and international integration; strengthen national defense and security potentials, build the People's Army, the Revolutionary People's Public Security, regular, elite, step by step modernize, several forces go straight to modernity, creating a solid premise striving by 2030 to build a revolutionary, regular, elite and modern People's Army and People's Public Security; resolutely and persistently defend the independence, sovereignty, unity, and integrity of the territory, sea, islands, and airspace; maintain a peaceful and stable environment for the development of the country.

Arousing the desire to develop a prosperous and happy country; promote Vietnamese cultural values and human strength in the cause of national construction and defense, international integration; have specific policies to develop ethnic minority culture; well implement social policies, ensure social security and human security, create strong changes in social development management, realize social progress and justice, improve quality of life and happiness index of Vietnamese people.

Completing synchronously the legal system, mechanisms, and policies to strongly promote socialist democracy and the people's right to mastery; at the same time building a clean and strong socialist rule of law State of Vietnam; judicial reform, strengthening the legal system, ensuring social discipline, first of all, being exemplary in following the law and practicing socialist democracy by the Party committees, party organizations, authorities, the Vietnamese Fatherland Front. Vietnam and socio-political organizations at all levels, of cadres and party members; strengthen the great unity of the whole nation.

Strictly manage, rationally, and effectively use land and resources; protect and improve the environment; proactively and actively implement solutions to adapt to climate change and extreme natural disasters.

## 4. Conclusion

The present study has proved the ruling role of the Communist Party of Vietnam in building socialism in Vietnam in the current context. In fact, over the past 35 years of renovation, as the ruling party, the Party has led the renovation and development of the country following socialism. The Communist Party of Vietnam has changed itself to constantly improve its leadership in implementing the socialist orientation in Vietnam [15]. The work of political and ideological education throughout the Party, the organization and cadre work, the building of the Party grassroots organization in association with the building of the grassroots political system, the development of the Party, and the Party inspection work have been carried out. There are new changes in a positive direction; the majority of cadres and party members have promoted their vanguard dynamic creative roles and preserved their moral qualities, thereby, making a great contribution to the success of the renovation and maintaining political stability in Vietnam.

It is necessary to complete synchronously the development institutions, first of all, the development institutions of the socialist-oriented market economy. It is critical to renovate national governance towards modernity and effective competition. We need focus on prioritizing synchronous and quality improvement and well-organized implementation of the legal system, mechanisms, and policies, creating a favorable, healthy, and fair investment and business environment for all business sectors. economy, promoting innovation; mobilizing, managing, and effectively using all resources for development, especially land, finance, public-private cooperation; step up decentralization and decentralization reasonably and effectively, and at the same time strengthen the inspection, supervision, and control of power by the legal system.

It is essential to develop human resources, especially high-quality human resources; prioritizing the development of human resources for leadership, management, and key fields based on improving and creating a strong, comprehensive, and fundamental change in the quality of education and training associated with the mechanism of recruitment, use, and treatment of talents, promotion of research, transfer, application and strong development of science - technology and innovation; arouse the aspiration to develop a prosperous and happy country, promote Vietnamese cultural values, human strength, solidarity, and national pride in the cause of national construction and defense.

It is crucial to modernize infrastructure systems in both economic and social terms; giving priority to the development of some national key projects on traffic and climate change adaptation; focusing on developing information and telecommunications infrastructure, creating a foundation for national digital transformation, gradually developing the digital economy and digital

society.

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