

# Whether It Is Suitable or Not When the Communist Party of Vietnam and Vietnamese People Follow the Theory of Marxism-Leninism

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**Abstract:** This article aims to study Marxism-Leninism that the Communist Party of Vietnam and Vietnamese people have chosen as the ideological foundation. In this research, the author uses the analytical, logical, and historically scientific research methods. It affirms that going to communism is the right way. In this study, the author offers the arguments to prove that the way the Communist Party of Vietnam and the Vietnamese people choose for Vietnam's revolution is suitable with the current trend. The author proposes the research hypothesis that Marxism-Leninism is a scientific theory and law. K. Marx and F. Engels discovered the law on the development of human society - the dialectical relationship between production forces and relations, which is the basis for predicting the inevitability of humans to advance to socialism and communism in the future. V. I. Lenin continued to develop the thought of K. Marx and F. Engels in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century in the new condition when capitalism turned to imperialism. President Ho Chi Minh was a typical example of the creative application of Marxism-Leninism in Vietnam's unique circumstances. The application and selection of Marxism-Leninism as an ideological foundation in Vietnam is right.

**Keywords:** The Communist Party of Vietnam, Vietnamese People, Marxism-Leninism, Ideological Foundation

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## 1. Introduction

In recent times, the hostile forces have often used claims to attack our Party ideology to make it weak and fall into revisionism. With the collapse of the Soviet Union and Eastern European socialist countries, Marxism-Leninism was subjected to unprecedented harsh criticism in various directions of some bourgeois hack writers, one-sided scholars, or former revolutionaries who were skeptical of Marxism-Leninism supported another ideology and denied the revolutionary path the Party and Vietnamese people have chosen. Currently, some bad actors are using false claims to oppose the Party and the State. They think President Ho Chi Minh introduced Marxism-Leninism into Vietnam as a mistake, which is the original cause to take the country into a stagnant and crumbling situation. They voiced unless Marxism-Leninism had to be abandoned, our country would collapse. They think that the Communist Party of Vietnam, the State, and Vietnamese people follow Marxism-Leninism

is an illusion, and they conclude that this ideology is outdated. They state that the socialist regime has collapsed in the most critical part, the countries that follow this regime will collapse sooner or later, and only capitalism will exist forever. They often use and mix the objected and verified documents with false and distorted claims to win the trust of the readers. They conclude Marxism-Leninism was born from the socio-economic conditions of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, so it is outdated and illusory. This paper aims to examine whether the Communist Party of Vietnam following Marxism Lenin is still relevant or not.

## 2. Literature Review

Hostile forces of the Vietnamese revolution state that Marxism- Leninism is outdated. They affirm that this is a false conclusion because it is subjective and lacks a scientific basis. They distort and deny Marxism-Leninism to destroy the ideological foundation of our Party. From scientific

significance to practice, Marxism-Leninism is a scientific theory of movement and development that has been recognized by the whole world. Marxism-Leninism is a system of knowledge in the fields of philosophy, political economy, and scientific socialism. It is a system of basic knowledge to perceive and reform the world and the most common laws of the development of nature, society, and thinking.

Like other sciences, Marxism-Leninism is an open system that is continuously complemented and developed. As F. Engels pointed out clearly, "Our doctrine is a theory of development, not a doctrine that one must memorize and reassemble mechanically" [1]. V.I. Lenin later, in 1910, repeated F. Engels's saying "Our doctrine - Engels spoke of himself and his famous friend - was not a doctrine but a guide to act" and said, "forgetting this, we will make Marxism one-sided, frozen, drop its living soul, destroy its basic theoretical basis, that is, the dialectic" [2]. In the work "Our Platform", V.I. Lenin affirmed, "We do not consider Marx's argument as something finished and inviolable; on the contrary, it just lay the foundations for the science that socialists need to further develop in all aspects if they don't want to become obsolete to life" [3]. Marxism-Leninism develops continuously by summarizing and generalizing human knowledge in all fields of science. In this field, Marxism-Leninism stands out in its critical and self-critical nature. Lenin himself later admitted that the October Revolution had won "after we went through so many great failures and mistakes"; and in construction and economic development "we have encountered the most failures and made the most mistakes" [4]. This doctrine has been experiencing the test of reality to develop more and more authentic, more complete objective truth. This is an idealism, the ideology of the revolutionary workers' movement, affirming the goal of the proletariat revolution is to overthrow the capitalist regime, to build a new society: socialism and communism. In those regimes, humans are liberated and given the conditions for comprehensive development. To that end, human society has to go through all the twists and turns.

In his research, Nguyen Van Su said that the nation's ideological foundation is the political path that the country chooses. President Ho Chi Minh affirmed that Marxism-Leninism was the way to save the country and the people, that is, the issue of the nation and the colony, the thought of liberating the nation [5]. General Vo Nguyen Giap said that President Ho Chi Minh's ingenious application of Marxism-Leninism in the Vietnamese revolutionary practice solved great tasks and overthrew the great empire, violent enemies, winning the independence and freedom of the nation, protecting the sacred land of the Fatherland, bringing the Vietnamese revolution to victory [6]. According to Nguyen Ngoc Ha, Marxism-Leninism is a revolutionary truth that has helped the Communist Party of Vietnam maintain its revolutionary government and develop it to these days [7]. Tran Minh Truong and Pham Ngoc Anh also said that Vietnam was successful in building the state of the people, by

the people, and for the people from the creative application of Marxism-Leninism [8]. In his research, Ha Dang said that Marxism-Leninism was a developmental ladder of progressive human society [9]. In the book "The Way of the Communist Party of Vietnam on some major areas of social life" of Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, the author has further affirmed that Marxism-Leninism is a scientific theory on movement and development from the practical problems that take place in Vietnam [10]. In his work "why Marx is right," Terry Eagleton also shows that Marxism-Leninism is a scientific theory on movement and development that has been proven through current practices in many countries around the world [11]. Nguyen Ngoc Long and Nguyen Huu Vui, in the textbook of philosophy of Marxism-Leninism, also affirmed Marxism-Leninism is a scientific theory on movement and development of human society. They have stated that moving towards socialism and communism is an inevitable trend and law [12].

### 3. Results and Discussion

Was Marxism – Leninism born from the economic and social conditions of the nineteenth century and early twentieth century outdated?

Marxism-Leninism still exists in the twenty-first century and later centuries. Only those who do not know or deliberately do not know about this doctrine will consider it outdated. K. Marx & F. Engels absorbed and inherited the research achievements of previous scientists to develop Marxism which integrated quintessential values of the development of human thought. For the first time in the history of human thought, K. Marx and F. Engels discovered the law of the development of human society - the dialectical relationship between production forces and relations, which is the basis for predicting the inevitability of humans to advance to socialism and communism in the future. V. I. Lenin was the one who continued to develop the thought of K. Marx and F. Engels in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century in the new condition when capitalism turned to imperialism. Lenin developed the idea of the potential for the victory of the proletariat in many separate capitalist countries, building a new style of Party itself bearing the nature of the working class organized the revolution to gain the victory and applied the Marxist doctrine to analyze and solve a series of problems in the process of building socialism in the Soviet Union. Marxism-Leninism gives us a solid foundation of ideas, rich and profound theoretical bases and methodologies, helping us improve the level of thought, wisdom, and unique thinking to find the right path and solution to handle the problems posed in life.

President Ho Chi Minh was a typical example of the creative application of Marxism-Leninism in Vietnam's unique circumstances. He went from patriotism to socialism thanks to the enlightenment of Marxism-Leninism, grasping the spirit of the development trend of the times. National independence associated with socialism is the focus of Ho

Chi Minh's thought. He affirmed that only socialism and communism could thoroughly solve the matter of national independence, bring true freedom and happiness to the people, and permanently remove oppression, exploitation, and enslavement, radically liberating humans.

President Ho Chi Minh was born and raised in a turbulent period of the country. Many struggles for national independence and national reunification all failed in turn; therefore, our people's nation-saving movement faced a big crisis of direction. With a burning desire for independence and freedom for the people and the country, he traveled to the five continents and regions, working, studying, observing, studying theories and experiences of the typical revolutions in the world. He clearly understood that the source of the suffering of the working people was the oppression and exploitation of imperial capitalism, thereby forming a clear class consciousness. He commented, "Despite the difference in skin color, there are only two human breeds in this world: the exploiter and the exploited, and there is only one real friendship: proletariat friendship." [13].

With the establishment of the Communist Party of Vietnam founded by President Ho Chi Minh in 1930, together with the first Political Platform of the Party, the Vietnamese revolutionary path was found, and the right way to save the country was identified. It not only broke the deadlock in the way of national liberation but also led to the successful implementation of key issues of the Vietnamese revolution. Under the leadership of the Party, headed by President Ho Chi Minh, the Vietnamese people were united into a bloc, bringing into full play the strength of the whole nation, making the victory of the August Revolution in 1945, overthrowing colonialism and feudalism and established the Democratic Republic of Vietnam - the first People's Democratic State in Southeast Asia. In the Declaration of Independence read on September 2, 1945, President Ho Chi Minh solemnly declared to the nation, its people, and the whole world, "Vietnam has the right to enjoy freedom and independence, and truly become a free and independent country". This is a work that has become an extremely important document, an "ancient or heroic" version written with all the enthusiasm, wisdom, human thought, and will of a person, representing a people who are fighting and ready to sacrifice to win independence and freedom [14].

Immediately after winning independence, our new revolutionary government faced a difficult situation. President Ho Chi Minh and the whole Party wisely set out the right way, leading the revolution to overcome all difficulties, defended the Party, and maintained the revolutionary government. Based on the "all-people", "comprehensive", "long-term" resistance war and promoting the solidarity and patriotic tradition of the entire nation, President Ho Chi Minh and Our Party led the people to defeat all the enemies, especially winning the Winter-Spring War 1953-1954 with the culmination of the historic Dien Bien Phu victory to force the French colonialists to sign Geneva Agreement (in 1954), ending the war of invasion of Vietnam.

With the spirit of "I'd rather sacrifice everything but refuse to lose the country, definitely not be a slave" and "nothing is more precious than independence and freedom, based on the Party's right and creative guidelines, combining the strength of the whole nation with the power of the times, our troops and people defeated the war strategies of the American imperialism, completely liberated the South, completed the national liberation revolution, built and defended the North, and brought the country to socialism.

Following the revolutionary path outlined by President Ho Chi Minh, in any circumstances, our Party always firmly aims at national independence associated with socialism. Our Party has applied creatively and developed Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's thought, and improved prestige, leadership capacity, and fighting strength to implement the national renewal and international integration. The country's significant achievements after nearly 35 years of reform are vivid evidence confirming the right leadership of the Party; affirming the correctness of the Vietnamese revolutionary path outlined by President Ho Chi Minh. Besides, it was during the movement of the revolution that those ideas were increasingly supplemented, developed, and perfected, taking the Vietnamese revolution to victory [15].

Building socialism is a hard, complicated, and scientific work that requires a lot of time, great resources, and many other conditions. Our country embarked on building socialism from an outdated agricultural country, heavily damaged after a fierce war lasting for 30 years. The biggest difficulty, first of all, was not from the lack of wealth and material, but mostly from the style that was deeply influenced by the agricultural culture. Without precedent experience and support of the socialist countries as before, many forces were trying to oppose our regime, under that condition, the achievements that the renovation obtained are of great significance. We have maintained a high GDP growth rate of over 6.5% per year during the 30 years of the renovation policy. GDP in 2018 increased by 7.08%, the highest growth rate since 2008, confirming the timeliness and efficiency of the solutions promulgated by the Government to drastically direct all sectors and localities to implement. In the overall growth of the whole economy, the agriculture, forestry, and fishery sector increased by 3.76%, contributing 8.7% to the overall growth; industry and construction rose 8.85%, contributing 48.6%; service sector rose 7.03%, contributing 42.7% [16].

Currently, the Party and State are focusing on the national target program on sustainable poverty reduction. The objectives of this program is to reduce the poverty rate by 1-1.5% on average, particularly in poor districts and poor communes, by 4% per year, in poor ethnic minority households by 3-4% per year according to the multi-dimensional poverty line for the 2016-2020 period. The program also aims to improve livelihoods and the quality of life of poor households, ensuring that the per capita income of poor households nationwide by the end of 2020 will increase by 1.5 times compared to the end of 2015. The program aims to have no poor households whose members

are eligible for preferential policies for people with meritorious services.

## 4. Conclusion

From scientific to practical significance, although Marxism-Leninism was born from the economic and social conditions of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, it is never outdated. It will still exist and develop in the twenty-first century and later centuries. This doctrine has shown the law of the development of human society, that is, the law of the dialectical relationship between the productive forces and the production relations that exists today and the next day. Marxism-Leninism is the brightest star guiding the Communist Party and the Vietnamese people towards communism through a transition period – socialism.

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