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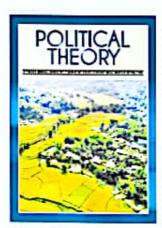


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### Ho Chi Minh's thought on the rights to independence and freedom

Ho Chi Minh's thought on the rights to independence and freedom is a system of views on fundamental issues related to the nation's independence and freedom, formed based on inheritance, acquisition of the cultural values of the nation and the times, the practice of struggle and unique qualities of Ho Chi Minh; it is a valuable spiritual asset, a guideline for action for our Party and State in the construction and defense of the Homeland.



### Building the contingent of cadres of Vietnamese Fatherland Front agencies at provincial level, meeting requirements of the innovation

Innovating the organization and operation of Vietnamese Fatherland Front Committee agencies at provincial level is an urgent task now, contributing to the implementation of the Resolution approved by the the 6th Plenum of the 12th Party Central Committee on continuing to innovate the organizational and management system, and to improve the quality and operational efficiency of public non-business units. In order to perform well that task, the issue of building a contingent of cadres and civil servants to meet the innovation requirements needs attention and appropriate solutions.

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# Ho Chi Minh's thought

# on the rights to independence and freedom

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- Abstract: Ho Chi Minh's thought on the rights to independence and freedom is a system of views on fundamental issues related to the nation's independence and freedom, formed based on inheritance, acquisition of the cultural values of the nation and the times, the practice of struggle and unique qualities of Ho Chi Minh; it is a valuable spiritual asset, a guideline for action for our Party and State in the construction and defense of the Homeland.
- Keywords: Ho Chi Minh's Thought, independence, freedom, Homeland.

I and profound system of views, expressing its scientific and revolutionary nature. His views are the guidelines for our Party and people in the construction and defense of the Homeland, in foreign policy through revolutionary periods. In the context of the world and region with many complicated changes, it is required that the Party and State have correct guidelines and policies to protect the independence and freedom of the nation; first of all, it is necessary to apply and develop Ho Chi Minh's thought creatively on the independence and freedom in the new situation.

## Basis for forming Ho Chi Minh's thought on the rights to independence and freedom

Over thousands of years of nation-building and defense, the Vietnamese people have built up a system of noble traditional cultural values such as passionate patriotism, solidarity, humanity, tolerance, to name a few. Ho Chi Minh embodied these excellent qualities. In addition, Ho Chi Minh also absorbed the ideals of human rights, civil rights, and the rule of law of the French founders; he found the core of human rights in the American Declaration of Independence and inherited the values of the Three Principles of the People to apply and develop following the reality of Vietnam, making an essential contribution to the formation of the thought on independence and freedom. In particular, Ho Chi Minh came to Marxism -

Leninism, a sharp theoretical weapon to reform society and people. He highly appreciated the "First draft of theses on national and colonial issues" of Lenin and considered it a guidebook to regain independence and freedom. He affirmed: "This is what we need, this is the path to our liberation!"

(1) "To save the country and liberate the nation, there is no other way than the path of the proletarian revolution"

(2) In addition, there are also qualities of Ho Chi Minh such as the ability to think independently, self-control, creativity, sensitivity to new values of human rights, national rights; especially "The reality of Ho Chi Minh's revolutionary activities is a decisive basis for the formation, development, and improvement of Ho Chi Minh's thought"

(3)

#### 2. Ho Chi Minh's views on the rights to independence and freedom

- The rights to independence and freedom of the nation must be thoroughly demonstrated.

Inheriting and creatively applying Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh said: "Independence means that we take control of all of our work, without any interference from outside" (4). Studying the French revolution and the American Revolution, Ho Chi Minh commented: "The revolution has already happened four times, but now the French workers and peasants still have to plan the revolution again to escape the cycle of oppression" (5) or "Even though the American Revolution has been successful for more than 150 years, the workers and peasants are still struggling, still worrying about the second revolution"(6). After the success of the Russian October Revolution, Ho Chi Minh realized: "In today's world, only the Russian revolution has succeeded, and the success has reached its destination, which means that the people enjoy the happiness of the true freedom and equality, not the false freedom and equality that the French imperialists boasted in Annam" (7). Since then, He said: "We have sacrificed for the revolution, we should do it until the end, that is, after the revolution, the power should be given to the people in the plural, not in the small group of people. Only then will the people be happy"(8). With the spirit of "Vietnam belongs to the Vietnamese people", Ho Chi Minh affirmed Vietnam's position as: "Vietnam is completely unified and independent, "has its National assembly, "own government", "own army," "own diplomacy", "own economy and finance"(9), these are the conditions to ensure that Vietnam becomes a truly, entirely and independent and free nation.

- The rights to independence and freedom of the nation must be associated with territorial unity and integrity

Ho Chi Minh considered peace, unity, and assurance of the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity as an inalienable principle. Immediately after the victory of the Geneva Agreement in 1954, the French colonialists, the American imperialists, and their minions advocated turning the temporary borderline into a border separating the North and South of the country. However, Ho Chi Minh affirmed

that Vietnam: "resolutely, persistently fighting to protect the most sacred rights: The Homeland's territorial integrity and independence" and "we are determined to use all our strength to regain our independence" our national establishment and territorial integrity" (11); "Vietnam is one, the Vietnamese people are one, the will of the people to unite the country is unwavering" (12). Furthermore, His last wish was: "The entire Party and people of our country unite to strive to build a peaceful, unified, independent, democratic and strong Vietnam" (13).

- The rights to independence and freedom of the nation must be associated with freedom, prosperity, and happiness for the people

Whether the nation's rights to independence and freedom are firmly protected or not depends on whether the people enjoy the right to true freedom, well-being, and happiness. That is the prerequisite for consolidating and firmly defending the independence and freedom of the nation. Ho Chi Minh affirmed: "If the country is independent and the people do not enjoy happiness and freedom, independence does not mean anything"(14) and "We won freedom and independence, but the people were starving and freezing, then freedom and independence did nothing. People only know the values of freedom and independence when they are well fed and clothed"(15). In order to consolidate national independence, the Party and Government must constantly strive to improve the material and spiritual life of all classes of people. He taught: "We must immediately: 1. Ensure food for all people. 2. Ensure clothes for all people. 3. Ensure shelters for all people. 4. Ensure basic education for all people"(16). The nation's rights to independence and freedom in Ho Chi Minh's thought have a very profound and radical content: independence unity - freedom, equality - prosperity, happiness, and independence, associate country's independence with people's democracy; associate democratic independence with socialism.

 The rights to independence and freedom of the nation must be institutionalized by the Constitution and laws and following international law.

From very early on, Ho Chi Minh realized that the formulation and promulgation of a constitution to ensure the interests of the nation was extremely necessary, and He asked the French colonialists: "Two, ask permission to amend the law/ Westerners and Vietnamese are fellow-citizens/... Seven, ask for the promulgation of the constitution/ All things must be under the rule of law"(17). However, the French colonialists did not accept or even deny all the rights of the Vietnamese people. On September 02, 1945, Ho Chi Minh read the Proclamation of Independence giving birth to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, which was the first significant legal document of the Government affirming the independence and freedom of the Vietnamese people, is the legal basis for Vietnam to welcome its allies to disarm the fascists as an independent and sovereign country. Then, Ho Chi Minh asked to organize as soon as possible a general election to elect the National Assembly on which to draft a democratic constitution. On November 09, 1946, the National

Assembly unanimously approved the Constitution 1946, which was the institutionalization of the fundamental rights of the nation: "Our nation's tasks at the present stage are to protect the territorial integrity, to regain full independence and construct the country on the democratic foundation" (18). The Constitution 1946 "constitutionalized" the fundamental rights of the nation, ensuring the Vietnamese people to carry out domestic and foreign activities as a country with independence, sovereignty, and full self-determination.

# 3. Ho Chi Minh's views on the value of the rights to independence and freedom for the nation

 The independence and freedom are sacred and imprescriptible rights of all nations At the end of the 19th century and the early of the 20th century, imperialism promoted wars of colonial aggression, which was utterly contrary to morality and right because: "All men are created equal, that their Creator endows them with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness" (19). Absorbing the values in the 1776 Declaration of Independence of the United States of America and the 1971 Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen of France, Ho Chi Minh concluded: "All the peoples on the earth are equal from birth, all the peoples have a right to live, to be happy and free"(20). According to him, all nations, whether "superior" or "lower", "civilized", or "backward", have the right to enjoy independence and freedom. A remarkable thing in Ho Chi Minh's legacy is that the sacred value of independence and freedom is always closely linked with human rights; once the country loses its independence and freedom and loses all its right to self-determination, the value of human life is not equal to that of animals. He once wrote: "When carrying pigs, soldiers go the same way, I am led, the pig is being carried; Humans are cheaper than pigs, Just because we have no rights to self-determination! Among thousands of bitter things, How bitter is the loss of freedom?"(21). The August Revolution succeeded, Vietnam regained independence and freedom - the nation's most sacred right. Furthermore, in two resistance wars against French and American aggression, the Vietnamese people "resolutely, persistently fighting to protect the most sacred rights: The Homeland's territorial integrity and independence"(22) with the spirit: "No! We would rather sacrifice everything than lose our country, than return to slavery..."(23).

- Independence and freedom for our nation, at the same time fighting for the independence and freedom of all other nations

Ho Chi Minh not only "positioned the independence of the Vietnamese people won for ourselves in a world that had just conquered fascism, but also affirmed the prospect for the oppressed peoples to be freed from the yoke of the Western empires" <sup>(24)</sup>. To achieve that common goal, according to Him, we must: "Make the colonial peoples, who hitherto separate, understand each other better and unite to lay the foundation for a future Eastern Union, this union will be one of the wings of the



The rights to independence and freedom of the nation must be associated with freedom, prosperity, and happiness for the people \_ Photo: tuyengiao.vn.

proletarian revolution"<sup>(25)</sup>. As a patriot and a true communist warrior, Ho Chi Minh fought for the independence and freedom of the Vietnamese people and fought for the independence of all oppressed people. In the congratulatory telegram to the Asia-Africa Writers Conference, He wrote: "We, Vietnamese people understand that we fight not only to protect our independence and freedom but also to contribute to the protection of the security of the socialist camp, defending the independence of other peoples and world peace" (26). However, performing international obligations does not mean interfering in the internal affairs of countries. That means respecting people's right to self-determination of all nations and wishing that all nations have independence and freedom like ours. Ho Chi Minh's views on the value of independence and freedom forever light the way for the cause of struggle for the independence and freedom of all peoples in the world.

### Firmly protect the nation's rights to independence and freedom according to Ho Chi Minh's thought in the current times

In order to protect the rights to independence and freedom of the nation in the current period, according to Ho Chi Minh's thought, the following solutions must be synchronously implemented:

Firstly, it is necessary to step up communication work so that the whole people

Ho Chi Minh
considered
peace, unity,
and assurance
of the
country's
sovereignty
and territorial
integrity as an
inalienable
principle.

have a complete and correct awareness of the relationship between international integration and the firm protection of the nation's independence and freedom in the context of international integration. Thereby helping all people see new manifestations of the issue of protecting the independence and freedom of the nation in the current period. At the same time, it strengthens fostering patriotism, arouses the spirit of national pride and sense of responsibility of each Vietnamese person towards the nation. Resolutely eliminate one-sided thoughts, opinions, and arguments when it is considered that participating in the international integration process will lose the nation's right to independence and freedom or increase dependence on the world.

Secondly, it is necessary to define the nation's independence and freedom "not merely the inviolability of sovereignty over the integrity of the territory, territorial sea, airspace, and natural environment, sovereignty in the field of culture, but also the security and freedom from threats to the political regime, the Party's leadership role and the socialist political orientation, as well as to the right to maintain and protect the legitimate interests of citizens"(27). It is necessary to promote further the leadership role of the Communist Party of Vietnam - a decisive factor in ensuring that the nation's right to independence and freedom is maintained. The Party must constantly improve its leadership capacity, continue to innovate vigorously and comprehensively, truly clean and robust in the spirit of: "Continuing to promote the study and following of ideology, morality, and style away of Ho Chi Minh; consider it a regular work of party organizations, all levels of government, sociopolitical organizations, localities, and units, associated with antidegradation in terms of political ideology, morality, lifestyle and internal "self-evolution" and "self-transformation" manifestations. Resolutely fight against bureaucracy, corruption, wastefulness, individualism, opportunistic lifestyles, pragmatism, factions, "group interests", "words do not mean action"(28).

Thirdly, efforts must be made to consolidate and firmly build great national solidarity based on the alliance between the working class, the peasantry, and the intelligentsia to further strengthen and promote the synergy of the whole nation. Besides, we must always determine the spirit of self-reliance, bringing our strength to liberate ourselves; always consider the nation's strength as a decisive factor and the strength of the times as an essential factor, supporting and promoting internal strength. At the same time, it is necessary to know "Combining the nation's strength with the strength of the times, domestic strength with

international strength. In any situation, it is necessary to resolutely maintain the will to be independent and self-reliant and uphold the spirit of international cooperation, to bring into full play internal resources, at the same time take advantage of external forces, to combine traditional factors with time factors"<sup>(29)</sup>.

Fourthly, it is necessary to promote the strengths of the country in order to build and develop a stable economy with a reasonable and adequate structure and ensuring the necessary safety; a sustainable and highly competitive economy. We need to define that: "Developing economy is the central task; implementing industrialization and modernization of the country in association with the development of the knowledge economy and the protection of natural resources and the environment; building a rational, modern, effective and sustainable economic structure, closely linking industry, agriculture and services" (30). At the same time, it is necessary to focus on implementing radical solutions to: "Stabilize macro-economy, renew growth model and economic structure, improve quality, efficiency, sustainably develop; effectively mobilize and use resources; step by step build modern infrastructure. Continue to improve the socialist-oriented market economy institution. Focus on creating jobs and incomes for workers, improving the people's material and spiritual life" (31).

Fifthly, it is necessary to determine that "protecting and preserving the national cultural identity" is one of the most important tasks to protect the nation's independence and freedom. In addition to promoting the image of the country, culture, and people of Vietnam, it is necessary to have solutions to protect and firmly preserve the good, noble character, and national identity of Vietnamese culture in the spirit of being integrative, not soluble. At the same time, it is necessary to take advantage of selectively absorbing cultural and civilized values of humanity to enrich the Vietnamese people's cultural values.

Sixthly, in addition to strengthening political-ideological education, we need to invest in and purchase modern defense and security equipment, constantly develop a strong army and police force, focus on improving the lives of officers and employees of the armed forces. On the other hand, it is necessary to focus on building local army forces and militia as a solid basis for the regular armed forces in the cause of national construction and defense. To further strengthen international exchanges and cooperation on defense and security issues in the spirit of non-interference in each other's internal affairs to learn from and enlist the support and help of the international community in the cause of protecting the independence and freedom of the nation.

Seventhly, it is necessary to have an active, proactive diplomatic strategy, multilateralize and diversify relations, be willing to be reliable friends and partners with all countries in the world based on respecting national independence and freedom. Implement the diplomatic strategy with the motto: "serving the goal of maintaining a peaceful and stable environment, making the most of external

resources to develop the country and improve the people's living standards; improving the position and prestige of the country and contributing to the cause of peace, national independence, democracy and social progress in the world"(32). Implement an independent and self-reliant foreign policy based on five major principles that President Ho Chi Minh once advised: "Mutual respect to territorial integrity and sovereignty, Mutual non-aggression, Mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, Peaceful co-existence"(33). Closely combine political diplomacy, economic diplomacy, defense diplomacy, and cultural diplomacy to create synergy for Vietnam's diplomacy, taking full advantage of external strength for the country's development, contributing to firmly protecting the right to national independence

#### Endnotes:

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