

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH'S VIEWS ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND CURRENT MEANING OF APPLICATION

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President Ho Chi Minh left behind a comprehensive system of views, covering a very broad content, related to the entire Vietnamese revolutionary cause. In particular, the view on foreign affairs is an important part of revolutionary strategies and strategies in international affairs, not only of historical value but also of great epochal significance. The article introduces President Ho Chi Minh's views on foreign affairs such as the role of foreign affairs; on contents, methods, mottos, foreign affairs forces; on style and art abroad. From there, the article shows the meaning of applying President Ho Chi Minh's views on foreign affairs in our country in the current period.

Keywords: *President Ho Chi Minh's views; Foreign affairs; The Party's foreign policy.*

1. Introduction

President Ho Chi Minh is a genius leader and an outstanding diplomat who founded the modern Vietnamese foreign policy industry. He directed foreign affairs to overcome many difficulties, contributing to the independence, freedom and reunification of the country. President Ho Chi Minh's views on foreign affairs have so far remained intact both in practice and in theory, as a system of views that clearly illuminates the revolutionary and scientific nature as the ideological foundation of current foreign affairs. Continuing his career and legacy, over the years, foreign affairs has always been an important task of the Party. After more than 35 years of renovation, foreign affairs have achieved important achievements, but also faced many difficulties and challenges. Therefore, it is necessary to study President Ho Chi Minh's point of view and point out the significance of its application in the practice of foreign affairs in our country today.

2. Research overview

Regarding the content of this research, there are some typical research works such as: Tran Vi Dan: "Ho Chi Minh's thought on independence, self-reliance in foreign affairs, international solidarity and its application in the current situation", *Electronic Communist Journal*, July 6th, 2021; Pham Binh Minh: "Contributions of Vietnamese diplomacy to the historic victory of the Spring of 1975", *The World and Vietnam Newspapers on the 45th anniversary of the liberation of the South and the reunification of the country* (April 30th, 1975

- April 30th, 2020); Nguyen Phu Trong (2021), "Some theoretical and practical issues on socialism and the path to socialism in Vietnam", *Communist Journal*, (976); Dao Duy Quat, "Applying Ho Chi Minh's thought on Foreign Affairs and International Solidarity in the new era", *Portal of the Party Personnel Committee of the Ministry of Home Affairs on the implementation of the 4th Conference of the Central Committee's Resolutions, term XII, on December 18th, 2021*; Nguyen Xuan Trung, Nguyen Thi Huyen Trang, "Ho Chi Minh's thought on foreign affairs and its application in the Document of the 13th Party Congress", *Journal of Electronic Political Theory*, August 3rd, 2022; Do Ngoc Hanh, "Applying Ho Chi Minh's thought on international solidarity and cooperation in Vietnam's foreign policy today", *Electronic Communist Journal*, April 19th, 2023; Tran Trong Toan, "Applying Ho Chi Minh's thought in current foreign affairs", *Tuyen Giao electronic Journal*, September 16th, 2020... The above researchs have mentioned quite comprehensively about applying Ho Chi Minh's thought to Vietnam's foreign affairs, these are valuable documents to help the author inherit and perfect the content of this article.

3. Research methods

In this article, the author uses some main methods such as: Method of secondary data collection method; Methods of synthesis, analysis and evaluation to clarify President Ho Chi Minh's views on foreign affairs and the meaning of current application.

4. Research result

4.1. President Ho Chi Minh's view on foreign affairs

President Ho Chi Minh's views on foreign affairs are an important part of Ho Chi Minh's thought, to be an invaluable spiritual legacy, the foundation of strength and to be the key to successfully and effectively implementing the guideline, strategy and foreign policy of our Party and State through the revolutionary periods. The content of President Ho Chi Minh's views on foreign affairs includes:

4.1.1. The concept of the role, position and goals of foreign affairs

President Ho Chi Minh affirmed: Diplomacy is a struggle by peaceful means to protect national interests, to be a very important field of activity of the revolutionary cause. In the process of leading the Vietnamese revolution, He always appreciated the role of diplomacy: "... the best use of troops, the first is to fight with intrigue. The second is to fight with diplomacy. The third is to fight with soldiers" and "Whoever is more favorable in diplomacy, wins". Appreciating the role of diplomacy, the Resolution of the Tan Trao Conference, which took place before the General Uprising in August 1945, placed "Diplomatic issues" into a separate section, equal to "Party's policy" and the "Military mission" section. Immediately after the August Revolution in 1945, our Party and President Ho Chi Minh determined: "After defense, diplomacy is an essential issue for an independent country"; since then, resolutely struggle to maintain diplomatic sovereignty and consider it an important expression of independence.

President Ho Chi Minh correctly assessed the position, role of diplomacy and the dialectical relationship between diplomacy and other fields of the revolution. Diplomacy is one of the three basic battle fronts, diplomatic, political and military activities are always strongly complementary to each other; military victory is an important condition determining diplomatic victory, because people only get what is on the negotiating table equal to what is achieved on the battlefield. Talking about the impact of the military and politics on diplomatic negotiations, He pointed out: "Our victories make our people and the peoples of the world excited, make our diplomatic position in Geneva stably, our victories force the enemy to talk to us".

President Ho Chi Minh emphasized, foreign affairs "must always serve the interests of the nation"; independence and self-reliance must be associated with international solidarity and cooperation, whereby Vietnam is ready to "befriend all democratic countries and not cause enmity with anyone". He attaches great importance to friendship

and cooperation with neighboring countries sharing borders; expanding diplomatic relations with countries in the region and around the world; well handle relations with major countries to serve revolutionary interests.

4.1.2. Concept of content and form of diplomatic work

In the view of President Ho Chi Minh, diplomatic work has rich activities, diversified and flexible forms and diversified partnerships. People's diplomacy and international advocacy directly directed by President Ho Chi Minh have particularly rich and persuasive contents; clarify the meaning, fight against injustice, fight violence with humanity, call for peace, harmony, friendship, cooperation, solidarity and mutual help. External activities are also diverse: speaking, writing newspapers, writing books, mobilizing individuals and organizations, talks and presenting views at partner country forums and international forums, meetings, friendship festivals, seminars, exchanges of culture, arts and sports, exchanges of science and technology; cooperation in education, humanitarian aid advocacy and development. Diplomatic work always expands advocacy partners and relationships from individuals of different classes, professions and political orientations to socio-political organizations and mass organizations.

4.1.3. The concept of foreign forces

President Ho Chi Minh pointed out that people-to-people diplomacy is widely involved by many forces, including not only people's organizations, socio-political organizations, cultural and artistic organizations, science and technology, professional associations and broadly the people, but also Party organizations and state agencies at all levels, branches and the armed forces. Thus, according to Ho Chi Minh, it is necessary to gather a wide force to participate in foreign activities.

Affirming that foreign policy is the main and extremely important means of approaching the world, so President Ho Chi Minh has advised his compatriots with clever activities to conquer the peoples of other countries, first of all, to treat the citizens of the imperialist countries living and working in our country in a civilized manner, so that the people of their country and the people of the world understand Vietnam well, have feelings for Vietnam. Ho Chi Minh advised: "Overseas compatriots must love and help each other, always support the Fatherland with one heart, extend the friendship between our people and people of other countries". Must be harmonious, stick with them in the spirit of "selling distant relatives to buy near neighbors, to convince them, to touch them.

4.1.4. *The concept of foreign policy*

According to Ho Chi Minh's point of view, foreign affairs must be based on principles:

(1) Principle of independence and self-reliance. Independence and self-reliance are the prominent and consistent thoughts in all of Ho Chi Minh's political activities, the main principle of which is "If you want people to help you, you must first help yourself". Maintaining independence and self-reliance is both a way and an immutable principle to best protect the interests of the nation - nation. Those lines and principles are also crystallized in Ho Chi Minh's thought and practice of foreign affairs. In international relations, He affirmed: "Independence means that we control all our affairs, without outside interference" and emphasize: "Independence without its own army, its own diplomacy, its own economy. The Vietnamese people are determined not to want that kind of fake unity and independence". In the relationship between the parties of the international communist and workers' movement, He determined: "Parties, big or small, to be independent, equal, at the same time unite and agree to help each other". Thus, the Vietnamese nation's independence, self-reliance, unity is not only territorial integrity, but the nation's foreign affairs must also be independent and not be dominated by any force or force.

(2) Combine the strength of the nation with the power of the times. In the relationship between the strength of the nation and the power of the times, Ho Chi Minh considered internal resources to play a decisive role, external resources as important and could only promote strength through internal resources. He emphasized: "A nation that is not self-sufficient but waits for other peoples' help is not worthy of independence". He gave an example: "Strong force, diplomacy will win. Strength is the gong and diplomacy is the reputation. If the gong is loud, the sound will be loud". President Ho Chi Minh pointed out the need to focus on building and promoting the strength of people-to-people diplomacy in order to mobilize peace-loving people in the world to support the cause of national liberation struggle, national unification of the Party and people of Vietnam. Because as He affirmed: "The strength, greatness and persistence of the Vietnamese people are basically in the solidarity of the Vietnamese people and the support of the people of the world"

(3) Love peace, oppose war. This principle was expressed very early and consistent throughout the revolutionary activities of President Ho Chi Minh. In his Letter to the French in Indochina (October 1945), President Ho Chi Minh wrote: "French

people in Indochina! You do not think that much human blood has flowed, that peace - a genuine peace based on justice and democratic ideals - must replace war, that freedom, equality, charity must be carried out in all countries without distinction of race or color? Even when had to wage a one-on-one war with the colonial empire to gain national independence, He always sought opportunities for dialogue and negotiation to avoid a senseless violent war.

(4) Harmony, "more friends, less enemies". President Ho Chi Minh always clearly distinguishes between friends and enemies, seeks to reduce enemies, avoid dealing with many enemies at once, identifying the main enemy to focus on spearheading the struggle. He affirmed: "If you want to make a successful revolution, you must clearly distinguish who is your friend and who is your enemy. You must make more friends and less enemies". In order to "more friends, less enemies", He advocated a distinction between the peace-loving people with the reactionary and belligerent forces in the enemy's government. Thus, in the enemy's forces, "more friends" means "less enemies", then the Vietnamese people only have to oppose the belligerent governments of France and the United State of America, not the whole of France and the United State of America.

The correlation of forces has thus turned in our favor. While the enemy was isolated in the world and within his own country, the cause of the struggle for national liberation of the Party and people of Vietnam was surpassed by all mankind, even the people of the invading country - beyond national sentiment - wholeheartedly support.

4.1.5. *The concept of foreign policy methods and mottos*

President Ho Chi Minh determined that foreign affairs must be a front, an integrated army of the Vietnamese revolution, skillfully combining "fighting and talking", combining national strength with the strength of the times to create great synergy. He always puts Vietnam in the flow of the world, attaches importance to power centers and major trends. He especially appreciates the "unchangeable nature of change", taking the unchangeable to cope with all changes, maintaining the principled, steadfast, firmness of strategic goals with flexibility of revolutionary strategy. Ho Chi Minh pointed out: "Our unchanging goal is still peace, unity, independence and democracy. Our principles must be firm, but our tactics are flexible". President Ho Chi Minh's foreign policy method and motto also reflect our nation's tradition of peace-loving, efforts to resolve disagreements by peaceful means.

4.1.6. *Concept of foreign style*

On the basis of national culture, President Ho Chi Minh's foreign policy style is imbued with the cultural quintessence of humanity, skillfully combining East-West culture. In terms of thinking, He advised to have a comprehensive view, "look broadly and think carefully" to clearly see the general trend and direction of social progress.

In his behavior, He harmoniously combines national and international values, making people feel close and intimate. In communication, He uses simple expressions to effectively send external messages.

4.1.7. *Concept of foreign art*

The outstanding feature of President Ho Chi Minh's foreign art is the skillful application of the "five knowledges" (knowing oneself, knowing others, knowing the times, knowing when to stop and knowing how to change), the ability to create opportunities and seize the opportunity, to be public diplomacy to help win people's hearts with justice, humanity, reason and morality. The achievements of Vietnam's foreign affairs in the cause of national liberation, national reunification and defense of our Fatherland have clearly demonstrated Ho Chi Minh's ingenuity in applying the arts of foreign affairs to bring the revolution to success.

In short, President Ho Chi Minh's views on foreign affairs contain many contents that are not only sustainable over time, but also have thoughts ahead of their time. Reality has proven that President Ho Chi Minh's views on foreign affairs are an invaluable legacy, to be the foundation of strength and the key to the successful and effective implementation of the Party's foreign policy through the revolutionary periods. It is thanks to the creative application of his views in the new situation that Vietnam's foreign policy has gained many important achievements, contributing to maintaining a peaceful environment, attracting resources for development, maintaining the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Fatherland and raise the international position of our country.

4.2. *The meaning of applying President Ho Chi Minh's views on foreign affairs in the current period*

4.2.1. *Some results achieved*

President Ho Chi Minh's views on foreign affairs so far still have profound theoretical and practical value. Creatively applying his views on foreign affairs, the 13th National Congress of the Party planned an independent and self-reliant foreign policy, steadfast in its goal of ensuring the highest interests of the nation - nation, at the same time also expressing the peaceful spirit, respecting for the independence and national sovereignty of the peoples of the world. The new guiding viewpoints

at the 13th Party Congress on foreign affairs strongly demonstrate the inheritance and the spirit of innovative thinking, in line with the international development trend and the changes of the country.

Through more than 35 years of country renovation, Vietnam has achieved many important achievements in the field of foreign affairs, especially establishing bilateral and multilateral cooperation mechanisms to connect with the world. After more than 35 years of renovation, "Our country has never had the opportunity, potential, position and international prestige like today". Up to now, Vietnam has had diplomatic relations with 189 of the 193 UN member states, including 30 strategic partners, comprehensive partners including all 5 permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, 7 leading industrialized countries (G7) and 17 of the 20 largest economies in the world (G20)... From a centrally planned and closed economy, up to now, Vietnam is a socialist-oriented market economy with extensive economic links, our country have signed and joined 17 free trade agreements (FTAs), including new generation FTAs; import-export turnover is equivalent to about 200% of GDP, attracting about 400 billion USD of registered FDI capital,... Vietnam is a member of most important international organizations and multilateral forums, has successfully organized many major international conferences as well as fulfilled many international responsibilities such as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (2008-2009 and 2020-2021), ASEAN Summit (1998, 2010 and 2020), ASEM Summit (2004), APEC Summit (2006, 2017), World Economic Forum on ASEAN (2018), US Summit - North Korea (2019), sending hundreds of officers and soldiers to join the United Nations peacekeeping force,...

The correct implementation of the Party's foreign policy has made a very important contribution to maintaining a peaceful, stable and favorable environment for the renewal process, firmly protecting independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, improving the status of the country. The above-mentioned foreign affairs achievements are the crystallization of the efforts of the entire Party, army and people, to be a bright spot in the country's overall achievements as the Resolution of the 13th National Congress affirmed that "our country has never had achieve the current status, potential, position and international prestige", in which there are very important contributions of foreign affairs, including party diplomacy, state diplomacy and people-to-people diplomacy.

4.2.2. *Some limitations*

In addition, foreign affairs in our country

currently face many difficulties and challenges. According to the 13th Party Congress, “foreign activities present, sometimes not keeping up with the developments of the situation, not yet fully anticipating the adverse effects. Not yet exploiting and promoting effectively the interwoven benefits relationships with important partners. The coordination between sectors and localities in foreign affairs is not close and regular”. Therefore, it is necessary to study President Ho Chi Minh’s views and propose solutions to apply in practice to improve the efficiency of foreign affairs in our country today.

5. Discussion

From President Ho Chi Minh’s views on foreign affairs and the meaning of current application, the article proposes some solutions as follows:

- Promote propaganda and introduction of Ho Chi Minh’s thought in general and views on foreign affairs to all classes of people. External activities need to be strengthened at the grassroots and local levels, where a large number of people are gathered - the object and subject of this work.

- Continue to renew and improve the quality of institutional work, especially the timely institutionalization of the Party’s views and guidelines on the external economy, ensuring compliance with international commitments and practices.

Focus on promoting in-depth external economic relations, closely associated with national interests, at the same time actively promote economic relations with major and potential partners to create leverage for economic development and domestic trade

- Ensure the comprehensive and absolute leadership of the Party and the centralized management of the State over people’s foreign affairs. Deeply grasping the foreign policy of the 13th Party Congress, creating profound changes and high unity in the entire political system in terms of the role, position and importance of people’s diplomacy, determining clearly to implement people-to-people diplomacy to be the task of the entire political system.

- Strongly renovating the thinking, content and methods of people-to-people diplomacy in the direction of diversifying, expanding the scope of activities, partners, participating forces, creating intertwined interests and reliability, promoting promoting relations with the people of neighboring countries, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), a comprehensive, strategic partnership and a traditional friend into depth and substance.

- Bringing into play the power of the people to carry out foreign affairs. In the article “Some theoretical and practical issues about socialism and the path to socialism in Vietnam”, General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong stated: “Besides determining the right guidelines and directions, ensuring the Party’s leadership role, it is necessary to strongly promote the role of creativity, support and active participation of the people, ... the strength of people are the profound source of victory and development”.

- Strengthening the quality of research and forecasting work, promoting the role of foreign affairs experts in researching, advising and contributing to policy formulation and foreign policy implementation. Renovating contents and methods of external information, applying achievements of information and communication technology to enhance positive information about the country, people and achievements of Vietnam, and our Party and State’s guidelines and policies, fighting against false claims about Vietnam.

- It is necessary to focus on raising awareness, capacity and qualifications for agencies, cadres and civil servants engaged in external affairs, paying attention to the selection of cadres to build high-quality human resources to serve their external economic activities, ensuring the parity of tasks in the new situation.

6. Conclusion

Over the past 35 years of renovation, inheriting and promoting the nation’s glorious tradition of foreign affairs, especially the thought of President Ho Chi Minh, the Party has inherited and constantly supplemented, developed and perfected the foreign policy of independence, self-reliance, openness for peace, cooperation and development, implementation of the foreign policy of multilateralization, diversification, initiative and active international integration. Currently, the country is in the process of accelerating industrialization, modernization and international integration when the domestic and international situation is very complicated, the research and creative application of President Ho Chi Minh’s views on foreign affairs is an urgent task to expand foreign relations and defend the Fatherland in the new situation. On the basis of core values and lessons learned in practical activities of the Party, the application of President Ho Chi Minh’s views in the new period has contributed to clarifying the characteristics and identity of Vietnam’s foreign affairs.

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QUAN ĐIỂM CỦA CHỦ TỊCH HỒ CHÍ MINH VỀ CÔNG TÁC ĐỐI NGOẠI VÀ Ý NGHĨA VẬN DỤNG HIỆN NAY

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Chủ tịch Hồ Chí Minh đã để lại một hệ thống các quan điểm toàn diện, bao hàm nội dung rất rộng, liên quan đến toàn bộ sự nghiệp cách mạng Việt Nam. Trong đó, quan điểm về công tác đối ngoại là một bộ phận quan trọng về chiến lược, sách lược cách mạng trong các vấn đề quốc tế, không chỉ có giá trị lịch sử mà còn có ý nghĩa thời đại to lớn. Bài viết giới thiệu các quan điểm của Chủ tịch Hồ Chí Minh về công tác đối ngoại như vai trò của công tác đối ngoại; về nội dung, phương pháp, phương châm, lực lượng đối ngoại; về phong cách và nghệ thuật đối ngoại. Từ đó, bài viết chỉ ra ý nghĩa vận dụng quan điểm của Chủ tịch Hồ Chí Minh về công tác đối ngoại ở nước ta trong giai đoạn hiện nay.

Từ khóa: Quan điểm của Chủ tịch Hồ Chí Minh; Công tác đối ngoại; Đường lối đối ngoại của Đảng.