

# PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH'S PEOPLE'S IDEOLOGY AND IMPLICATIONS FOR CIVIL ADVOCACY IN HO CHI MINH CITY TODAY

Tran Hai Ha

Ho Chi Minh Cadre Academy

Email: [tranhaiha2110@gmail.com](mailto:tranhaiha2110@gmail.com)

Received: 09/3/2023; Reviewed: 12/3/2023; Revised: 13/3/2023; Accepted: 16/3/2023; Released: 20/3/2023

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.54163/ncdt/52>

The article researches President Ho Chi Minh's views on civil advocacy. The results showed that President Ho Chi Minh raised the guiding views on civil advocacy work such as the concept, position, role, force, method and process of implementing civil advocacy work. These views have so far remained valuable to the Party's civil advocacy. The article also points out the significance of President Ho Chi Minh's civil advocacy thought for civil advocacy in Ho Chi Minh City today.

**Keywords:** *Ho Chi Minh thought; Civil advocacy; Ho Chi Minh city.*

## 1. Introduction

During his lifetime, President Ho Chi Minh affirmed: "The revolution is the cause of the people, by the people, for the people", "The people's forces are great. The civil advocacy is very important. Mass Mobilization things are less bad. With good civil advocacy, everything will be successful", all for the people, all by the people, having the people means having everything. Or, "There is nothing in the sky as precious as the people. There is nothing stronger in the world than the united force of the people", there is nothing nobler than serving the people. President Ho Chi Minh's concept of the people is like that. Therefore, the work of mass mobilization is very important, to be a task of strategic significance for the entire revolutionary cause of our country, both in the absence of government and in the ruling Party's period; to be an important condition to ensure the Party's leadership over the government and society as a whole, to tighten the flesh-and-blood relationship between the Party and the people. President Ho Chi Minh raised important views on mass mobilization work in the work *Dan Dan* (October 15<sup>th</sup>, 1949), He gave strategic views on the role of the people, on the issue of democracy, on the position, method and manner of mass mobilization work. Ho Chi Minh's thought on mass mobilization remains intact both in theory and in practice today. Therefore, it is necessary to study and apply Ho Chi Minh's thought into practice to improve the effectiveness of mass mobilization work in Ho Chi Minh City.

## 2. Research overview

Related to this issue, there have been many

researchers interested in research, typically a number of research works such as: Ly Trieu, "Ho Chi Minh's thought on mass mobilization work", *Hong Dan* website, Bac Lieu province, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017;

Le Van Loi, President Ho Chi Minh's work "Civil Mobilization" and its significance to the Party's mass mobilization work today", *Communist Electronic Journal*, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021; Bui Thi Minh Hoai, "Promoting the implementation of mass mobilization work according to Ho Chi Minh's thought", *Electronic Newspaper of Vietnam Communist Party*, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022; Tran Thi Quynh, "Ho Chi Minh's Thoughts on Mass Mobilization - Theoretical and Practical Values", Website of Binh Phuoc Provincial School of Politics, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020; Chi Mai (2022), "Improving the effectiveness of the good mass mobilization well associated with the study of Ho Chi Minh's thought", Website of the Ho Chi Minh City Party Committee, at: <https://www.hcmcpv.org.vn>. Updated on November 29<sup>th</sup> 2022; *Journal of Mass mobilization* (2022), "Ho Chi Minh City: Improving the quality and efficiency of mass mobilization work", at: <http://danvan.vn>. Updated on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022;... The above research works are valuable documents for the author to refer to, inherit, supplement and complete the research content of the author.

## 3. Research Methods

In this article, the author uses some main methods such as: Secondary data collection method; Methods of synthesis and analysis to clarify the content of this research.

#### 4. Research results

##### 4.1. Contents of President Ho Chi Minh's ideology on mass mobilization

###### 4.1.1. About the concept of mass mobilization

In the work of Mass mobilization, Ho Chi Minh pointed out: "Mass mobilization is mobilizing all forces of each citizen without leaving a single citizen, contributing to the whole people's force, to do the things that should be done, the tasks assigned by the Government and Unions. The mass mobilization cannot only use newspapers, books, meetings, slogans, leaflets and directives". The mass mobilization according to President Ho Chi Minh's point of view is a system of views on roles, contents and methods aimed at gathering the people's forces to follow the Party's guidelines, policies and laws, thereby strengthening the great national unity bloc, strengthening the relationship between the Party and the People, contributing to the cause of national liberation, construction and defense.

###### 4.1.2. About the role and position of the mass mobilization work

In the mass mobilization work, Ho Chi Minh always attaches great importance to the position and role of the people's mass mobilization work. He noted that when mobilizing the people, it is necessary to clearly define the position and role of each element in it, only then can the people be organized and gathered. Therefore, in order for the mass mobilization work to have practical results, besides the contents, methods, propaganda and mobilization, each Party member must set an example, must consider the interests of the people as their own. They must be loved and respected by the people, which is the root cause of the success of the mass mobilization work.

###### 4.1.3. About the force of the mass mobilization work

Ho Chi Minh affirmed, "The people's forces are very large. the mass mobilization work is very important. Poor mass Mobilization, things are also bad. With good mass mobilization, everything will be successful". Therefore, according to him, it is necessary to overcome the "top-down" thinking and working style, who only likes to lead, "likes to work with papers a lot. Sitting in one place, pointing with five fingers, refused to go down to the locality to check the work"; "work in a bureaucratic way. Everything uses commands. Forcing people to do. Close the door and make a plan, write the program and put it on the neck of the people, and force the people to follow". According to President Ho Chi Minh, mass mobilization is not the work of just one or two people, one or two departments or branches, not only the work of mass mobilization organizations but also of the whole political system, to be all government officials. All union officials. All

members of people's organizations (Lien Viet, Viet Minh,...) must be in charge of mass mobilization".

Civil service cadres must "think, see, listen, walk, speak, and act. Not just talking, just writing orders. They have to honestly get involved". You must always set an example by yourself to practice diligence, thrift, integrity, righteousness, justice and impartiality; must "learn from the masses but not follow the masses" and "break through the dim, bureaucratic, subjective and bureaucratic way of leadership", ... for the people to follow. Officials in charge of mass mobilization must overcome the situation that "a major shortcoming in many places is contempt for mass mobilization. Appoint a committee or a few people, which often send poor officials and then leave them alone. Good luck is good, bad luck is also good. Other cadres do not look after, or help and consider themselves not responsible for mass mobilization. That is a very big, very harmful mistake".

###### 4.1.4. About the method of mass mobilization

In order to mobilize the masses to follow Ho Chi Minh, the first thing in the mass mobilization work is to find ways to propagate and explain to all people clearly, it is beneficial for them, to be their duty, make them enthusiastically perform for the period. As a result, the purpose of true communists is to mobilize the people to make a revolution in order to bring benefits to the people, so that the people can follow the Party wholeheartedly. Moreover, when carrying out the mobilization of the people, it must be a persistent and long-term process, must make the people understand and believe because the benefits are not immediately available, but it is a process of striving and sacrificing arduously to obtain.

In addition, he emphasized that in the mass mobilization work, it is not enough to do it based on guidelines and policies, but must have a skillful method of mass mobilization with a team of dedicated and pure cadres for the people and for the country, then the people will be united with the Party, protecting and building the Party, only then will the people be able to unite following to protect and build the country.

###### 4.1.5. About the process of carrying out civil mobilization work

In the view of President Ho Chi Minh, the work of mass mobilization is indicated as follows: *Firstly*, explain to the people clearly their rights and duties (the people know). In the article "mass mobilization", the first issue Ho Chi Minh needs to repeat to be: Our country is a democracy. The people are the masters, so they must know what the owners need to know. People know is the first stage of the process of mass mobilization and also

the first stage to show the people's right to mastery. *Secondly*, discussing with the people, asking for opinions and experiences of the people (people discuss). According to Ho Chi Minh, the force of the people is very great, the creative potential of the people is endless, so everything must be consulted with the people, discussed with the people and explained to the people understanding, from there, people will come up with good ways to do things that are suitable to the base with the ability of the masses and achieve high results. *Thirdly*, encourage and organize the entire people to implement (the people do). After the people knew, discussed and reached a consensus, Ho Chi Minh pointed out that the next stage of the mass mobilization work is to work with the people to make a plan that is practical to the local situation and then encourage the whole people to take action. According to him, "No matter how great the force, no matter how difficult it is, you can do it. Without it, nothing will be done", so it is necessary to encourage and organize people to do the same thing. *Fourthly*, together with the people reviewing, drawing from experience, criticizing and rewarding (the people checking). This is the final stage of the civil mobilization process. The people who inspect, the people who examine the things the people have known, discussed, done and checking the implementation of regimes and policies towards the people by Party and State officials and the political system.

In summary, President Ho Chi Minh's view on mass mobilization work is the synthesis, inheritance and development of the nation's fine traditional values, the quintessence of human culture and Marxism-Leninism, at the same time, drawn from Ho Chi Minh's revolutionary activities, he is always full of vitality, topical, paving the way to victory for all activities of the Party and State in the implementation of mass mobilization.

#### ***4.2. Applying Ho Chi Minh's thought to improving the efficiency of mass mobilization work in Ho Chi Minh City today***

Ho Chi Minh's thought has always had profound theoretical and practical value in the cause of national liberation struggle, national construction and defense. Therefore, his views on mass mobilization work, his exemplary model of mass mobilization work have been instilled and implemented by our Party. Thoroughly grasping President Ho Chi Minh's views on mass mobilization work, the Party and State have issued many guidelines, policies and resolutions on strengthening mass mobilization work.

In Ho Chi Minh City, over the years, the Party's guidelines on mass mobilization work have been thoroughly understood by all levels of Party committees, authorities, the Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations strictly

implement. The mass mobilization work has been strengthened, there have been innovations, creating a positive change in awareness, responsibility and coordination in the implementation of the mass mobilization work of all levels and branches in the whole political system from the city to the base. The government's mass mobilization work has been promoted, raising the responsibility of serving the people of the cadres and civil servants. Activities of supervision, social criticism, participation in building the Party and administration of the Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations have become more and more effective. Direct contact and dialogue with the people of the heads of the Party committees and authorities at all levels are carried out regularly. People actively respond to the implementation of economic and social development goals; strengthening the unity of ethnic groups, strengthening the close relationship between the Party, the State and the people, contributing to the successful implementation of the political tasks set out by the City Party Committee.

The emulation movement "Skillful People's Movement" associated with studying and following Ho Chi Minh's thought, morality and style has achieved results and has practical significance in all fields. In fact, due to the good implementation of mass mobilization work, many new undertakings and policies for - development of the city have been successfully implemented. Over the years, the Ho Chi Minh City Party Committee has performed well the leadership work in formulating programs and plans for the implementation of mass mobilization work and democratic regulations at the grassroots level; organizing many conferences to thoroughly understand and implement the Party's guidelines, policies and laws of the State related to mass mobilization work, democracy regulations at grassroots level to subordinate agencies, units and cadres, party members, civil servants, public employees, workers and organizing propaganda widely among all classes of people; proactively grasping the situation of cadres, civil servants, public employees, students, regularly implemented through many forms.

The emulation movement skillfully associated with studying and following Ho Chi Minh's thought, morality and style in the city has appeared many models, examples, good experiences, sticking to the local political duties, agencies and units. Specifically, in 2022, the emulation movement "Skillful mass movement" continues to receive a strong and widespread response, making a practical contribution to the implementation of the common political task. Especially the work of building the Party, building the government, reducing poverty, social security, building cultural life, maintaining

security and order. In 2022, there were nearly 7,600 collectives and 21,900 individuals registered to implement emulation models and works in fields such as economy, culture and society, national defense and security and social security. Models, typically with many creative and effective ways of doing things, have mobilized the active participation of the people to contribute human and physical energy to the formation of exhibition areas “Ho Chi Minh Cultural Space” in many places. residential areas, schools, offices and religious establishments. At the same time, supporting sustainable poverty reduction; providing periodic and long-term care and supporting difficult cases due to the impact of Covid-19, especially orphans,...

Especially, after 10 years of implementing Decision No. 290-QD/TW of the Politburo (term X) the mass mobilization work in Ho Chi Minh City has had a strong change, creating a positive change in awareness, mode of operation and achieving important results. The operation of the City People’s Council has had many innovations, well-organized meetings, issued many important resolutions, directly affecting people’s lives, ensured social security highly appreciated by the people and voters, creating consensus among the people. Governments at all levels, departments, agencies, state agencies have paid more attention to mass mobilization work; promoting the implementation of the regulations on democracy, publicity and transparency; continuing to reform administrative procedures, reviewing those that are no longer appropriate; the style and attitude of cadres and civil servants in the performance of their official duties and relations with the people have had many positive changes. Diversify forms of gathering and mobilizing people; actively grasping the situation of thought and life of all classes of people; actively participating in monitoring activities, launching exciting and widespread emulation movements.

Party committees and authorities at all levels should strengthen citizen reception, settlement of complaints and denunciations; focus on solving pressing, legitimate and legitimate aspirations of the employees and people; strengthen the education of cadres, civil servants and public employees to raise the sense of responsibility to serve the people, promote the effective and practical implementation of grassroots democracy; clearly show the responsibilities of the Party committees, organizations and authorities in receiving suggestions for building the Party and building the government of socio-political organizations, cadres, party members and workers, public employees. Organizing activities to take care of cadres, civil servants, public employees, workers in difficult circumstances, families of martyrs, war invalids and meritorious services to the revolution;

organizing blood donation campaigns, awarding scholarships to students with difficult circumstances.

Besides the achieved results, the mass mobilization work in Ho Chi Minh City still has certain limitations. *Firstly*, the Party committees in some places are slow to implement and concretize the documents of the Central Government and the city; have not regularly inspected and supervised the implementation of the Party’s documents on mass mobilization work. *Secondly*, the implementation of the Regulation on democracy at the grassroots level and promoting the people’s right to mastery has not been good; the work of receiving people, having dialogues and dealing with petitions has not been timely. *Thirdly*, the mass mobilization work in the state administrative agencies and authorities at all levels is still heavy on administrative measures, not paying attention to propaganda, mobilization, persuasion and explanation; several agencies and units have not yet assigned leaders and cadres in charge of mass mobilization according to Decision No. 290-QD/TW of the Politburo (XI term); State administrative agencies, authorities at all levels in the performance of their tasks are still heavy on administrative measures, lack of mobilization, persuasion, explanation, causing frustration among the People, leading to a large number of complaints, excessive complaints. *Fourthly*, the activities of supervision, social criticism, participation in the construction of the Party and administration of the Fatherland Front, socio-political organizations in some places have not been effective. *Fifthly*, the work of summarizing practice and supplementing theory has not kept pace with the development of society. The content of political activities, ideas and learning, following Ho Chi Minh’s ideology, morality and style in general and his mass mobilization work in particular in some places are still formal and not substantial, lack of depth. *Sixthly*, the methods of propaganda and mobilization of some cadres engaged in mass mobilization activities such as reporting people, propagandists and lecturers of political theory are slow to innovate, convincing and combative. *Seventhly*, grasping the situation of the people, detecting and solving problems arising at the grassroots level is sometimes not thorough and timely; activities of the Fatherland Front and mass organizations at grassroots levels are still slow to innovate, so propaganda and advocacy work lack attractiveness to many subjects in society. *Eighthly*, a number of propaganda and mass mobilization cadres have not yet met the requirements; guiding and directing skills at the grassroots; speaking, writing, the ability to apply knowledge and experience in practice is still limited. Facilities and equipment invested in propaganda work at the grassroots are lacking and inconsistent.

## 5. Discussion

Stemming from the above situation, it is necessary to study and apply Ho Chi Minh's thought into practice to improve the efficiency of mass mobilization work in Ho Chi Minh City today. Therefore, we need to pay attention to some issues in the coming time such as:

*Firstly*, continuing to research, popularize and apply Ho Chi Minh's thought in general and Ho Chi Minh's thought on mass mobilization in particular. In order for mass mobilization work to achieve high results in the new period, it is required that our Party continue to research and creatively apply Ho Chi Minh's thought on mass mobilization, in order to gather and build great solidarity, bringing into play the strength of the whole people to successfully implement the reform policy, industrialization and modernization of the country.

*Secondly*, each party committee, party organization, cadre and party member in the political system regularly learns and thoroughly grasps President Ho Chi Minh's ideology, morality and style of mass mobilization. At the same time, renovating the mass mobilization work in the direction of being close to the grassroots, truly "respecting the people, being close to the people, understanding the people, studying from the people, being responsible to the people"; genuinely care about the interests and lives of the people.

*Thirdly*, relevant agencies and units raise awareness and responsibility in promoting democracy and the strength of national unity; creating unity of thought and action throughout the city's Party Committee and the people's consensus, in order to successfully implement the Resolution of the 11<sup>th</sup> Ho Chi Minh City Party Congress. Especially, focusing on propagating and mobilizing the city's people to actively participate in building and promoting the Ho Chi Minh cultural space. Continue to renew the propaganda and mobilization of the people in various forms (face-to-face meetings, through the press, social networks,...) so that the people can better understand the situation of the country, trusting and performing well guidelines of the Party, policies and laws of the State.

*Fourthly*, organize flexible and appropriate approaches to timely grasp the situation of the people. In particular, pay attention to monitoring the issues that people and public opinion are interested in and developments on social networks to have an appropriate form of resolution. Renovate the content and form of collecting opinions from all classes of people participating in the construction of the Party and government. In addition, continuing to organize the extensive and effective implementation of the emulation movement "Skillful mass mobilization" in

association with promoting learning and following Ho Chi Minh's thought, morality and style through concrete, practical actions; multiplying effective models, effective ways of the movement to spread good values in the whole society. Well perform commendation and replication of advanced examples in mass mobilization work.

*Fifthly*, focus on building morality in the Party and the contingent of cadres and party members. Improve the quality and efficiency of the mass mobilization work of state agencies; implement more drastic and effective administrative procedure reform in association with building ethics and working style of cadres, civil servants and public employees. Every year, it is necessary to open retraining courses for grassroots cadres performing mass mobilization work to provide and exchange new guidelines and policies of the Party and State to orient them in propaganda work, mobilizing the people. Each cadre, party member must be exemplary in life, "Party members go first, the country follows"; must "respect the people, be close to the people, understand the people, study from the people and be responsible to the people"; always put the collective interests first, resolutely prevent and fight against individualism.

*Sixth*, regularly urge, inspect and supervise the implementation of mass mobilization work, especially the institutionalization and concretization of the Party's policy on mass mobilization work, the formulation and implementation of the Regulations of grassroots democracy; Strengthen regular coordination among organizations in the political system in carrying out mass mobilization work. It is necessary to clearly define the responsibilities for performing mass mobilization work of all levels of Party committees, authorities, Vietnam Fatherland Front, socio-political organizations, cadres and party members; annually review and evaluate the results of the mass mobilization work of the Party committees and Party members at all levels, improve the quality of cadres; at the same time, it is necessary to focus on replicating typical personal examples in mass mobilization work.

## 6. Conclusion

Thus, President Ho Chi Minh has mentioned quite comprehensively and deeply the mass mobilization work, which is the basis of orientation and guidelines for the Party's mass mobilization work in the current period. In Ho Chi Minh City, over the years, the mass mobilization work has had positive results, however, there are still many shortcomings and limitations that need to be overcome. Therefore, applying the ideology of mass mobilization of President Ho Chi Minh in practice to improve the efficiency of mass mobilization work in Ho Chi Minh City is now very necessary.

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# TƯ TƯỞNG DÂN VẬN CỦA CHỦ TỊCH HỒ CHÍ MINH VÀ Ý NGHĨA ĐỐI VỚI CÔNG TÁC DÂN VẬN TẠI THÀNH PHỐ HỒ CHÍ MINH HIỆN NAY

Trần Hải Hà

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Học viện Cán bộ Thành phố Hồ Chí Minh

Email: [tranhaiha2110@gmail.com](mailto:tranhaiha2110@gmail.com)

Nhận bài: 09/3/2023; Phản biện: 12/3/2023; Tác giả sửa: 13/3/2023; Duyệt đăng: 16/3/2023; Phát hành: 20/3/2023

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.54163/ncdt/52>

Bài viết nghiên cứu tư tưởng dân vận của Chủ tịch Hồ Chí Minh. Kết quả cho thấy, Chủ tịch Hồ Chí Minh đã nêu lên những quan điểm chỉ đạo đối với công tác dân vận như khái niệm, vị trí, vai trò, lực lượng, phương pháp, tiến trình thực hiện công tác dân vận. Những quan điểm đó đến nay vẫn giữ giá trị đối với công tác dân vận của Đảng. Bài viết cũng chỉ ra ý nghĩa của tư tưởng dân vận của Chủ tịch Hồ Chí Minh đối với công tác dân vận tại thành phố Hồ Chí Minh hiện nay.

**Từ khóa:** Tư tưởng Hồ Chí Minh; Công tác dân vận; Thành phố Hồ Chí Minh.