

# INTERNATIONAL FACTORS AFFECTING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST PARTY AND THE PEOPLE TODAY

Dr. Nguyen Duy Quynh

Vnu University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Hanoi

Article belongs to school level science project, code CS.2021.08, Vnu University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Hanoi

---

**Abstract:** The relationship between the Vietnamese Communist Party (the Party) and the Vietnamese people (the People) is a core content of modern Vietnamese politics. Since its inception, the Party has permanently attached itself to the people, always acted for the people's interests. With its wise leadership in the cause of national independence, national reunification, and the renovation cause, the Party has received the trust and support from the people. However, in the current context of globalization and extensive international integration, due to many subjective and objective reasons, people's confidence in the Party sometimes and somewhere has declined and negatively affected this relationship. Therefore, it needs to find out the cause for the decline of the trust of a part of the people towards the Party. The article analyzes some international factors affecting the relationship between the Party and the people on both positive and negative aspects, thereby contributing to finding solutions to promote further the close relationship between the Party and the people in the coming time.

**Keywords:** International factors, Party, People, People's Party relations.

---

## I. INTRODUCTION

In most countries, whether the country may be a multi-party or a one-party system, the relationship between the people and the ruling Party plays a crucial role. A good relationship will help to stabilize the politics and develop the country. On the contrary, a bad relationship: people do not trust the Party, do not voluntarily implement and support the Party's guideline, even oppose the guidelines and policies that the Party has taken, while the Party doesn't act for the people's benefit will lead to political instability and underdeveloped country. In every country, the people are the abundant human resource for the Party because the Party originates from the people, and the Party extension attaches with the people joining. Currently, the ruling parties are very interested in building close relationships with the people, taking advantage of their support for political goals, thereby maintaining the Party's ruling role.

The Vietnamese Communist Party is a unique ruling Party in Vietnam to lead the country with its legitimacy. In the leading process, the Party has attached itself to the people, striving to sacrifice for the people's benefit. During the war for national liberation and unification, the relationship between the Party and the people becomes intimately linked. With its prestige and the people's trust, the Party has received the support and help of the people. Thereby, the Party persuaded the entire People to actively participate in the resistance war for national liberation and national reunification, creating the Vietnamese revolution's total strength for the complete victory.

## II. CONTENT

### 1. Some basic concepts

#### *Factor and international factor*

The Vietnamese dictionary published by the Social Science Publishing House in 1977 defines: "factor is one of the conditions that combine to create a result: carefully prepared, having the scientific method, trying to overcome difficulties ... those are the success factors"[4, p.571]. Meanwhile, the Vietnamese dictionary of the Hanoi - Da Nang Center for Dictionary, published by the Language Institute in 2000, said: "Factors are necessary elements to cause and create something. The determinant for the victory"[5, p.711]. Based on the two above concepts, it can be affirmed that: Factor is the conditions and necessary elements combined to produce a result or create something.

With the above understanding of the term factor, it can be confirmed that: International factors are economic, political, cultural, and social issues within the scope of outside the country that existed objectively, impacted, and influenced by all ethnic countries. International factors include fundamental factors such as conditions for creating something; it exists objectively; it affects national nations while national nations also affect it.

#### *Leading party*

Leading party is an immense, profound, and significant term invoked by Marxist-Leninist in the late nineteenth century. It organizationally marks fundamental maturity with the emergence of the working-class parties, the vanguard force of the nation to carry out the mission of leading the labor people to stand up in revolt to eliminate the regime of exploitation, building a new progressive society for people without oppression and injustice.

V.I.Lenin emphasized: "it is necessary to have a clearer delineation of the duties of the Party (and of its Central Executive Committee) with the Soviet Government's duties; increased responsibility and initiative for the Soviet cadres and Soviet agencies, while on the party, it reserved the right to lead the work of all state agencies, without too frequent intervention, informal and often trivial, as it is today." [8, p.75]

Ho Chi Minh said: "The leading party means that all cadres, from central to regional, province, district, and commune at any level and branch - must be loyal servants of the people." [10, pp 83-84]

According to Ho Chi Minh, leadership refers to the party's impact and influence on the people. The leading party must be the vanguard force, well-performing the mission of a loyal servant of the People to gain high prestige, persuade the People to support, and follow the party. Leading party is a concept that is not associated with power. It means that not relying on the forced ability to lead the People and the whole society but relying on the vanguard and prestige of the party to perform the task of "educating, convincing, and exemplifying" with the People. Ho Chi Minh pointed out that: "The Party cannot ask the Front to acknowledge its leadership, but must prove to be the most loyal, active and sincere part. Only in daily struggle and work, when the people widely acknowledge the right policies and leading ability of the Party, will the Party gain leadership status" [9, p.168].

Thus, the leading party is the concept indicating the guiding function of a special political organization, the political party, based on the platform, the strategic line demonstrating the goals, ideals, and the path to achieve the purposes. It is the basis of the mobilization, gathering of the masses to realize the party's objectives and ideals initiated and led by the party. It is also a form of the class struggle of the working-class to gain, retain, and exercise state power to build a socialist society and communism, a society in which people are liberated and comprehensive development.

#### *Ruling party*

V.I.Lenin said that the ruling party is the party that holds state power through the party's representatives directly holding positions and performing managerial work in the state apparatus. V.I.Lenin affirmed that: "The officer must remember that he was not only a verbal propagandist, and people helping the most dull-witted classes of people; that is his primary duty, and by not doing so he cannot consider himself a communist. But in addition, he must be the representative of the Soviet Government to hold power currently through a part of the proletariat that controls all of Russia " [7, p.181].

Ho Chi Minh did not clearly state the concept of the ruling party. He only expressed in his testament that: "Our Party is a ruling Party." However, Ho Chi Minh constantly affirmed that the ruling party is a concept associated with power in his articles and talks. The ruling party also holds power, meaning that the party owns the power in reality.

In short, the ruling party is a concept used in political science, showing that one political party represents a class holding and leading the government to manage and develop the society to realize benefits of their class, based on the harmony of interests with other classes in society.

#### *The Vietnamese Communist Party*

Charter of the Communist Party of Vietnam clearly states: "The Communist Party of Vietnam is the vanguard of the working class and at the same time a vanguard of the working people and the Vietnamese nation; faithful deputies for the interests of the working class, the working people and the country." [3, p.4]

The country building platform in the transition to socialism (Supplement and development in 2011) affirmed: "The Communist Party of Vietnam is the ruling party, the leader of the State and the society. The Party led the State by a platform, strategy, and major policy orientations; by propaganda, persuasion, mobilization, organization, inspection, and supervision; by exemplary actions of the party members. The Party uniformly leads cadres' work and manages the cadres, introducing the elite party members with sufficient capacity and quality to work in the leadership organs of the political system. The Party leads through the party organization and the party members working in political system organizations, strengthening the personal responsibility regime, especially the head" [2, p.88].

The 2013 Constitution of Vietnam clearly states: "The Communist Party of Vietnam - the vanguard of the working class, the working people and of the Vietnamese nation, the faithful delegates about interests of the working class, the working people and the whole nation, taking Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thought as the basis of ideology, is the leading force of the State and society. The Communist Party of Vietnam is closely associated with the People, serves the People, is subject to the People's supervision, and is accountable to the People for its decisions. Party organizations and members of the Vietnamese Communist Party operate within the framework of the Constitution and the law" [11, p.10].

#### *People and Vietnamese people*

Vietnamese dictionary defines: "People are a large number of citizens, belong to all classes, living in a certain area." [6, p.913]

Inheriting and developing progressive ideas in national history, absorbing the quintessence of humanity, Ho Chi Minh conceived of the people with extensive, rich connotations. It suits the characteristics, patriotic traditions, community attachment, and the revolutionary spirit of the Vietnamese nation. Ho Chi Minh said that people are the man in a country, a unified territory, a community consisting of many ethnic groups and classes. These social groups have common and private interests, have different roles and attitudes towards the revolution and social development; People are synonymous with nation, mass which are classes, generations, genders, organizations, social unions, patriots, revolution forces.

Thus, the People is a category of politics and has profound political significance. It is a concept that appeared and existed in a society that had class and state, partly reflecting the relationship between classes in society. It is a concept that refers to ordinary workers in society without authority and who have to oppose with rulers in economic sectors, different occupations in the fields of physical production, and spiritual activities in a specific society.

The Vietnamese people is a term used to refer to a large number of Vietnamese citizens of all classes, ethnic groups, and religions living inside and outside the country sharing the same ethnic roots, having the same purpose of building the Vietnamese country in more and more development. In that sense, it is affirmed that the term of People is identical to the concept of citizens, the masses, the nation, the compatriots. It includes all parts of the social structure such as farmers, workers, intellectuals, business people, women, youth union, veterans, elderly, police, army, overseas Vietnamese, civil servants, public employees.

## **2. Some international factors affecting the relationship of the Vietnamese Communist Party and the people today**

#### *Market economy*

The Communist Party of Vietnam first introduced the term market economy at the 8th Congress of the year 1996, which clearly defines the role of the market economy: "The market mechanism has brought into play a great positive effect on social development. It is not only non-opposition but also an essential objective factor of building and developing the country along the socialist path." [1, p.26] Since then, through Congresses, the Party gradually recognized that the market economy is not only of bourgeois but as an inevitable stage in the development of production, as a joint achievement of

humankind. Finally, the Party identified the socialist-oriented market economy as an indispensable economic mechanism during the transition to socialism in Vietnam.

After 30 years of renovation, Vietnam has achieved outstanding historic socio-economic significance, contributing to maintaining political security and firmly defending the Vietnamese socialist fatherland. The achievements with the historical significance of the development of the socialist-oriented market economy have created favorable conditions for the cadres and leaders to train, learn, and step by step to perfect the Party cadres' personality. Since the establishment and ongoing completion of the market economy, the democratization process is progressively enhanced, the people's lives have been continuously improved. People are free to carry out production and business activities by law. Each Congress, the Party, has added new perceptions about the market economy, gradually removing barriers for production and business activities of enterprises and People. These achievements have positively impacted the relationship between the Party and the People, in reality, efficiency, and practicality.

The market economy also arises to many negative effects on the relationship between the Party and the people. It creates negative things that occur every day and every hour, affecting people's lives, minds, and emotions. The most obvious consequence is the rich-poor differentiation, social stratification, changes in class structure, which took place quite quickly, popularly, and profoundly. The gap between rich and poor, equality, and educational attainment have increased between different regions such as rural, urban, delta, and mountainous areas. The social and economic disparities arise a divergence in awareness and ideology, potentially forming social groups linked by local and immediate interests, including social groups that are susceptible to manipulating, taking advantage of, and adversely affecting the relationship between the Party and the People.

In the context of a market economy - a specific form of relations between production and exchange of goods, with the leadership of the Party, corruption, crime, pragmatism, individuals, bribery for government jobs, and all the other negativity are degenerate perils of the ruling party. The market economy creates a mechanism that promotes personal interests, the value of money. They can exchange everything for money. It harms the cultural, educational, and ethical areas of society. The working style of several leaders and managers signifies bureaucracy, arrogance, cultural lack in leadership, management work, and communication with superiors and subordinates, and colleagues. Part of leaders and managers have not tried to improve their qualifications, working capacity, and low working quality. It is a major obstacle to the linkage between the Party and the People.

In summary, the market economy has both positive and negative impacts on the relationship between the Party and the People. Achievements of the market economy are catalysts to help the Party and people become closer. In contrast, the consequences from the market economy will also decline the close relationship between the Party and the People, negatively affecting national construction and development.

#### *Globalization and international integration*

In recent years, the process of globalization in Vietnam has taken place effervescently. Vietnam's integration into international life has been proactive and positive. Vietnam's business environment has been gradually adjusted towards more openness. Vietnam's participation in the global economy has opened up many job opportunities for technical expertise workers. However, it also creates the risk of unemployment for an unskilled workforce. The first cause of unemployment is that the enterprises face intense competition leading to bankruptcy. Most small and medium enterprises have poor competitiveness car outdated technology, low-skilled labor. Therefore, when integrating with the world economy, weak enterprises have a high risk of being overwhelmed or bankrupt, leading to an increase in unemployment.

On the other hand, due to the pressure to apply scientific, technical, and technological advances to enhance their competitiveness with the international market, the enterprises must look for skilled workers with high technical skills. It leads to the unskilled workforce being redundant and unemployed. In addition, Vietnam's human resources are enormous but of low quality. Therefore, employers in Vietnam must recruit foreign workers, causing domestic workers to face fierce competition in position, remuneration. These shortcomings are also the Party's responsibility as a comprehensive leader of the country. Whether the Party has taken the proper guidelines to resolve these shortcomings will directly affect the relationship between the Party and the People.

In the process of globalization, the information explosion or democratization of information is seen as a significant driving force for democratic development. It mainly has a positive impact on the relationship between the Party and the

People. In the context of globalization and international integration, democracy in information and communication activities has continuously improved. People have access to a variety of information. Each person can become a reporter, reflecting practically all aspects of social life through social networks. It is a fundamental feature of the popularity and modernity in communication, helping to improve information democracy. The information democracy process allows people to access multi-dimensional information, from which people can select accurate information for their lives. Besides, people have more tools to control the activities of state agencies. These are practical tools to detect and prevent bureaucratic, corrupt, and wasteful acts of a part of the Party's cadres, contributing to building integrity, tectonic, and for people government.

In globalization and international integration, unsuitable foreign political factors will penetrate Vietnam without strict control. These exotic political factors will make a significant part of leaders and managers degrade in political ideas, morals, and lifestyles. Besides, globalization and extensive international integration make leaders and managers easily "self-evolve" and "self-transform." They are susceptible to psychological agitation, confidence fluctuations, and negative thoughts, emotions, beliefs, and behavior when approaching wrong information. The result is that their speaking, writing, acting contradict the Party's guidelines, and lines, the policies, and the State's laws. These things happen will adversely affect the relationship between the Party and the People.

#### *Global cultural exchange*

In the process of global cultural exchange, promoting the positive values of Vietnamese culture is very important. Patriotism is the most outstanding cultural value of the Vietnamese people. It is also the most crucial spiritual foundation of the nation in general and the relationship between the Party and the people in particular. The history of the Vietnamese revolution has proven that the national liberation flag that the Party raises is national independence associated with socialism, which is the happiness and well-being of the people. It is considered a catalyst for the Communist Party to gather many people, forming a great national unity bloc to cope with two resistance wars against French colonialism and American imperialism. It makes a nation's glorious history and leaves perpetual feelings among the People. The patriotic tradition and the excellent relationship between the Party and the People have been maintained until now. However, unlike wartime, building the relationship between the Party and the People has changed in content and method. In the past, the People implemented the Party's policies directly. However, now the Party's policies must be concretized by law before reaching the People. It puts new requirements on the political culture of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

During the Doi moi period, thanks to international cultural exchange and contact, the Party's cultural viewpoint, reflected mainly in the government's cultural management, made significant progress. Legitimate personal interests, including spiritual interests, are increasingly being given prominence. In the process of international cultural exchange, information technology indeed becomes power. It promotes the massive development of news agencies, television, entertainment, creating opportunities for People to contact more and easily cultures worldwide. Barriers were erased, ideological values, literature, art, civilizations were promoted faster and more robust.

Behaving to culture is dealing with an essential aspect of social life. The relationship between the Party and the People in the cultural field is the one between the Party and the People's spiritual requirement or spiritual life. It is a part of the people with knowledge, including artists and spiritual workers. Therefore, it is necessary to have a systematic strategy, both in a high scientific and human manner, based on meticulous and severe scientific research. Doing this well will significantly contribute to strengthening the relationship between the Party and the People.

#### *The fourth industrial revolution (4.0)*

The fourth industrial revolution, abbreviated as the 4.0 revolution, marked a transition to a new phase, brought about profound changes in production forces and all economic, political, social management processes in general. The achievements and shortcomings of the 4.0 revolution in Vietnam will directly impact the relationship between the Party and the People.

Today's 4.0 revolution has comprehensively exploited and synthesized the latest results of many scientific disciplines. It has created a boom in the production force with high productivity, rich and diversified products. Thanks to scientific and technological achievements, the economic development in depth are increasing. Many new industries appear and develop rapidly. The economic restructuring process is being accelerated in many countries around the world. The proportion of the agricultural sector decreased, while the processing and service industries had an evident growth. The structure of

materials, products, and demand also changed rapidly. In labor relation, direct production decreased while intellectual labor, whose result is the automatic application, takes up a large part in the production process.

The 4.0 revolution is also infiltrating into all fields of social life, not only in terms of material and production but also in other aspects of human life, creating new life, new thinking. The vigorous development of the scientific and technological revolution with the above characteristics has deeply and comprehensively affected and changed the economic, political, social development foundation, especially the current People life. In the 4.0 era, most activities in the real world are strongly supported by activities in the digital space. It helps people to work more efficiently, save more labor power, and increase labor productivity.

The 4.0 revolution also creates opportunities for improving the level of science and technology, productivity, supply, and competitiveness in the global value chain, making changes in the business model towards sustainability, simultaneously provides opportunities for innovative startups. Besides, it also helps Vietnam shorten the industrialization and modernization of the country through "leapfrog," access to modern technologies in the world in the fastest way. However, without good preparation and failing to catch up with the regional and international development level, Vietnam will face the risk of lagging in technology, lack of high-quality human resources, redundancy of unskilled labor, and inequality in society increased. In addition, the interaction in the 4th industrial age leads to soft borders, soft power, cybersecurity, non-traditional security, or high-tech crime that create major challenges for countries. Therefore, the Party needs to have proactive response solutions and control the situation to maintain national sovereignty and ensure security and safety for the people. It also shows the Party's leading ability as well as the people's belief in that leadership.

In the socio-political field, digital-based social media networks and the internet are overwhelming the mass media to dominate many areas of social life. However, just like in the economic field, besides the great benefits of digital platforms, obstacles also arise when corporations holding these digital platforms monopolize to control online information flow and personal data of millions of people. Law violations, data theft, cyber-attacks, frauds, privacy violations, and confusing information show the urgency for a new governance state model to seize opportunities and mitigate challenges in the digital age. It is a strategic issue that requires the Party and State to promulgate appropriate guidelines and policies in the coming time.

Thus, it is possible to affirm the affective responses of the State with the role of the Party's orientation in promoting the positive aspects and limiting the negative factors of the 4.0 revolution, contributing to the practical benefits to the People will be the most effective catalyst to strengthen the relationship between the Party and the People.

### III. CONCLUSION

Strengthening the relationship between the Party and the People in Vietnam in the current period is the main task of the Party, the government, and the entire People. Only by strengthening the excellent relationship between the Party and the People can the Party maintain and promote its leadership role. The People will have a solid foundation to join forces with the Party to build a mighty nation.

Many factors are impacting the relationship between the Party and the People. Besides the impact of domestic factors, international factors play an essential role. Some main international factors affect the relationship between the Party and the People like the market economy, globalization and international integration, global cultural exchange, the fourth industrial revolution 4.0. These factors affect the relationship between the Party and the People on both positive and negative aspects. Therefore, identifying and understanding the impacting factors, thereby proposing solutions to promote positive impacts and minimize adverse effects play an essential role with theoretical and practical significance, contributing to strengthening the excellent relationship between the Party and the People.

### REFERENCES

- [1] Đảng Cộng sản Việt Nam (1996), Văn kiện Đại hội đại biểu toàn quốc lần thứ VIII, NXB Chính trị Quốc gia, Hà Nội 1996.
- [2] Đảng Cộng sản Việt nam (2011), Văn kiện Đại hội đại biểu toàn quốc lần thứ XI, NXB Chính trị Quốc gia, Hà Nội
- [3] Đảng Cộng sản Việt Nam (2016), Điều lệ Đảng Cộng sản Việt Nam, NXB Chính trị Quốc gia, Hà Nội.
- [4] Văn Tân (1977), Từ điển tiếng Việt, Nhà xuất bản Khoa học xã hội, Hà Nội

- [5] Trung tâm từ điển học Hà Nội - Đà Nẵng (2000), Từ điển tiếng Việt, Nhà xuất bản Viện Ngôn ngữ, Hà Nội
- [6] Trung tâm từ điển học Vietlex (2010), Từ điển Tiếng Việt, NXB Đà Nẵng, Hà Nội
- [7] V.I.Lênin (1979), Toàn tập, tập 41, NXB Tiến bộ, Matxcova
- [8] V.I. Lênin (1976), Toàn tập, tập 45, Nxb Tiến bộ, Mátxcova
- [9] Hồ Chí Minh (2011), Toàn tập, tập 3, NXB Chính trị Quốc gia, Hà Nội
- [10] Hồ Chí Minh (2011), Toàn tập, tập 13, NXB Chính trị Quốc gia, Hà Nội
- [11] Quốc hội Việt Nam (2016), Hiến pháp nước Cộng hòa xã hội chủ nghĩa Việt Nam, NXB Chính trị Quốc