



UNITY IN THE PARTY UNDER HO CHI MINH'S THOUGHT AND THE PARTY'S APPLICATION IN THE DOI MOI PERIOD

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Abstract

In Ho Chi Minh's thought, Party building is an issue of particular concern to him. His views on unity within the Party have profound theoretical and practical value in building an increasingly pure and strong Communist Party of Vietnam, worthy of being the only ruling Party. Through the use of historical, logical, analytical, and synthesized research methods, the article focuses on generalizing the basic contents of Ho Chi Minh's thought on unity within the Party and the Party's application in the Doi Moi period from the 6th Congress to the 13th Congress. Research results show that, after more than 35 years of implementing the Doi Moi, our Party has become more and more aware, identifying unity as a principle of organization and operation of the Party, the life of the Party, and a matter of survival for the Party revolution.



ĐOÀN KẾT THỐNG NHẤT TRONG ĐẢNG THEO TƯ TƯỞNG HỒ CHÍ MINH VÀ SỰ VẬN DỤNG CỦA ĐẢNG TRONG THỜI KỲ ĐỔI MỚI

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Từ khóa

Đảng Cộng sản Việt Nam, đoàn kết thống nhất, tư tưởng Hồ Chí Minh, vận dụng, xây dựng đảng

Tóm tắt

Trong tư tưởng Hồ Chí Minh, xây dựng Đảng là vấn đề được Người đặc biệt quan tâm. Những quan điểm của Người về “đoàn kết thống nhất” trong Đảng có giá trị lý luận và thực tiễn sâu sắc để xây dựng Đảng Cộng sản Việt Nam ngày càng trong sạch, vững mạnh, xứng đáng là Đảng duy nhất cầm quyền. Thông qua việc sử dụng các phương pháp nghiên cứu như lịch sử, lôgic, phân tích, tổng hợp, bài viết tập trung khái quát những nội dung cơ bản tư tưởng Hồ Chí Minh về đoàn kết thống nhất trong Đảng và sự vận dụng của Đảng trong thời kỳ đổi mới từ Đại hội VI đến Đại hội XIII. Kết quả nghiên cứu cho thấy, qua hơn 35 năm tiến hành công cuộc đổi mới, Đảng Cộng sản Việt Nam ngày càng nhận thức rõ hơn, xác định đoàn kết thống nhất là một nguyên tắc tổ chức, hoạt động của Đảng, là sinh mệnh của Đảng, là vấn đề sống còn của cách mạng.

1. Introduction

Unity in the Party is one of the most basic principles in Party building. Unity within the Party is the basis for building the great national unity. President Ho Chi Minh has always considered creating and preserving unity the Party's most critical task, the foundation for all successes: “Unity, unity, great unity. Success, success, great success” [11; p.120]. Unity is not only a matter of life and death of each Party organization at all levels but also the life of the whole Party, a vital issue of the Vietnamese revolution. The outstanding achievements over more than 35 years of implementation of comprehensive reform of the country are the result of the unity of the entire Party, the real people, and the whole army. A testament to the maturity and strength

of the Party is the inheritance, correct and creative application of Ho Chi Minh's thought on this issue.

2. Research Methods

The article uses a combination of research methods such as history, logic, analysis, and synthesis of the contents fundamental to Ho Chi Minh's thoughts on the issue of unity within the Party. This clarifies the content and results of implementation that the Communist Party of Vietnam inherited and applies Ho Chi Minh's thoughts on this issue through the Doi Moi period congresses from the 6th to 13th Party Congress.

3. Research results

3.1. Overview of essential contents Ho Chi Minh's Thoughts on unity in the Party

In many places, President Ho Chi Minh has shown concern and reminded the entire Party and people about the issue of building a united bloc. He has hundreds of speeches and articles about unity. Comprehensively and profoundly analyzing the importance of solidarity and unity within the Party, He emphasized: “Unity is an invincible force. The united force helped the August Revolution succeed. The united force helped the resistance win. The united force will mobilize people from North to South to fight for peace, Unity, independence, and democracy throughout the country” [9; p.104]; “Unity is our strength. Closely united, we can overcome all difficulties, develop all advantages and fulfil the tasks entrusted to us by the people” [11; p.376]; “If the entire Party and the entire people work together, any difficulty will be overcome” [11; p.376];... Unity in the Party is not “one-way unity”,... but unity in the Party must be a long-term strategy, based on the foundation of Marxism-Leninism, with reason, with love, with the pure revolutionary sentiment, love for comrades and compatriots.

Unity within the Party is one of the essential and regular tasks of Party building, the nucleus of the great national unity, one of the five principles of organization and operation of the Party, ensuring the unity of will and action of the entire Party, which is the basis for the Party’s great strength. The unity within the Party not only determines the survival of the Party but is also the centre and driving force of the tremendous national unity. He said: “Today, unity in the Party is more important than ever, especially close solidarity among leading cadres” [8; p.368]. In his speech at the 15th Plenum of the 2nd Central Committee, He emphasized: “In our experience, the success of the revolution and the victory of the resistance are due to united forces, first of all, unity within the Party” [10; p.35].

Before leaving, in the Testament went to the entire Party and people, President Ho Chi Minh mentioned “a few things”, first of all “talking about the Party”. When talking about the Party, the first issue that President Ho Chi Minh emphasized was the issue of “unity”. The issue of unity within the Party is mentioned many times in the Testament. In his “last wishes”, President Ho Chi Minh also said the Party’s unity issue. Firstly, “Thanks to our close solidarity and single-mindedness in serving the class, serving the people, and serving the Fatherland, from its founding until now, our Party has united, organized and led the people. Our people are

eager to fight and advance from victory to victory” [7; p.36]. Second, throughout the history of the nation as well as the country under the Party’s leadership, unity has become “an extremely precious tradition of the Party and our people” [7; p.36]. Since it is a precious tradition, it is necessary to preserve and promote it. It is an unparalleled source of energy for the nation and the Party. Therefore, He advised “Comrades from the Central Committee to the Party cells need to preserve the unity and unanimity of the Party like preserving the pupils of their eyes” [7; p.36]. Third, He also reminded that it is necessary to “practice democracy widely, regularly and seriously with self-criticism and criticism”, “there must be comradeship and mutual love” [7; p.36] that is the best way to consolidate and develop the unity of the Party according to Lenin’s principles of building a new type of Party.

3.2. The Communist Party of Vietnam applied Ho Chi Minh’s thought of unity in the Party through the Doi Moi period Congresses

Unity in the Party is the condition and core nucleus of the great national unity and the survival of the Vietnamese revolution. Ho Chi Minh’s thoughts on unity in the Party are truly theoretical guidelines of utmost importance for building and rectifying the Party present. Through Party Congresses, the issue of unity has been thoughtfully and deeply considered and evaluated. Thanks to that, the Party has continuously strengthened, organized and led our people to win one victory after another, especially in the process of the Party conducting the current national renovation process.

The 6th National Congress (1986) - The Congress initiated the comprehensive renovation process, taking place in a context where the world and the country had many great difficulties and challenges. Renovation to survive and develop has become a vital requirement that reality places on the Party. Congress Drew four valuable lessons, including the lesson: “In the Party, unity, unity of will and action must be strengthened” [1; p.24]. When analyzing the current situation and causes of limitations in party-building work, Congress pointed out that the manifestations of individualism, bureaucracy, patriarchy, and localism,... have caused adverse consequences for implementing political tasks and unity within the Party. To overcome and correct those mistakes and shortcomings, the Congress also

raised important arguments and determined to properly execute the instructions of President Ho Chi Minh in his Testament: Firstly, unity and unanimity is “the essence of the Party”; Second, the Party has a good tradition of unity and consensus, thanks to which it has united a large number of people, bringing the revolutionary cause to glorious victories; Third, strengthening solidarity and consensus in politics, ideology and organization based on Marxism-Leninism, the Party’s guidelines, viewpoints and organizational principles are always a vital issue of the revolution; Fourth, unity within the Party built based on fighting to protect the Party’s guidelines and viewpoints; Fifth, we must take care to preserve unity in the Party’s leading bodies, and on that basis, strengthen unity throughout the Party [1; p.112-113].

The 7th National Congress (1991) took place in the context of the domestic socio-economic situation, initially showing positive changes; the renovation policy had begun to take effect. However, the international situation has many new challenges; the socialist system in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe is in crisis, leading to collapse, and hostile forces have increased sabotage and pushback activities. Implementing the “peaceful evolution” plot, raising the issue of protecting unity within the Party and among the people, is necessary. The 7th Congress determined the strategic guiding motto to be “Maintaining unity within the Party, tightening the close relationship between the Party and the people” [1; p.196]. Regarding specific tasks in building and rectifying the Party, improving the Party’s leadership capacity and fighting power, the Congress determined: Firstly, to maintain and adequately implement the principle of democratic centralism in daily life party with specific mechanisms and regulations. Fight against deviant views, manifestations of violations of democracy, lax discipline, and disunity in many party organizations. Second, build unity within the Party based on the Party’s guidelines and policies, uphold the principles of organizing party activities, foster comradeship, and firmly oppose individualism and opportunism, sectarian ideology, and localism [1; p.220-222].

The 8th National Congress (1996) pointed out the current situation in the work of building the Party, “There are many places where there is serious internal disunity” [1; p.377], and consider this to be one of the significant issues being raised. Regarding solutions, Congress

stated several viewpoints such as: First, upholding the principle of democratic centralism, implementing collective leadership, individual responsibility, regular self-criticism and criticism, preserving solidarity and unity within the Party. Second, unity within the Party, first of all in the leadership, is decisive for the success of the revolution. Cadres and party members maintain harmony within the Party based on political guidelines, organizational principles and love for comrades. Third, detect the phenomenon of disunity early, focus on solving it and handle it completely. Fourth, the fact that there are different opinions within the Party when discussing and debating within the organization is inconsistent with disunity. Before the development of the revolution, many theoretical and practical issues were very complicated and unclear and, within the Party, needed discussion and debate. All officials and party members must know how to listen and respect each other’s opinions, indeed for the sake of truth and reason. Fifth, where internal disunity and key officials show many negative signs, superiors must direct and help directly [1; p.380-381].

The 9th National Congress (2001) highlights views directly related to the issue of strengthening unity within the Party, such as: First, supporting the organization and cadres in agencies and units to prevent manifestations of non-compliance with Party resolutions and the State’s laws, stagnation, authoritarianism, despotism, factionalism, and internal disunity. Second, higher-level Party Committees focus on directing and strengthening weak Party Committees and Party Cells, promptly strengthening Party Committees and strengthening cadres in places with many difficulties and internal disunity. Third, each party committee maintains solidarity and unity within the leadership team. For those party committees and organizations that violate the principle of democratic centralism, lead cadres who are arbitrary and autocratic, pull factions or factions, and cause internal disunity, superior party committees must direct a review, clarify right and wrong, strictly handle those with shortcomings, and strengthen the organization of officials. Where there is no ability to overcome weaknesses, the organization will be disbanded and a new organization established according to the provisions of the Party Charter [1; p.496-498].

The 10th National Congress (2006), when mentioning the issue of unity in the Party, raised two very new viewpoints: First, firmly, promptly

and publicly handle those who corrupt, regardless of position, current or retired, confiscation, confiscation of assets originating from corruption; those who cover up corruption, deliberately prevent anti-corruption efforts or take advantage of denunciations of corruption to slander, harm others, and cause internal disunity. There is a mechanism to encourage and protect those who actively fight against corruption and negativity-praising and replicating examples of thrift, integrity, public-mindedness and impartiality [1; p.732]. Second, the Party unified leadership of cadre work and management of cadres in the political system, implemented cadre rotation and overcame cadres closed and localized situation. Strengthen the responsibilities of officials and party members who are heads of state agencies. Any agency that violates policies or laws allowing negative situations or internal disunity to occur must be held responsible by the head [1; p.666]. That shows the Party's very high determination to preserve, consolidate and strengthen unity in the Party.

The 11th National Congress (2011), in Evaluation of the results of 5 years of implementing the Resolution of the 10th Congress, clearly pointed out: "The solidarity and consensus at many party committees is not good" [2; p.175]. In the presentation of goals, directions, and work tasks in the new term, the Political Report raised several important arguments about unity within the Party precisely: First, unity within the Party is the nucleus and is a solid basis for building the grand national unity bloc. Second, ideological work must preserve solidarity and unity within the Party and social consensus. Third, focus on directing and strengthening weak party organizations; promptly consolidate party committees and strengthen cadres in areas with many difficulties and internal disunity. Fourth, focus on inspecting and supervising the observance of the Party's Charter, resolutions, directives, regulations, laws and policies of the State; observance of the principle of democratic centralism, working regulations, work regime, implementation of democracy within the Party, preserving internal unity;...

The 12th National Congress (2016) also continued to affirm the view that "unity in the Party is the nucleus, a solid basis for building the great national unity" [3; p.160]. In party-building work, "ideological work is respected and strengthened, creating unity within the Party and consensus in society" [3; p.186]. However, there is still "a situation of formal democracy, one-

sided unity, lack of debate, thorough discussion or incorrect understanding of this principle, leading to internal disunity in some places" [3; p.335]. The causes of limitations have been pointed out very specifically from the thinking about the slow innovation of Party building work; The organization of implementation of resolutions and policies on Party building is not strict; Many party committees and leaders do not pay enough attention to Party building work,... the cause of limitations in implementing solidarity is insufficient and profound awareness, unclear presence, no consensus on several important issues in terms of viewpoints and policies. To build unity within the Party, party committees and members must uphold exemplary spirit and responsibility in work and lifestyle in the spirit of comradeship and mutual love. Building correct guidelines, policies, and policies, and creating political and ideological unity, because this is the essential basis for making unity within the Party; Seriously implement the Party's organizational and operational principles, especially the principles of democratic centralism, self-criticism and criticism; Strengthen revolutionary moral education, take care to consolidate comradeship within the Party, and fight individualism; Select and arrange leaders with sufficient qualities and abilities, and have a pioneering and exemplary role; The heads of party committees and authorities must be genuinely fair and conscientious in handling work, and must indeed be the gathering and uniting centre of the party organization, of the collective agencies and units. Detect early and focus on thoroughly handling disunity when these symptoms first appear;...

The 13th National Congress (2021), through general comments and assessments five years of implementing the Resolution of the 12th Congress, has affirmed that "the entire Party, the entire people, and the entire army have strived to overcome many difficulties and challenges, successfully implementing the goals and key tasks, achieving achieved many significant and comprehensive achievements, creating many outstanding marks" [4; p.77]. The most essential reason concluded by the Party is "the solidarity, unity, correct, effective and timely leadership and direction of the Central Executive Committee, Politburo, Secretariat and all levels Party Committee in implementing the Resolution of the 12th Congress" [4; p.79]. In the report summarizing the work of building the Party and implementing the Party Charter, five lessons

are drawn, including the lesson of “We must pay special attention to solidarity, unity of will and action within the Party, first of all in the Central Executive Committee, Politburo, Secretariat, key leaders and party committees at all levels. Leaders at all levels must be exemplary, match their words with actions, uphold a sense of responsibility, and put the nation’s and people’s interests first and foremost. Regularly strengthen the close relationship between the Party and the people, promote the role of the people and truly rely on the people to build the Party” [5; p.226].

Regarding forecasting the situation in the coming years, the 13th Congress pointed out: “The world and domestic situations have both advantages and opportunities, as well as difficulties and challenges mixed; raises many new problems, new heavy and more complicated requirements for the cause of building and protecting the Fatherland; requires the entire Party, the entire people, and the entire army to continue to innovate thinking strongly, have high political determination, accurately and promptly forecast the evolution of the situation, and proactively respond promptly to all situations. Situations, make further efforts to continue to comprehensively and synchronously promote the renovation process...” [4; p.109]. In the direction of Party building work for the new term, emphasize “Continuing to innovate the Party’s leadership methods strongly. Promoting solidarity and unity within the Party, first of all, the Central Executive Committee, the Politburo, and the Secretariat” [5; p.229] and “Improve the effectiveness of ideological work, create unity in the Party, and consensus in society; attach more importance to the work of fighting to protect the Party’s ideological foundation, refuting the hostile and wrong views” [5; p.229].

Through the terms of the Party Congresses during the Doi Moi period, starting from the 6th Congress until now, we have seen the thorough grasp of Ho Chi Minh’s thought; the issue of unity in the Party has always been of concern, especially at periods of vital significance to the existence and development of the Party and the nation’s revolutionary cause, when faced with opportunities as well as great difficulties and challenges.

Through over 35 years of renovation, the Party has always valued, preserved and promoted solidarity and unity. Thanks to that, the Party has gathered and

advanced the strength of the entire people, creating synergy to complete the task of leading the country that the People entrust. Seriously and practically implement the principles of party organization and operation, especially the principle of democratic centralism, considering this the essential basis for expanding and promoting democracy and consolidating unity in the Party politically, ideologically and organizationally. Tighten discipline, prevent and overcome authoritarianism and internal division. The example set by leaders in practising democracy and consolidating unity in each party organization and the entire Party in agencies and organizations assigned to be in charge is increasingly strengthened. Democracy within the Party is increasingly promoted and expanded; major decisions, guidelines and policies of the Party, from the draft Platform to draft Congress documents, are all held for widespread democratic discussion, soliciting opinions from party organizations and party members from the grassroots up, and soliciting comments from socio-political organizations and people from all walks of life. Activities of party committees and organizations at all levels are conducted democratically, openly, and boldly present your own opinions. Strengthen meetings, conferences, discussions, and direct contact between key officials, party members, and the people. Questioning and answering questions is extended to party committee conferences and standing committees. It applies to all party members, committee members, party committees, standing committees of party committees at all levels,...

However, besides the results achieved by the Party, there are still many different opinions on several issues related to the guidelines and policies of the Party and the State, affecting ideological unity and the Party’s actions. Notably, the phenomenon of downstream solidarity Party activities also takes place in some places: lack of sympathy and mutual understanding in daily life and working relationships among a group of officials; individualism, localism, taking care of the rights of self, family, and clan; the struggle for self-criticism and criticism also expressed in many different angles; corruption, waste, and negativity are still complicated and severe. Many officials and party members, including the leader, have not shown pioneering and exemplary character. There are also manifestations of bureaucracy and authority, not close to reality, the basis, and inconsistency between saying and doing. The political

and ideological awareness of some officials and party members has not kept up with the development of the situation and tasks; Some grassroots party organizations have not expanded democracy in daily life; The principle of democratic centralism has not been fully realized and implemented. Hostile, reactionary, and destructive forces still find every way to cause disunity and division within the Party,...

In the coming time, the country has been standing before many opportunities and advantages, but it also has to face many intertwined difficulties and challenges. The Party needs to value and strengthen the preservation of unity within the Party and the unity of the entire nation and be steadfast in the Party's organizational and operational principles. Firstly, we must strengthen political and ideological education, focusing on political theory education, education on Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thought, making each cadre and party member imbued with deeply Ho Chi Minh's idea and the importance of preserving solidarity and unity in the Party. Secondly, expanding democracy within the Party goes hand in hand with mastering the principle of solidarity and harmony based on Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's thought, political platform, and Party Charter and based on love and pure revolutionary feeling. Thirdly, build and train a team of capable and qualified officials worthy of being leaders and loyal servants of the people, especially heads of party organizations and government agencies. Fourthly, it is necessary to strengthen the Party's inspection and supervision to quickly detect and resolve all seeds of disunity within the Party right from the beginning.

4. Conclusions

As a genuine revolutionary party, putting the interests of the Fatherland and the people first, the Communist Party of Vietnam inherits the precious tradition of solidarity of the nation; constantly attaching importance to preserving unity in the Party is like "keeping the pupils of our eyes" - by President Ho Chi Minh's teachings in His Testament. Through over 35 years of renovation, from the 6th to 13th Party Congress, the lesson of unity in the Party continues to be affirmed on the path of innovation and increasingly deep international integration. Many party committees at all levels, especially central leadership agencies, have always correctly identified the importance of unity unified, regularly maintained, nurtured, and developed

in difficult conditions and new challenges, and from within the Party, it has spread to the entire society. To bring the cause of national innovation to success, Ho Chi Minh's thought of unity within the Party remains intact, being the root and foundation of all victories.

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