

# Ho Chi Minh's Ideology On The Relationship Between Economic Development And Cultural Construction

Ngo Thi Huyen <sup>1</sup>, Le Nho Minh <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Lac Hong University, Vietnam

<sup>2</sup> People's Security University, Vietnam

# **Abstract**

In the current international integration process, the sustainable development of the country depends on the harmonious and rational settlement of the relationship between economic development and cultural construction. Therefore, most countries in the world, including Vietnam, consider investment in economic development with cultural construction as the goal of the development strategy. Ho Chi Minh has left our Party and our nation with an invaluable theoretical legacy on particularly important issues of the Vietnamese revolution, including deep philosophical thoughts on the relationship between economic development and cultural construction. The comprehensive and deep awareness of this relationship in the construction and development of the country today is a matter of both theoretical significance and practical significance.

**Keywords:** Ho Chi Minh's ideology, economic development, cultural construction, Vietnam.

# Introduction

Economic development is the material premise for cultural and human development, enabling people to participate in the process of creating, producing, spreading and enjoying cultural values more and more. On the other hand, cultural construction will contribute to building and improving the quality of human resources, creating a healthy spiritual and cultural environment, raising the level of people's intelligence, science and technology levels, improving discipline, discipline and professional ethics, contributing to the motivation for socio-economic development. The ultimate goal of economic and cultural development is to improve the quality of life, bringing real happiness to people. This is the similarity, where the direction of economic and cultural development converges.

The difference between economic development and cultural construction here is the difference in the role and social function in participating in the process of human development to create the overall development of both material and spiritual life of people (including individuals and communities, people and humanity, different classes and social classes).

One of the issues of great significance in Ho Chi Minh's ideological heritage is the relationship between economic development and cultural construction. Ho Chi Minh's thought on the relationship between economic development and cultural construction is expressed with a very rich, vivid, and profound content. It is both crystallization of national culture and the quintessence of human culture, as well as a vivid expression of the Vietnamese revolutionary practice as well as the characteristics of the times. Ho Chi Minh's thought on the relationship between economic development and cultural construction has deep theoretical and practical significance for the revolutionary cause of Vietnam today. Ho Chi Minh's thought on the relationship between economic development and cultural construction is not only the theoretical basis and guideline for the development of socio-economic development philosophy and objectives but also the methodological basis for content building, mottos, and methods of building new people in Vietnam today. The article contributes to clarifying Ho Chi Minh's thought on the relationship between economic development and cultural construction and its implications for the development of new people in Vietnam today.

# **Research Methods**

# **Method and Data**

The paper's approach is based on the worldview and the methodology of Marxist philosophy, Ho Chi Minh's ideology; and the views of the Communist Party, and the policy of the Vietnamese government on the relationship between economic development and cultural construction. Research methods such as analysis and synthesis, logic and history, inductive and interpretation, abstraction, generalization, comparison, comparison, and literary methods for research and presentation.

# **Research results**

The content of Ho Chi Minh's Ideology on the relationship between economic development and cultural construction

When the North was liberated, President Ho Chi Minh said that our country is a semi-feudal colony, a very backward economy consisting of many complex components, undeveloped production capacity,

material and cultural life of the people is low. Thereforetoto develop the economy, he asked: "... Our most important task is to build a material and technical foundation... gradually moving towards socialism, having modern industry and agriculture, having advanced culture and science. In the course of the socialist revolution, we must renovate the old economy and build a new one, which is the key and long-term task" (Minh, 2011, vol. 12, p. 412). It is clear to you that the socialist economy has two legs, industry and agriculture, two legs two uneven legsgrow. President Ho Chi Minh also emphasized the role of industrialization in the process of building socialism. In the article The Road Ahead (January 20, 1960), he wrote: "Our country is inherently an outdated agricultural country... Industry accounts for less than two parts, while agriculture and crafts account for eight parts of the world. How can people's lives be so rich?" (Minh, 2011, vol. 12, p. 444). And he replied, "People's lives can only be abundant when we use machines to produce widely: in industry and agriculture. The machine will put more hands-on people, increase human strength a hundred, thousand times and help people do extraordinary things. To have more machines, we have to expand the industries of making machines, cast iron, steel, coal, oil... That's our path: "The path of industrialization of our country" (Minh, 2011, vol. 12, p. 445).

Not only interested in economic development, but Ho Chi Minh is also very interested in building culture. Since 1943, he has defined culture: "For the sake of survival as well as the purpose of life, humanity has created and invented language, writing, ethics, law, science, religion, literature, art, tools for daily wear, food, accommodation and methods of use. All these creations and inventions are culture. Culture is the synthesis of all modes of life along with its manifestations that humanity has produced to adapt the needs of life and the demands of survival" (Minh, 2011, vol. 3, p. 458). As such, he sees culture as a synthesis of the material and spiritual values that humanity has created. This definition is still valid and topical when culture has become a great power in political, economic, and social development. He added: "Five major points build a national culture. Psychological construction: self-reliant independence. Moral construction: know how to sacrifice yourself, benefit the masses. Building society: all causes related to the welfare of the people in society. Political construction: civil rights. 5-Economic construction" (Minh, 2011, vol. 3, p. 458). This view demonstrates President Ho Chi Minh's strategic vision of genius in identifying the basic criteria to guide Vietnamese culture in the future. Culture is the human activity, marking the rise of man towards the natural state. In this sense, all human activities are cultural activities, including economic and political activities. That requires us to fully recognize the nature of culture, seeing culture as a kind of activity through the creation of the soul that affects the entire human world.

In the dialectical relationship between economy and culture, President Ho Chi Minh emphasized that economics is the determinant of the nature and appearance of culture and economic development will create material conditions and life sources for cultural development. He pointed out: "Culture is a superstructure; the infrastructure of society is already built, culture is eligible for development" (Minh, 1997, p. 320). Economics plays a decisive role, so culture is never separate from economics, always dominated by economic factors. From a dialectical view of the economy and culture, he affirmed, "in the construction of the country, there are four issues to pay attention to; the same must be equally important: political, economic, cultural, social" (Minh, 1991, p.34). Therefore, culture cannot be outside, "but in economics and politics", and on the contrary, economics, and politics are also "in culture". Economic growth must go hand in hand with cultural development and solving social problems; if economic growth is considered as the only goal, not only is the socio-cultural environment destroyed but the economic goals are not achieved. However, the economy is the basis and conditions for the formation and development of culture, he said: "To move forward socialism, it is up to economic and cultural development...? There is a saying: There is a real religion; therefore, the economy must go first. But what is development for? Economic and cultural development to enhance the material and cultural life of our people" (Minh, 2011, vol. 12, p. 470).

According to Ho Chi Minh, the culture belongs to the superstructure, organic attachment to infrastructure; therefore, from the nature and compliance with the general law, culture in economics and politics, culture cannot stand outside but has the task of contributing to promoting economic construction and development, serving the revolutionary cause of the people, becoming a great motivating force. Actively impacting the economy and politics again. "Culture, art, like all other activities, cannot be external but must be in economics and politics" (Minh, 2011, vol. 7, p. 246). The return of culture to economic development is manifested in two respects. A backward culture will stifle economic and social development. Therefore, from the very beginning of the country, he published the work "New Life" to specifically guide the eating, staying, good work, meaning, fasting, marriage, garment according to the new way of life, reforming the customs in society; Emphasize the task of implementing the political line according to the characteristics of each field, affecting economic life, for the benefit of the people: national liberation, social liberation, human liberation. The work "New Life" once again clarifies the view that "culture must penetrate deeply into the national psyche", culture must go deep into the people's psychology, sticking to the realities of people's lives. At the same time, he also affirmed many times about the meaning and role of culture as the driving force of economic development, social development, "culture to enlighten the nation".

Ho Chi Minh was well aware that strengthening cultural construction is to fulfill the basic task of economic development. The construction of the country's development economy looks greatly to the construction of culture to create a strong spiritual motivation. With the notion that socialism in Vietnam must be a highly cultural society, he emphasized: "To build socialism, first of all, socialist people" (Minh, 2011, vol. 13, p. 66). This is the motto of cultivating people stemming from the human nature of culture. A sense of advanced thought, personality, and lifestyle is an important content of cultural relations, the driving force for economic development. President Ho Chi Minh wrote: "The enhanced cultural level of the people will help us accelerate the economic recovery, democratic development... It is also a necessary thing to build our country into a peaceful, unified, independent, democratic and prosperous country" (Minh, 2011, vol. 10, p. 458-459).

In President Ho Chi Minh's view, on the one hand, economic development is the foundation for building culture; but on the other hand, the culture has its relative independence. Culture does not depend mechanically on material living conditions, on living conditions, but sometimes the ideological-cultural revolution must be one step ahead to clear the way for the industrial revolution, in the spirit of "culture that illuminates the way for the nation to go, the culture of national leadership to implement independence, self-reliance, self-control". In response to a question from a reporter from L'Humanité about what would turn backward Vietnam into an advanced country, President Ho Chi Minh said: "It may be necessary to be at the forefront of our efforts to develop our culture. Colonialism held our people in a foolish circle so that they would be easily oppressed. The current culture of proliferation is a condition for our people to progress... Therefore, we have quickly trained officials for all branches of operation; ... to industrialize the country" (Minh, 2011, vol. 13, p. 190-191).

Thus, in Ho Chi Minh's thought, economic development must be in harmony with cultural construction, must link economic development with contributing to improving the cultural level for the people. On the other hand, everything must be done to maximize the power of culture, make culture penetrate deeply into the national psyche, turn culture into the most important endogenous resource of economic development.

# The application of the Communist Party on the relationship between economic development and cultural construction in the integration process

After more than 35 years of national renewal, the Party's awareness of the relationship between economic development and cultural construction has developed markedly. The platform of building the country during the transition to socialism (1991) has specified the advanced culture, rich in national

identity is one of the characteristics of socialism that our country built. The platform also emphasizes: "...carrying out the socialist revolution in the field of thought and culture makes the Marxist-Leninist world view and Ho Chi Minh's thought and ethics hold a leading position in the social spiritual life. Inheriting and promoting the good cultural traditions of all ethnic groups in the country, absorbing the essence of human culture, building a democratic and civilized society for the sake of genuine and human dignity, with increasing levels of knowledge, ethics, fitness and aesthetics" (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2006, vol.51, p.135).

The 8th National Congress of the Party (1996) also identified culture as the spiritual foundation of society, both a goal and a driving force for socio-economic development. The Congress expressed the view of industrialization and modernization: "Taking the promotion of human resources as a fundamental factor for rapid and sustainable development. Encourage the whole people to save the country's construction, constantly accumulate for development investment. Economic growth is associated with improving people's lives, cultural development, education, progress implementation, social justice, environmental protection" (Communist Party of Vietnam, 1996, p.85). The 5th Plenum of the 8th Plenum established a policy system for cultural development and development, notably the "economic in culture" policy to link culture with economic activities, exploiting financial potential to support cultural development and "culture in economy" policies to ensure the culture of expression. "Culture is the foundation of the social spirit, both the driving force and the goal of promoting socioeconomic development" (Communist Party of Vietnam, 1988, p.55). At the 10th Central Conference of the 9th Party Session, our Party affirmed that the main goal of the cause of industrialization and modernization is to "ensure the cohesion between the task of economic development as the center, building and correcting the Party is key with constantly improving the culture - spiritual foundation of society; Creating the synchronous development of all three areas is the decisive condition to ensure the sustainable comprehensive development of the country" (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2001, p.88). At the 10th Congress, the Party stated: "Implementing social progress and justice in every step and every development policy; economic growth goes hand in hand with cultural development, health, education..., well solved with social problems for human development. Implementing the distribution regime mainly according to labor results, economic efficiency, at the same time according to the level of capital contribution and other resources and through social welfare" (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2006, p.133).

At the 12th National Congress of the Party (2016) defined the goal: "By 2020, strive to synchronously improve the system of socialist-oriented market economy institutions according to the common

standards of the modern market economy and international integration; ensuring the synchronicity between economic institutions and political institutions, between the State and the market; ensuring the harmony between economic growth and cultural development, human development, implementation of progress, social justice, ensuring social security, environmental protection, sustainable social development" (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2016, p.104). One of the Party's new perceptions of the relationship between economy and culture is to pay attention to the economic function of culture, attach importance to economic policy in culture and cultural policy in the economy; At the same time, identifying an important task in the process of building and developing Vietnamese culture and people to meet the requirements of sustainable development of the country is to build a culture in the economy, in which it is necessary to regularly pay attention to building culture in the economy. People are truly central to the process of socio-economic development.

In the orientation of national development in the period of 2021-2030, the Resolution of the 13th Party Congress determined: "Comprehensive human development and building an advanced Vietnamese culture, rich in national identity so that culture truly becomes an endogenous power, the driving force for national development and the defense of the Fatherland. Increase investment in cultural career development. Building, developing, creating the most favorable environment and social conditions to rekindle patriotic traditions, national pride, belie, fs and aspirations for the development of a prosperous and happy country; The talents, wisdom, and qualities of Vietnamese people are the most important center, goal and driving force for development" (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2021, p.72).

Thus, it can be seen that the Party's views on the relationship between economic development and cultural development are formed and constantly supplemented and developed from the Document of the 6th Congress (1986) to the Document of the 13th Congress (2021, while demonstrating the consistency in the Party's political line.

In the process of national renewal, the practice of resolving the relationship between the economy and building culture achieved many important successes, the economy grew continuously and relatively stable, the economic structure shifted in a positive direction, the material and spiritual life of the people improved. From 2007 onwards, Vietnam was a low-income country with a per capita income of less than \$1,000 per person per year. By 2008, Vietnam had become a low-middle-income country, with a per capita income of \$1,154 per person per year and rising to \$2,779 per person per year by 2020; The proportion of mmulti dieway poor households in the country decreased from 9.88% (in 2015) to less than 3% (in 2020) (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2021, p.43). The world highly appreciates the achievements of economic growth with cultural construction and the solving of social problems in

Vietnam. In 2007, the United Nations recognized Vietnam as the completion of the Millennium Development Goal on poverty alleviation and poverty reduction, nearly 10 years ahead of the time set. On September 21, 2015, during the announcement ceremony of "Results of 15 years of implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in Vietnam", the United Nations recognized that Vietnam has fulfilled millennium development goals, such as poverty alleviation and poverty reduction; achieving universal primary education; promote gender equality and make progress in health indicators; achieving the goal of controlling malaria and tuberculosis as well as reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS...

However, in addition to the achievements, the practice of resolving the relationship between the economy and cultural construction still exists many limitations such as unsustainable economic development, quality of growth, productivity, efficiency, the competitiveness of the economy is low, not commensurate with the potential; economic restructuring towards industrialization and modernization is still slow; The internal structure of the industry is not reasonable. Growth is based on factors by width, slowly moving to development in depth. The quality of human resources and infrastructure are still "bottlenecks" hindering development. The foundation for Vietnam to become an industrial country in the modern direction has not been fully formed, potentially many destabilizing factors, the major risks that the Party indicates for development still exist. The implementation of the view of linking economic growth with cultural development is still not synchronous and thorough. The perception of some leaders and managers in some sectors and localities is inconsistent; not fully aware of the role of culture as the goal and motivation of socio-economic development. Due to the pressure of economic growth, many sectors and many localities pay little attention to cultural development and environmental protection. In the process of planning and developing socio-economic development programs and projects, many places have focused only on economic benefits, not paying enough attention to cultural, educational, health, and environmental development for workers. The construction of cultural lifestyle has not changed positively, especially in festival activities, community communication, building traffic culture, and workplace. The deterioration of ideology, morals, and lifestyles has not been effectively prevented. With the rise in social evils, crime, especially among young people, school violence is a worrying issue. Weaknesses in state management of culture have not been overcome. The struggle to prevent harmful culture, especially on the internet, is still has many inadequacies.

Based on the study of Ho Chi Minh Point on the relationship between economic development and cultural construction and from the above situation, to contribute to more effectively resolving the relationship between economic growth and building cultural development in the coming time, the following directions and solutions should be implemented:

First, raising awareness for cadres, party members, and people, first of all for leadership, management, socio-economic policy-making agencies, enterprises about the need to link economic growth with building cultural development in each step, each development policy; Resolutely fight against the trend of profiting at all costs, separating economic goals from cultural and social goals.

Secondly, economic growth must be harmoniously combined with building cultural development, constantly improving life in all aspects, both materially and spiritually for the people. Promote the development of key economic regions, while supporting areas with many difficulties. Forming a reasonable urban system distributed in regions; harmonious development between urban and rural. Encouraging legal enrichment goes hand in hand with eliminating hunger, reducing poverty.

Thirdly, promoting the role of culture, education, science, and technology for economic growth and national development in general, focusing on building an advanced Vietnamese culture, rich in national identity, inheriting and promoting the good cultural traditions of the Vietnamese ethnic community, having just absorbed the cultural essence of humanity so that culture becomes the spiritual foundation of society. Develop and improve human resources, especially high-quality human resources. Strong development of science and technology as a driving force to improve productivity, quality, efficiency, rapid development, sustainable economy.

Fourth, continue to renew the Party's leadership and state management, promote the role of mastery and supervision of the people in the process of implementing economic growth with cultural development. All levels and sectors regularly check, monitor, and draw experiences to promptly handle the problems posed by practice in dealing with the relationship between economy and culture.

# Conclusion

In the process of international integration, our economy has developed at a rapid pace, the life of all people has improved fundamentally. However, compared to developed countries, the standard of living of people is still low and uneven. Therefore, to further improve the capacity of the economy in the context of international economic integration, Vietnam needs to improve step by step and perfect it reasonably. Moreover, the cause of industrialization and modernization of the country in the era of knowledge economy requires a strong spiritual motivation. That motivation must first be found in culture. Today, we see more and more the important role of culture in the country's economic development.

Therefore, in the new revolutionary period, the creative application of Ho Chi Minh's thought on the dialectical relationship between economic development and cultural construction, it is necessary to

thoroughly grasp and better implement the orientation of harmoniously combining economic development and cultural development, building people, implementing progress and social justice in each step and each development policy; each economic policy must be geared towards cultural and human development, the implementation of social progress and justice; every cultural policy, building people, every implementation of progress and social justice must contribute to promoting economic development. Any errors or deviations on the economic or cultural side, people, progress, and social justice in the planning and implementation of policies of the Party and State will negatively affect the implementation of the socio-economic development plan in general Just like for each specific area.

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