

THEORETICAL VALUE IN HO CHI MINH'S TESTAMENT

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ABSTRACT

President Ho Chi Minh - a hero of national liberation, a prominent cultural figure of the Vietnamese nation, devoted his life to the Vietnamese revolution. Although more than fifty years have passed, Uncle Ho's thoughts have still been the torch illuminating the revolutionary cause of the Vietnamese nation. In Ho Chi Minh's ideology, his moral thought holds a particularly important position in the revolutionary cause of our nation. In this paper, the author focuses on analyzing some theoretical values in Ho Chi Minh's testament.

Key Words: Theoretical value, Ho Chi Minh, Ho Chi Minh's testament.

1. INTRODUCTION

President Ho Chi Minh, the genius leader of the Vietnamese nation, devoted his whole life to the revolutionary cause of national liberation. Before his death, he left behind a sacred testament containing a great love for the Vietnamese people. President Ho Chi Minh's testament is an invaluable spiritual legacy of our nation and humanity. The testament not only reflects the heroic mettle of the nation throughout the history of thousands of years of national construction and defense, shows his humane thoughts, deep beliefs and noble feelings for the Party and nation and for humankind's progress, but also is a long-term and sustainable development strategy of Vietnam in the cause of national construction and defense. The testament is a historical document containing profound theoretical values on building and rectifying the Party; On the nature, the goal and method are to build socialism in our country.

2. CONTENTS

2.1 Theory on building and rectifying the Party

In the Testament of President Ho Chi Minh, one of the contents he is particularly interested in is the work of building the Party. Therefore, the first thing he mentioned in his Testament was: "The Party, first" (Ho, volume 12, 2011). His content "Discussion on the Party" was only encapsulated in four paragraphs, but contained full theoretical value for the Party building process in a profound way.

Uncle wrote: "Thanks to the close solidarity, the wholeheartedly serving the class, the people, and the Fatherland, since its founding, our Party has united, organized and led our people to enthusiastically fight forward from one victory to another" (Ho, volume 12, 2011). His message is the affirmation of the Party's position and leadership role for the revolution and the nation. According to Ho Chi Minh, the victories we have won in the wars of resistance against the French and against the United State are due to the Party's ability to maintain and promote its leadership role. The Party's leadership role is reflected in the Party's political credo and line. Faced with

difficulties and turning points of the revolution, the Party always wisely promotes intellectual capacity, political bravery, makes the right decisions, and at the same time, the Party is a tight, united organization, which is determined to strive for the people and for the country.

Revolutionary practice shows that only by building a strong Party on polity, ideology and organization, can the Party maintain and promote its leadership role. Therefore, in his Testament, he advised many issues, in which he focused on three basic issues: Building unity and solidarity within the Party; self-criticism and criticism; building and training a contingent of cadres and Party members.

Emphasizing the need to build unity within the Party, President Ho Chi Minh advised: “Unity is an extremely precious tradition of the Party and our people. Comrades from the Central Committee to the party cells need to preserve the unity and consensus of the Party like preserving the pupils of their eyes”(Ho, volume 12, 2011). According to President Ho Chi Minh, unity is the unity on the basis of unifying the will and actions of the whole Party for the goals and ideals of the Communist Party, from the principles of organization and discipline of the Party; unity within the Party from the Central Committee to cells; unity between the Party and the State, the Fatherland Front and mass organization; unity among the Party, the people and the whole nation. All cadres and party members must always strive to consolidate and develop the unity of the Party. Unity is strength and has become the essence and tradition of our Party.

In order to consolidate and develop unity within the Party, according to Ho Chi Minh, the best way is to seriously self-criticize and criticize. In the Testament, he wrote: “In the Party, practicing democracy widely, regularly and seriously self-criticism and criticism are the best way to strengthen and develop the unity of the Party” (Ho, volume 2, 2011). Our Party is a tight organization, which is united in will and action, takes the principle of democratic centralism as the basic organizational principle of the Party, attaches importance to self-criticism and criticism. According to President Ho Chi Minh, criticism and self-criticism are regular work, if you stop criticizing and self-criticism, you will stop progressing and become regressing. Criticism and self-criticism are sharp weapons for correcting defects and developing strengths. Therefore, every party member, cadre, and organization within the Party, state agencies, and socio-political organizations must strictly adhere to this principle.

To build a contingent of cadres and party members to meet the requirements of the revolutionary cause, President Ho Chi Minh advised: “Our Party is a ruling party. Each party member and cadre must be truly imbued with revolutionary morality, thrift, integrity, justice and impartiality. We must keep our Party pure and we must be worthy of being a leader and a faithful servant of the people” (Ho, volume 5, 2011). Each person, depending on their assigned functions and tasks, must be dedicated and diligent to properly and well perform their responsibilities; go ahead, set an example for the masses to follow, avoid “leaving a work unfinished”, dare to do, dare to take responsibility, dare to admit mistakes, correct mistakes, and think about the interests of the people and the nation, avoid violating the status, ethics and lifestyle of cadres and party members.

It can be said that building and developing a contingent of cadres and party members is a matter of decisive significance to the development of the Party; and it is also the basic content of building the Party. In every revolutionary period, building and developing a contingent of cadres

and party members must always be a top priority. In particular, the first issue is to foster and improve their revolutionary moral qualities because they are the ones who decide to build the Party's lines and policies and they are the ones who bring the Party's guidelines and policies into the masses, and guide, encourage, organize the masses to implement. Therefore, during the process of construction and development of the Party from its founding until now, our Party and President Ho Chi Minh have always paid special attention to the work of fostering and improving the revolutionary morality for cadres and Party members. That is one of the factors determining every victory of the revolutionary cause under the leadership of the Party.

Thus, it can be affirmed that in the chaos of work, the issue of the ruling Party has always been paid special attention by Uncle Ho. That explains why, before going away, the first thing that Uncle Ho advised in his Testament was the issue of building and rectifying the Party. The theory of the Ruling Party is a key part of the theory of scientific socialism. President Ho Chi Minh's ideas and viewpoints about the ruling Party in the Testament are really his important contributions to the development of Marxist-Leninist theories about the Communist Party, and building the Party in general and especially in the current conditions of the ruling Party in Vietnam.

2.2. Theory of socialism

Regarding the goal and nature of socialism

Regarding the socialism, the Testament mentions at least linguistically. Uncle Ho used the words socialist and socialism only twice, but he spoke the most about socialism in terms of ideological content. According to Professor Hoang Chi Bao: “The whole spirit and style of the Testament expressed his views on socialism, the nature, characteristics, goals and methods when our nation come to socialism from the economic and cultural development, from social management, social policy, from people to organizations, from the national to the international, from society to environment, from building socialism to defending the socialist fatherland (Hoang, 2018). The profound goal and the basic driving force of socialism mentioned in the Testament is to take care of people's lives, take people as the goal and motivation; and the most important and direct thing is the interests of the people and democracy, especially practicing democracy within the Party.

Before leaving for eternity, President Ho Chi Minh advised: “The Party needs to have a good plan for economic and cultural development, in order to constantly improve the people's life” (Ho, volume 6, 2011). Although that sentence is very brief, it clearly generalizes the highest goal of the revolutionary cause and of socialism, which is to bring a prosperous and happy life to the people, and at the same time, it is also his hearty advice to the whole Party.

It was not until President Ho Chi Minh's Testament that raised this issue, but throughout his life of revolutionary activities, he always aimed at the goal of liberating people from all unjust oppression, striving to bring prosperity and happiness for every human being, first, the working people. That is also the consistent viewpoint in his thoughts and actions.

“The Party needs to have a good plan for economic and cultural development, in order to continuously improve the people's living standards”, this statement also clearly expressed Uncle Ho's view on the nature of socialism. It must be affirmed that constantly improving the people's living standards is an essential aspect of socialism, making socialism different from other social

regimes, and is the ultimate goal of the socialist economy, of all leadership activities, of all socio-economic development policies (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2016). The more successful the renovation is, the more it proves that “constantly improving people's lives” is the basic movement law, both the goal and the driving force of the socialist economy. In Uncle Ho's thoughts, it is always clear that everything is done for the happiness of people and liberation for people. Previously, Uncle Ho said that “Winning independence is important, but if the country is independent and the people cannot enjoy freedom and happiness, then independence has no meaning” (Ho, volume 7, 2011). On the other hand, independence must be associated with socialism; independence must bring enough food, warm clothes, and happiness to the people.

The concept of people in the Testament is not a general and abstract concept, but he specifies the specific objects that the Party needs to take care of: “Those who bravely sacrificed a part of their blood (cadres, soldiers, militiamen, guerrillas, volunteer youths...)” (Ho, volume 12, 2011). In his Testament, Ho Chi Minh warned the Party and Government to take care of the most practical interests of those people, to create conditions for them to “have a safe place to live” (Ho, volume 7, 2011).

For the martyrs who heroically sacrificed themselves for the Fatherland, Uncle Ho advised those who were still alive to build flower gardens and memorial stele in order to be eternally grateful and to educate patriotism for future generations. For parents, wives and children (of war invalids and martyrs) who lack labor power and suffer poverty, “the local government (if in a rural area, the commune government and agricultural cooperatives) must help them have a suitable job, and determine not to let them live in misery” (Ho, volume 12, 2011).

President Ho Chi Minh highly appreciated the contribution of women in the resistance war against the imperialists, and he was always interested in the true equality of women, so he advised that: “The Party and Government need to have practical plans to foster, promote and help to have more and more women in charge of all jobs including leadership...” (Ho, volume 2, 2011)

President Ho Chi Minh sympathizes with and understands very well the hardships of the peasants through hundreds of years of oppression and exploitation by feudalism and colonialists; the great sacrifice made through decades of war. Therefore, he not only advised to take care of improving the general life, but also wanted a very specific and practical thing, that was “one-year agricultural tax exemption for agricultural cooperatives” (Ho, volume 6, 2011). People understood very well that, for farmers, one year of agricultural tax was too small compared to all that they had contributed to the resistance war during the past decades, but if it was exempted, it would certainly be a great joy of each family. People want to give farmers seeds of rice and potatoes so that they can live a full and happy life, rather than ornate words of encouragement, praise. Uncle Ho proposed a one-year agricultural tax exemption for farmers so that “people feel happy, more excited, boost production” (Ho, volume 5, 2011) after many consecutive years they has contributed human and material resources, endure all difficulties and hardships for the cause of the struggle for national liberation, independence and freedom for the Fatherland.

Not only paying attention to take care of the meritorious classes in the revolutionary cause, President Ho Chi Minh also advised the Party and Government to pay attention to helping those who were victims of the old regime: “For victims of the old social system, such as theft, prostitutes,

gambling, smuggling, etc., the State must use both education and law to reform them and help them become honest workers” (Ho, volume 12, 2011).

The concern and care of people's lives, according to President Ho Chi Minh, do not stop at material help, but more importantly, the Party and State must organize and create conditions for people to build their happy life for themselves. In his Testament, he advised: “restoring and expanding economic sectors; developing hygiene and medical work; modifying the educational regime to suit the people's new circumstances, such as developing schools for half a day of study and half a day of work; strengthening national defense, and preparing everything for the reunification of the Fatherland...” (Ho, volume 2, 2011)

Thus, with different specific classes of people in society, Uncle Ho had very thoughtful orientations and instructions to take care of their lives. Following his teachings, we have been determined to do well to promote the role of the human factor in the cause of national construction and defense for a rich people, a strong country, a fair, democratic and civilized society.

Regarding the method of building socialism

On the method of building socialism, Ho Chi Minh said: To successfully build socialism, first, there must be socialist people. For the sake of ten years, it must plant trees, for the sake of one hundred years, it must plant people. Culture lights the way of the nation, culture is not outside but inside economy and polity. Building socialism in Vietnam is building a cultural society, making the Vietnamese nation a wise nation. Therefore, in order to successfully build socialism, Ho Chi Minh affirmed: “Nurturing the revolutionary generation for the next generation is an extremely important and necessary job” (Ho, volume 11, 2011) that the Party must pay special attention to. This is an important content in Uncle Ho's testament showing his deep concern for the young generation. Uncle always appreciated the role of youth and children in the revolutionary cause. From the beginning of his revolutionary activities until his death, he always determined that the Party and State must regularly take care of development of the young generation. Taking good care of and educating the young generation are the task of the entire Party and people. That work must be done regularly, long-term, persistently. This is a meaningful job that determines the future and destiny of the regime and the whole nation, because, according to him: “Whether Vietnam will become beautiful or not, whether the Vietnamese people will step up to the glory to compete with the great powers of the five continents, is largely thanks to children's education” (Ho, volume 11, 2011) and “youth are the future masters of the country...The country's prosperity or decline, weakness or strength is largely due to the youth” (Ho, volume 12, 2011). Therefore, “The Party must have a plan to train and foster them to become the successors to building socialism. They are both “virtuous” and “talented” (Ho, volume 2, 2011). The relationship between “virtue” và “talents” in Uncle Ho's advice before going away has a profound meaning. It is two sides in a closely related issue, interacts with each other, and supports each other to create a new personality - revolutionary personality. That is a necessary and sufficient condition for youth to fulfill their role and mission as the future owners of the country. Regarding the relationship between virtue and talent, Uncle Ho said the person has talent without virtue, such as good accountant but steals money of company will not only do nothing useful for society but also cause harm to society. On the contrary, a virtuous person without talent is like a Buddha who does no harm but also brings no benefit. Morality is like the root of a tree, like the source of a river. “Just like a river, if there is

a source, there will be water; if there is no source, the river will dry up. A tree must have a root. Without a root, the tree will wither” (Ho, volume 2, 2011). The revolutionary must have the morals to complete every task well. Revolutionary morality is a process of persistent training, as persistent as a pearl; the more pearl is sharpened, the brighter it is; the more gold is refined, the clearer it becomes

President Ho Chi Minh is also very interested in the young soldiers who have contributed to the construction and defense of the socialist Fatherland in our country. This is the leading force in the two resistance wars against the French colonialists and the American imperialists; people who have been forged in combat, ready to sacrifice themselves for the common cause of the country. Uncle Ho advised: “The Party and Government need to select some of the most elite people, and send them to study more majors, occupations, to train them to become cadres and workers with good techniques, good ideas, and a firm revolutionary stance. It is the main army in the successful construction of socialism in our country” (Ho, volume 7, 2011). With a strategic vision, with the experience of a manager and leader of the country for many years, he correctly predicted the need to build and develop a team of managers who are both virtuous and talented in the future. It is the main army in the construction of socialism in our country.

For those who have bravely sacrificed a part of their blood in the struggle for national liberation (cadres, soldiers, militiamen, guerrillas, volunteer youths...) and those who have sacrificed their youth for the revolution, they are strong-willed but cannot be educated. The Party and Government must pay attention to training them to be successors to the cause of national construction. He gave very specific advice: “Must open vocational training classes which are suitable for each person”(Ho, volume 12, 2011). We have succeeded in opening vocational schools, prioritized the training and fostering for those who have come out from the smoke and fire of war, and these people have now become a team of skilled workers and officials, contributing to the success of the reform of nation.

Thus, it can be said that Ho Chi Minh's Testament is the Political Credo and the short-term and long-term action program of the Party and people. The Testament has only 1000 words but contains many great ideas. “It is really a great theoretical summary of the glorious revolutionary cause of the Party and the nation “defeating two great empires”. It is also a theoretical design on innovation and development, planning for the future of the country. After the revolution is completely victorious, it will go into the construction and the economic and cultural development with the highest goal being towards the people's mastery and happiness”(Hoang, 2018). The great ideas in the Testament have been paving the way for the revolutionary cause of national liberation and national construction today. Those ideas are at the strategic level, are the instructions for the Party to determine the lines, directions and tasks, thereby making policies to promote the country's economic and social development in the new period.

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