FIGHTING AGAINST POPULISM ON THE IDEOLOGICAL FRONT IN VIETNAM IN THE CURRENT PERIOD

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ABSTRACT

Never before has populism been mentioned as much by countries, ethnic groups and territories as it is today. The emergence of populism has had a strong influence on the lives, culture, politics and economy of countries around the world. According to the law of development, after the initial stage of formation, weakening, development and now populism is on the rise, especially since the first decade of the 21st century. Fighting and identifying the manifestations of populism is a fundamental political task in Vietnam in the current period, especially on the ideological front.

Keywords: Populism, Ideological Front.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Concept and history of populism

According to Richard Hofstadter (1964), populism is primarily one of many mythical elements originating from the far-right politics. Populism is seen as "the shadow of democracy" (Margaret Canovan, 1981). In another definition, populism can be seen as a style or a tactic of political and media mobilization (Grabow and Hartled 2013). Or more simply, populism is primarily a series of anti-establishment attitudes, including anti-establishment, anti-state, xenophobic, anti-intellectual sentiments.

Recent years have witnessed the integration of populism into mainstream politics in many countries to the point that it is increasingly difficult to separate it from politics.

Europe experienced three major crises that caused populism to develop strongly, rising into political movements with widespread influence. First, the oil crisis; Second, the collapse of a number of Communist Parties; Third, the international financial crisis.

Populism penetrated and developed in Vietnam in many different forms at each certain stage in history, each with its own characteristics and colors, and the main path was to follow imperialism into our country.

American historian Richard Hofstadter commented that the attack of populist forces is like the sting of a bee, they will die immediately after that sting.

The manifestations of populism are not easy to recognize, the consequences of populism are not easy to predict, only one thing can be affirmed: populism is the enemy of the people, of genuine parties and we need to be extremely alert, otherwise it will be very difficult to build and protect the ideological foundation of the Party, and strengthen the people's trust in progressive parties in the world.

2. THE CONSPIRATORIAL NATURE OF POPULISTS AND POPULISM

Identifying populism is not easy. Although there are many different understandings of populism, we can identify some similar attributes of this phenomenon.

First, populism spreads quickly into society after a crisis. Populist movements focus on urgent issues, revolving around the concerns of minorities, attracting the support of the poor and less knowledgeable people to participate.

Second, there are antagonistic arguments, going against common values and development. Messages to solve problems often tend to be simplistic.

Third, there is an attitude of distrust in society and resentment of the government, trying to smear, distort, and insult the prestige and honor of the Party and State leaders.

Fourth, populism erodes people's trust, breaking the trust between people and their government.

Fifth, populism claims to be the protector of the people. The leaders of populist movements often claim to be the true defenders of the people's interests and to protect them from threats. At the same time, they provide information and "expose" those they accuse of betraying the people. Hostile forces exploit elements dissatisfied with the regime to do this.

3. SOME MANIFESTATIONS OF POPULISM IN VIETNAM IN THE CURRENT PERIOD

In Vietnam, populism has not had enough opportunities and conditions to develop into an ideology. However, populist actions and statements have appeared in many forums and in many different places. Populists choose to attack mainly in the ideological field. They consider the ideological front to be the most important front.

The nature of populism that hostile and opposing subjects use under the guise of democracy, humanity, and human rights is still opportunism, demagogy, flattery, and deception.

The sole purpose of populism is to abolish the regime, abolish the leadership role of the Party, and abolish the achievements that the whole nation has shed blood for with generations of people. Currently, with their insidious tricks, hostile forces demand to revise history and swap concepts. The concept of our nation's resistance war against the US to save the country is gradually being swapped into the "Vietnam War" by the so-called "media". They deliberately swap the concept by calling it a war between two ideologies of Capitalism and Socialism, and worse, they are trying to "re-examine history" and propagandize that this was a civil war of the Vietnamese people, with the North invading the South.

Not only that, populism is now propagating and exploiting "democracy and civil rights" to demand multi-party and political pluralism. Blurring the leadership role of the Party in the cause of building and defending the socialist fatherland in the hearts of the masses, using the negative manifestations of some degenerate and corrupt Party members and cadres in the Party to defame the Communist Party of Vietnam, dividing the people's trust in the Party and the State.

It can be seen that in Vietnam, there have been initial manifestations of populist speech, words, and actions. We can easily see these manifestations through statements in the style of "speaking without thorough thinking",...

This reality has been clearly pointed out in the Resolution of the 12th National Party Congress: "There have been actions and statements without principles, contrary to the Party Platform, guidelines, and Charter of a number of cadres and party members"[1].

The important reason leading to such a situation is that "The work of fighting against and preventing bad and toxic information, wrong and hostile viewpoints is sometimes and in some places passive, lacking sharpness, and low combativeness; the work of grasping public opinion before unexpected events and situations is not yet timely"[2], on the other hand, "The state of degradation in political ideology, ethics, lifestyle, individualism, "group interests", waste, apathy, and achievement disease among a number of cadres and party members has not been pushed back"[3] has caused populism to develop in Vietnam in the current period.

4. PREVENTING, COMBATING, AND STOPPING THE MANIFESTATIONS OF POPULISM ON THE IDEOLOGICAL FRONT IN VIETNAM IN THE CURRENT PERIOD

First, it is necessary to identify and be vigilant against the manifestations of populism in the political and social life in Vietnam in the current period, building an advanced culture imbued with national identity.

The Propaganda Department at all levels, together with the Steering Committee 35, must have specific instructions for cadres, party members, and the masses in identifying the manifestations of populism as well as the plots and tricks of hostile forces.

Second, it is necessary to consolidate and perfect the legal system, the democratic administrative institution - the rule of law, build a truly socialist rule of law state of the people, by the people, and for the people. This is a basic requirement to maintain and stabilize the country's politics. If politics is maintained and the law is strict, populism will certainly not have a place to live.

Third, proactively, flexibly and creatively implement the foreign policy strategy in international integration, with the principle of ensuring the highest interests of the nation.

Fourth, it is necessary to effectively and strictly implement, promote and strengthen the work of building and rectifying a clean and strong Party in terms of politics, ideology, organization and ethics. This is considered the most important measure in protecting the Party's ideological foundation, fighting against populism and hostile forces.

Fifth, it is necessary to widely propagate and raise awareness of populism, its manifestations, risks and harms among cadres, party members and the masses.

5. CONCLUSION

In order to advance rapidly, strongly, and steadily towards socialism, we need to fight against the plots and tricks of hostile forces, through peaceful evolution and using populism as a tool to sabotage the glorious cause of the Party, which is to bring independence, freedom and happiness

[1] Communist Party of Vietnam: Documents of the 12th National Congress of Delegates, volume 1, National Politics Publishing House, Hanoi, 2016, p.195.

[2] Communist Party of Vietnam: Documents of the 13th National Congress of Delegates, volume 1, National Politics Publishing House, Hanoi, 2021, p. 90.

[3] Communist Party of Vietnam: Documents of the 13th National Congress of Delegates, volume 1, National Politics Publishing House, Hanoi, 2021, p.95.

to the people. Identifying the manifestations, evaluating and taking preventive measures against populism on the ideological front is extremely important for the cause of national construction and defense in Vietnam in the current period.

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3. Conclusion No. 01-KL/TW on continuing to implement Directive No. 05-CT/TW of the Politburo "*On promoting the study and following of Ho Chi Minh's ideology, morality and lifestyle*".