# Ho Chi Minh's thought about economics and that thought value for Vietnam today

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**ABSTRACT-** Ho Chi Minh's thought is a comprehensive and profound system of views on the fundamental issues of the Vietnamese Revolution, the result of the creative application and development of Marxism-Leninism in specific conditions of Vietnam in each stage of the revolution to ensure the victory of the resistance war and successful national construction. Today, domestic and world conditions have changed deeply, but Ho Chi Minh's ideology in general and Ho Chi Minh's ideology in particular still have great significance. The economy was formed and developed with the process of forming his thoughts on the path of national liberation and socialist nation-building in Vietnam. This study provides a general overview of Ho Chi Minh's thoughts on economics and assesses the current status of the process of applying those perspectives to Vietnam's current economic development.

Keywords: Ho Chi Minh's thought about economics, thought value, develop the country, Vietnam today

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Ho Chi Minh's thought is a comprehensive and profound system of views on the fundamental issues of the Vietnamese revolution, from the people's democratic revolution to the socialist revolution; is the result of the creative application and development of Marxism-Leninism in the specific conditions of our country and at the same time the crystallization of the national quintessence and age intelligence to liberate the nation, liberate the period granting and liberating people (Communist Party of Vietnam, 1991).

Depending on the different bases and senses, his thoughts can be delineated according to any specific content. In general, Ho Chi Minh's thought can include parts such as philosophical thought, political thought, economic thought, humanistic moral thought, cultural thought, military thought, Diplomatic thought, etc. In which his thought about economics is one of the very important content. Ho Chi Minh expressed his thoughts on economics in the process that he, together with the Communist Party and State of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, led and managed the cause of the Vietnamese revolution, especially the construction of building socialism in the North.

In his studies, Ho Chi Minh has repeatedly emphasized the pivotal role of economic development in the transition period on Socialism in Vietnam. According to him, the purpose of economic development is to improve people's lives, renovate the old economy and build a new one. Economic development is the premise and the basis for cultural development to eliminate poverty and backwardness. Economic growth is a material condition to ensure social progress and equity. Ho Chi Minh's arguments on economic development are presented with rich and systematic contents and forms.

Since leaving to find a way to save the country to liberate the people, Ho Chi Minh has thought of a new society, a new, prosperous, free and happy life for the people. To have that new life, first of all, the independence of the nation must be regained, then the country must be strong politically, economically, socially, and culturally. He pointed out: If people are independent, and people are not happy, and free, independence doesn't mean anything. In the Testament, President Ho Chi Minh said: "The Party needs to have a good plan for economic and cultural development, in order to continuously improve people's lives" (Minh, 2011, vol 15, p. 612)

#### II. RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Ho Chi Minh's views on the role of the economy

Starting from the point of view of dialectical materialism and historical materialism of Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh considers human social life and historical development as having a close, harmonious combination and the mutual impacts of economic, political, cultural, and social aspects. In awareness, as well as when outlining the task of building and developing each aspect of social life, he always puts it in a close relationship with other aspects. Since 1943, he has planned to build a national culture with five big points:

- "1. Building psychology: self-reliant, independent spirit.
- 2. Building morality: sacrificing oneself, benefiting the masses.
- 3. Social construction: all careers are related to the welfare of the people in society.
- 4. Political Construction: Civil Rights
- 5. Economic building" (Minh, 2011, vol 3, p. 458).

Thus, according to Ho Chi Minh, building each aspect of social life cannot be separated, merely, but must be closely linked and combined smoothly with other aspects of building and is the combined result of all sides. In which economics is always the fundamental field, has a decisive role and deeply dominates other fields.

He once highlighted the decisive role of the economy in the cause of national construction: "To advance to socialism, we must develop economy and culture. Why not say cultural and economic development? There is a proverb: There is a new realm of religion; therefore, the economy must go ahead, etc. Develop economy and culture to improve people's material and cultural life". Thereby shows that he emphasizes material factors, economic factors, factors that exist in human social life. Therefore, in the context of the transition in the North to socialism from a backward agricultural country.

He pointed out that the most important task is economic development to have a material and technical foundation, copper the policy period must focus on "improving the old economy and building a new economy, in which construction is key and long-term". The economy is the foundation of formation, the basis that strongly influences other aspects of social life such as political issues, the social structure of class, culture, and spirit, so it is necessary to pay proper attention, it just assumed its great role.

# Ho Chi Minh's perspective on the characteristics and purposes of the economy in Vietnam during the transition to socialism

First, the economic characteristics in the period of transition to socialism:

He is aware of the inevitable development of social history and thinks that all nations will sooner or later go to socialism. In the brief outline of the Party (1930) that the drafter advocates "to be bourgeois, civilian revolutionary and local revolutionary to go to communist society" (Minh, 2011, vol 12, p. 412). He asserted that the North had to go to socialism, and at the same time clearly saw that "our greatest characteristic during the transition period is from a backward agricultural country to socialism must go through capitalist development" (Minh, 2011, vol 12, p. 413).

This characteristic influences and influences other areas in social life. At that time, the level of the northern economy was still very low, poor, the mainly agricultural economy with small production, self-sufficiency, outdated technology; the industry is also very small and sporadic. Thus, the economy was also severely damaged during the war and destroyed by the enemy when they retreated.

Since then, conflicts have arisen in the transition period, especially the conflict between the high development requirements of the country and the current socio-economic situation, and the very low human resources of our country. From that situation of the economy that he pointed out, attention must be paid to building and preparing political, ideological, cultural, and social premises, especially the economic premise for socialism.

*Second, the purpose of the economy:* 

According to Ho Chi Minh, the goal of socialism, as well as the purpose of the new regime economy, is to improve gradually, step by step, and continuously improve people's lives. People's life includes both materials, cultural and spiritual life. Material life needs to be met firstly for the people, then take care of the cultural and spiritual life. He emphasized this right after the successful August Revolution, that if we can fight

for freedom and independence, and the people still die of starvation, death, freedom, independence will also do nothing; the people only know the value of freedom and independence when the people are fully dressed and he asks "We must do it now:

- 1. Make people eat.
- 2. Make people wear.
- 3. Make people have a place to live.
- 4. Make people have an education" (Minh, 2011, vol 4, p 115).

In his speech at the Hanoi Party Congress in 1961, he questioned the purpose of socialism and also answered very clearly: "What is the purpose of socialism? To put it simply and easily to understand is: to constantly improve the material and spiritual life of the people, first of all, the working people". From clearly defining the purpose of the economy that our people are aiming for, he has a correct and comprehensive awareness of the content of economic development.

#### Ho Chi Minh's perspective on the content of economic construction and development

Contents of economic construction and development in the transition period are mentioned in many aspects by the interested person, shown in the following basic issues:

Firstly, to develop economic sectors and regions:

President Ho Chi Minh paid great attention to the development of the economy, agriculture, industry, and commerce. He attaches special importance to agriculture, emphasizes efforts to develop agriculture, priority must be given to agricultural development in order to meet many pressing requirements of the country and society.

Specifically: it is because "dân dĩ thực vị thiên" (Food is most important to people), that is, food is very important, people take the food for heaven, but agriculture is the industry that creates food, food ensures food to eat, to meet the needs of the people's material life, to take care of the people both in food, clothing, and accommodation;

That is because agriculture is one of the two legs of the economy, if only worrying about industrial development but not agricultural development, it is like a lame person with one leg. That is because our country is an agricultural country, most of our people are peasants, in the construction of our country, the Government largely depends on agriculture, mostly farmers, if the agriculture is strong, our country strong, rich farmers, our country is rich. That is because our country is a country with natural and favourable conditions for agricultural development. These authentic reasons show that his respectful view of agriculture is very correct and appropriate.

He is also interested in the issue of socialist industrialization. He also clearly sees the need for socialist industrialization because he thinks that this is the basis to increase labour productivity, develop productive forces, to ensure a happy life forever, is the way must go by country. But in the face of the impatient mentality to quickly industrialize a part of officials, he did not agree, soon reminded and warned that for a long time we have only rural areas, now there will be urban areas "if industrial folding is subjective". He said that in building socialism, we can do differently from China, "doing against the Soviet Union" because each country has different historical and geographical conditions.

When talking about the achievements of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, he also correctly pointed out the process of socialist industrialization: "Strive to develop agriculture, solve the problem of wages. In fact, to develop light industry, self-sufficiency most consumer goods and initially build heavy industry as a basis for an independent economy" (Minh, 2011, vol 14, p. 565).

Ho Chi Minh has a very correct view of the commercial industry. People think that commerce is the best bridge between social production branches, satisfying the essential needs of the people. So the advocate must pay attention to the development of this industry. For the price area, with the central planning and subsidy mechanism, the State price all goods according to subjective calculation, he also had a very reasonable and correct view on this issue. During the years of economic recovery and construction in the North, the purchase of agricultural and marine products met many difficulties.; The regulated prices are affordable, both for the people and for the Government. He also instructed quite clearly: "Buying and selling must be at appropriate

prices. Usually, buyers want to buy cheap, sellers want to sell expensive. It is impossible for us to do that. The price must ensure that the State, cooperatives and cooperative members have mutual benefits to build their own country".

He is also very attentive to regional and territorial economic development; the policy of equal development between the urban economy and the rural economy. Special attention is given to directing the economic development of mountainous and island areas so that on the one hand, it facilitates the improvement of the lives of the people in these regions, on the other hand, ensures to maintain national security.

*Second, in terms of developing a multi-sector economy:* 

Depending on the starting point and conditions of each country, there may still exist specific economic sectors and delineate and develop different economic sectors. In Russia, during the transition period, Lenin pointed out that there are many economic sectors. That is the peasant-style peasant economic component; small commodity production; private capitalism; state capitalism; socialism.

In our country, it can be said that Ho Chi Minh was the first to advocate building a multi-sector economy during the transition to socialism. Since 1953, the person determined that our country's economy has such components as feudal landlord's economy, state-owned economy, cooperatives, personal economy, private capitalist economy, and capitalist economy nation. The person who delineates specifies the nature, role, and development trend of a number of economic sectors in the free zones of our country at that time:

"State economy, with socialist nature. Because the assets of those factories are the common property of the people, the State, not their own. In the state-owned enterprises, the workshop chiefs, constructors, and workers all have the right to participate in the management, all of them are owners. Production is under the unified leadership of the People's Government;

Consumption cooperatives and supply cooperatives are semi-socialist. People gather together to buy what they need to use or to sell the things they produce without going through traders, not being exploited by them. Rural trade associations are also a kind of cooperative;

The individual economy of farmers and handicrafts, are often self-sufficient, have little to sell, and rarely buy. It is an outdated economy;

In a Private capitalist economy, they exploit the workers, but at the same time, they also contribute to economic construction:

The national capitalist economy is the State contributing capital with private people to do business and led by the State. In this category, private capitalism is capitalism. The capital of the State is socialism" (Minh, 2011, vol 8, p. 266).

With Ho Chi Minh clearly stating the nature, level, and level of development of all economic sectors, it helps to be perceived and directed towards appropriate improvement and use. Each economic sector plays a certain role and contributes to the stability and development of the domestic economy. These economic sectors still exist in the process of building socialism in our country.

Third, on the development of production capacity and socialist economic reform

Ho Chi Minh paid special attention to the development of production capacity, the production force, and pointed out that it was the main task in the transition period: "Our most important task is to build a material foundation and the technology of socialism, bringing the North to socialism, modern agriculture, advanced culture and science" (Minh, 2011, vol 12, p. 412). Therefore, he always considers it as a basic task of the country, the cause of national construction and socialism building, always affirms that the highest goal of socialism is to improve people's lives. People are very interested in and regularly call on our people to strive to increase production and emulate production. Because only production development can fulfill that lofty and great goal.

He also clearly defines the economy that we build as a socialist economy. The socialist economy has one of the basic factors other than the economy of other regimes, which is the regime of plus ownership of the main means of production. He once stated: "Socialism is about taking factories, trains, banks, etc. as common property" (Minh, 2011, vol 10, p. 390). In order to have an economy with that basic characteristic, it is necessary to make every effort to reform the socialist economy.

In improving socialist production relations economy, the advocate must reform socialist towards agriculture, handicraft industry, and capitalist commerce. In renovating and building new production relations, especially in cooperatives, he always emphasizes the principle of gradually, from small to large, from low to high, voluntarily, mutually beneficial, avoiding subjectiveness, mound, ostentatious form. He advises "do not want to work quickly, make a fuss", do less but definitely do more than do a lot without bringing high efficiency.

The main stage in the reclamation process is to renovate and develop agriculture. He reiterated the Party's socialist reform towards agriculture, which was to move farmers to do business separately from groups to change jobs, to low-level cooperatives, to high-level cooperatives. That is to go step by step, from the form of business organization with socialist seeds to the semi-socialist form, then to the socialist form.

He also pointed out the positive impact of the new socialist production relations on the productive forces: "If the socialist production relations are solid, the agriculture will definitely develop well. If agriculture develops well, the industry will develop rapidly. Industrial development will help our countryside in irrigation, fertilizers, improved agricultural tools, agricultural machinery, electricity, etc" (Minh, 2011, vol 12, p. 414).

As for the capitalist business and commerce, he also has a clear view and thinks that the small bourgeoisie of our nation, which is small, is oppressed by imperialism and feudalism, cannot raise its head, give so the majority of them followed the people to work against the imperialism and feudalism, and joined the resistance. The person advocates: "reforming peace for the national bourgeoisie class." Economically, we do not confiscate their means of production but use the redemption policy. Politically, we still give them proper rights, they still keep the status of a member in the Fatherland Front" (Minh, 2011, vol 12, p. 414). He also advocates that we "will advise the bourgeois - not forcing but to persuade them - to share capital with the Government to produce, etc." and "public-private and private partnership must also move forward. The bourgeoisie will find public-private partnerships beneficial, not harmful. Gradually, they see a must to move to socialism" (Minh, 2011, vol 10, p. 391).

## Fourth, about economic management:

Ho Chi Minh is very interested in economic management and distribution relations. Economic managers and advocates must use many measures such as administration, organization, and economy, and must make good use of the levers in production development, based on careful calculation and efficiency high.

People believe that socialism is fair and reasonable, implementing the principle of distribution according to labor: "Doing more, enjoying more, doing less enjoying less, not enjoying it. The elderly or disabled will be helped by the State" (Minh, 2011. vol 11, p. 401). He also noted that the distribution must be equal, not equal, avoiding egalitarianism, fair distribution, not equal. He pointed out: "Distribution must be according to the labor level. More labor is distributed more, less labor is distributed less. Difficult labor is distributed a lot, and easy labor is distributed a little. There should be no situation where the good, the poor, the difficult, the easy, the same points. That is egalitarianism, equalise must be avoided" (Minh, 2011, vol 13, p. 216)

Along with the implementation of the principle of dynamic distribution, he also mentioned and found the effect and good effect of the stock issue in production. He said that "The contracting regime is a condition of socialism, it encourages the workers to always make progress, for the factory to make progress. Working as a contract is for mutual benefits and private benefits, etc. Good job appropriate and fair under our current regime. If the worker lacks the sense of responsibility, lack of labor discipline, it can be done quickly but not well; this is not correct and the workforce has to increase the quantity, but always keep the quality" (Minh, 2011, vol 10, pp. 537-538).

Fifth, in terms of external economics, attracting external forces:

Ho Chi Minh soon had a strategic vision, a broad vision on the expansion of international relations and foreign economic relations. Since August 1919, when talking about the Japanese competition in Indochina, he felt sorry for the indigenous people who were confined, lingering in a narrow circle. At the same time, he asked the French Government to liberate and help them in the competition with foreigners, for their common progress depended on the development of internationalism, and civilization only benefits when relations international expansion and intensification.

He always affirms and consistently shows the viewpoint of expanding cooperation with other countries on the basis of mutual trust for mutual progress and development. In his 1946 appeal to the United Nations, he proactively presented the conflict in Vietnam at that time, denounced the responsible parties about the

conflict, and stated the policy and principles of the conflict. Foreign countries of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam with Great Britain, the United States, the Soviet Union, and other members of the United Nations, hope they accept and support Vietnam. Accordingly, the foreign policy of the Vietnamese people is to comply with the following principles:

- "1. For Laos and Cambodia, Vietnam respects the independence of those two countries and expressed its desire to cooperate on the basis of absolute equality between sovereign countries.
- 2. For democratic countries, Vietnam is ready to implement the open-door policy and cooperate in all fields:
- a) The country of Vietnam affords favorable reception for investment from foreign capitalists and technicians in all its industries.
- b) The country of Vietnam is ready to expand ports, airports and roads for international trade and transit.
- c) The country of Vietnam accepts to join all international economic cooperation organizations under the leadership of the United Nations.
- d) The country of Vietnam is ready to sign with the naval and army forces within the framework of the United Nations special security agreements and treaties relating to the use of some naval and air bases" (Minh, 2011, vol 4, p. 523).

In March 1949, in an interview with journalist Standley Harrison and Telepress newspaper: "When Vietnam's foreign trade is restored, what will Vietnam do with the people's democracies?" Ho Chi Minh expressed the point of view: "Vietnam will transact with all the countries in the world who want to honestly transact with Vietnam" (Minh, 2011, vol 6, p. 46).

Those unique and correct views of that era have laid the basic foundation for the building and expansion of our country's foreign relations and international cooperation.

#### APPLYING HO CHI MINH'S IDEOLOGY ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN VIETNAM TODAY

Ho Chi Minh's thoughts on economic construction and development during the transition to socialism are presented in a simple, easy-to-understand way, but have great value in the construction and construction of the country. Looking back on the process of applying Ho Chi Minh's ideology to economic construction and development, it can be seen as follows:

Firstly, applying Ho Chi Minh's ideology to perfect economic management mechanism. In the first period after the war against the US, Vietnam conducted economic management according to the central planning mechanism, leading to a serious economic crisis. By the 7th National Congress of the Party (1991), applying Ho Chi Minh's ideology, the Party identified "initially forming a multi-sector economy, moving according to the market mechanism with governance of the State". Vietnam has gradually removed the planning management mechanism, shifted to a market mechanism through: identifying the main forms of ownership (all people, collectives, and private individuals), recognizing the existence of all weakness of many economic sectors; to abolish all forms of discrimination between economic sectors. All economic sectors do business under the law, with long-term development, healthy cooperation, and competition.

Second, applying Ho Chi Minh's ideology in the implementation of industrialization and modernization of the economy.

From industrialization to the old style, closed, inward, inclined to the development of heavy industry, mainly based on the advantages of labor, resources, land, and aid sources of socialist countries. has gradually shifted to industrialization associated with modernization in the open economy; to restructure the economy in the direction of strongly developing industry and services, linking industrialization and modernization with the gradual development of the knowledge economy, economic sectors and fields requiring intellectual content, high gray matter. According to the General Statistics Office (1986), agriculture still accounts for the highest proportion with 38.1%. The proportion of the service sector is 33%, while the industry has the lowest one with 28.9%. By 2019, the agriculture, forestry, and fishery sector will account for 13.96% of GDP; industry and construction accounted for 34.49%; the service sector accounted for 41.64%; Product tax minus product subsidies accounts for 9.91%.

From defining the main forces carrying out industrialization and modernization are the State and State enterprises, the Party and State have determined that industrialization and modernization are the cause of

the entire people all society. The State must adopt policies to arouse and bring into play the resources of the people and all economic sectors, and at the same time mobilize and efficiently use external resources for industrialization and modernization country.

Regarding the resource allocation mechanism for industrialization, from mainly by the central planning mechanism of the State and assigned to state-owned enterprises, has gradually shifted to the allocation of resources according to the market mechanism. The first criterion is economic efficiency for investment; The State has incentive and preferential policies for a number of industries, sectors, areas, small and medium enterprises and a number of targets such as export, job creation, and poverty reduction (the Communist Party of Vietnam, 2011 & 2016).

Third, applying Ho Chi Minh's ideology on combining national strength and era strength. With the motto "Internal force is decisive, the external force is important", Vietnam has implemented multilateralization and diversification of external economic relations; to link our economy with the region and the world through trade and investment activities and proactively integrate into the international economy. After successfully abolishing the embargo policy of the US and foreign hostile forces, Vietnam has participated in international economic cooperation and integration at all levels and in key economic fields and continuously expanding bilateral, sub-regional, regional, and inter-regional economic relations and proceeding to join global economic links (Khiet, 2009).

#### III. CONCLUSION

During the revolutionary activities, especially in the socialist revolution, Ho Chi Minh was very interested in the economic field. What he the writer, said about economics is very satisfactory, authentic, and reasonable? Unfortunately, there are times when some contents are not fully and properly understood, so there are some shortcomings, shortcomings, or even mistakes in the perception and practice of improvement, construction, and development. The economy leads to economic stagnation, difficulties, and the crisis in the country. To fully and deeply study his economic ideology, apply creativity and development in the cause of continuing to innovate, implement industrialization, modernization, current international integration, thereby continuing to develop customary supplement thought development is always very important and necessary work.

Research and apply Ho Chi Minh ideology creatively on the basis of specific historical principles. Applying and developing Ho Chi Minh's ideology means that on the basis of mastering the revolutionary and scientific nature of Ho Chi Minh's thought, making that thought relevant and vividly attached in the context of specific history can. In addition, the construction and economic development of Vietnam have been complicated, new problems and events appear that the context of Ho Chi Minh's ideology has not yet existed. Fidelity to Ho Chi Minh's ideology requires on the basis of principled innovation, applying creatively, without stereotypes, to develop his ideology to suit the current economic situation.

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