

## **Enhancing the Role of Party Building and Rectification in the Current Period**



**Truong Thi Tuyet Lan**

Dean of the Faculty of Party Building, Thai Binh School of Politics

**ABSTRACT:** The Communist Party of Vietnam, founded in 1930, has steered the revolutionary boat to bring the Vietnamese people through many rapids to the victory of the national liberation revolution and national reunification. Today, the Party continues to lead our people to build socialism in the new era, achieving many great victories in all fields as General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong affirmed “with all modestly, we can still say that: Our country has never had the opportunity, potential, position and international prestige like today, ..”. It can be seen that these successes comes from many reasons, of which one of the important reasons is that we have done well in the construction and rectification of the Party. This is one of the important tasks affecting the regime's survival and the development of socialist Vietnam.

**KEYWORDS:** Party building, rectification

### **1. THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTY BUILDING AND RECTIFICATION**

The issue of Party building and rectification has received great attention from Marxists. V.I. Lenin once reminded, a truly revolutionary Communist Party will become a factor ensuring the successful implementation of the historic mission of the working class, if each Party member was deeply imbued with and thoroughly enlightened to the goals and ideals of the fight, firmly grasping the Party's guidelines and lines, voluntarily striving and sacrificing for the glorious revolutionary cause of the Party for the sake of class liberation, human liberation, helping them escape from all chains, “alienation”, poverty, and injustice. That aspiration can only be successfully realized when within the Party, the unity of politics, ideology, organization and cadres is really clear, transparent and consistent. That is posed as an objective requirement for the reason of life, “is the command of the heart”, directly related to the life of the Party, the survival of the regime; requires the Party to strictly adhere to organizational principles, knowing how to rely on “a pioneering theory to guide us to be able to fulfill the role of a pioneer soldier”<sup>1</sup>.

As the founder, leader and trainer of the Communist Party of Vietnam, President Ho Chi Minh has always paid special attention to Party building work. He thought: “The revolution must first have a revolutionary Party”; “If the Party is strong, the revolution will succeed, just as if the person at the boatman is stable, the boat will run”<sup>2</sup>.

He also pointed out that, going with the destiny of the country and the nation, the Party has an extremely important role and position, so Party building is a top task, a decisive factor for the success or failure of the Revolution.

Regarding the Party's rectification, Ho Chi Minh noted that in the turning points of the revolution, the turning point in history, or when the actual situation of the revolution changes, the problem of “rectifying the Party” becomes more and more important. In his Will, President Ho Chi Minh specified: “... The first thing to do was to reorganize the Party, so that each Party member, union member, and cell would make every effort to fulfill the tasks assigned to them by the Party, wholeheartedly serving the people. If we can do that, then no matter how big or difficult the work was, we would definitely win”<sup>3</sup>.

Looking back at historical facts, it can be seen that during the October Revolution, nearly 200,000 Bolshevik party members led less than 30,000 revolutionary soldiers and the red workers' self-defense team to seize power. During the Second World War, more than 5.5 million party members led and together with the people defeated fascist Germany. But more than 70 years later, nearly 20 million party members and more than 5 million Soviet soldiers were completely defeated by the enemy's “depoliticization” plot, and stood with their arms crossed and watched the Soviet state - the polity that gave birth to itself collapsed.

The late General Secretary Le Kha Phieu once remarked that “Through the collapse of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, we must see the that it is very dangerous when not doing well in Party building work, leaving the Party to be corrupted, negative, and far away from the people, people have many opinions. Even the Communist Party of the Soviet Union can break

<sup>1</sup> V.I. Lenin. Complete volume, episode.6, Progressive Publishing House, Moscow, 1977, p. 32.

<sup>2</sup> Ho Chi Minh: Complete volume, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi 2011, volume 2, p.289

<sup>3</sup> Ho Chi Minh: Complete volume, Books quoted, volume 15, p.616.

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down, even break down very quickly. Then don't say you can't, you can avoid it. Whether we can avoid it or not depends on whether we do a good job of building the Party and building the regime"<sup>4</sup>.

Comrade Nguyen Phu Trong (now General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam) wrote a very insightful article in April 1992 with the title "*Why did the Communist Party of the Soviet Union disintegrate?*" published in the Communist Journal. He pointed out 5 main reasons: Failing to properly establish the leadership of the Party, neglecting Party building work; denying Marxism-Leninism is the ideological foundation of the Party; Downplaying or negating the principle of democratic centralism; separating from the masses, seriously discrediting before the people, not supported by the people; Abandoning the internationalism of the working class, blowing up the fire of nationalism and narrow-mindedness.

In the current period, hostile forces are trying to oppose the leadership of the Party, distort and revise Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thought. On the other hand, they try to attack the ideology and destroy the great national unity bloc. In addition, the situation of many cadres and party members with the deterioration of political ideology, morality, and "self-evolving" and "self-transforming" lifestyles has greatly affected the image of the Party to the people, sabotaging the Party organization from inside.

The hostile forces against the Communists used different methods and tricks to interfere in the internal affairs of countries around the world, including Vietnam, such as reviewing Marxism-Leninism, rethinking leadership roles of the Party, using populism as one of the important tools to oppose the leadership of the Party. It can be seen that, never before, the issue of Party building and rectification has become so urgent as today.

## 2. PROBLEMS POSED TO THE CURRENT PARTY BUILDING AND RECTIFICATION WORK

Ever since the Party was born in 1930, during the revolutionary period of national liberation as well as in the renovation period, our Party has always been interested in Party building and rectification, considering this as one of the important tasks to the Party's growth over historical periods.

Through the Party Congresses, we see more clearly the importance of Party building and rectification. From the 6<sup>th</sup> Congress to the present, there has been no term where the issue of Party building and rectification has not been mentioned. The most recent is the 12<sup>th</sup> Party Congress. The Central Executive Committee issued the Resolution of the 4<sup>th</sup> Central Committee of the 12<sup>th</sup> term on building and rectifying the Party, identifying 27 signs of deterioration in political ideology, morality, lifestyle, "self-evolution", "self-transformation" internally; Regulation 55-QD/TW, dated December 19, 2016 of the Politburo on a number of things that need to be done immediately to strengthen the role of example of cadres and party members, and promptly correct their working style, lavish and wasteful lifestyle that caused outrage in society, and be exemplary in carrying out a civilized, simple and thrifty lifestyle, etc

At the 13th National Party Congress, Party building work was mentioned, specifically "Strengthening the work of building and rectifying the Party in terms of politics, ideology, morality, organization and cadres; improving the leadership capacity, ruling capacity, combat strength of the Party and the effectiveness and efficiency of the State's management. Continuing to strongly renew the Party's leadership method. Promoting unity within the Party, first of all the Central Executive Committee, the Politburo and the Secretariat. Improving the efficiency of ideological work, create unity in the Party and consensus in society; attach more importance to the struggle to protect the ideological foundation of the Party, and to oppose wrong and hostile views. Resolutely and persistently struggle to prevent and repel the deterioration of political ideology, morality, lifestyle, and internal "self-evolution" and "self-transformation" manifestations.

It can be seen that the Party building and rectification work has been carried out regularly and continuously for many terms, many campaigns with many fundamental and important measures, contributing to improving the Party's leadership capacity and fighting strength, meeting the requirements of the renovation process.

As of December 31, 2021, the whole Party has a total of 5,325,532 party members. Party member development has been focused, the number of party members has increased dramatically over the years. On average, over the past 10 years, the number of party members has increased by 143,357 each year. Up to now, the ratio of party members to the population of the country is 5.4% (on average, there are about 6 party members in every 100 people). The quality of party members has changed positively; The level of education, expertise and political theory is getting higher and higher (Party members with a university degree or higher account for about 55%; Party members with a degree in political theory from elementary level or higher account for more than 60%)<sup>5</sup>.

In addition to the positive results achieved, the Party building and rectification still poses many difficulties and challenges, especially in the complicated period of the current innovation period.

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<sup>4</sup> *30 years of Soviet Union collapse and lessons for Vietnam - Lesson 1: When the Communist Party erases itself* (2021), <https://thuyhuongtra.vn/dai-hoi-dang-cac-cap/tieu-diem/30-nam-lien-xo-sup-do-va-bai-hoc-cho-viet-nam-bai-1khi-dang-cong-san-tu-xoa-bo-chinh-minh.html>, (See 02/5/2023).

<sup>5</sup> Improving the quality of party members in the spirit of the Resolution of the 5th Party Central Committee, term XIII (2022), <http://lambinh.tuyenquang.gov.vn> (see 03/5/2023).

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Some cadres and party members are still not fully aware of the importance of Party building and rectification, and are still confused about the importance of the “so-called” Party building and rectification. In addition, the study of political theory of a large number of cadres and party members is also loose, subjective, even they are lazy to study political theory. This is a very dangerous thing for the Communist Party in the current period. It has a great influence, if not emphasized that, a “greatest importance”, in addition to the work of preventing and combating corruption and negativity within the Party and its members.

From the laziness of studying political theory, the loosening of political education work in many places, agencies and units, it greatly affects the work of fighting and countering the wrong and hostile views of hostile forces. A large number of cadres and party members distanced themselves from Marxism, even reconsidered Marxism and doubted the combativeness of Marxism-Leninism. As a result, hostile forces have the opportunity to distort Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thought, but many cadres and party members are not aware of these distorted and revised arguments. This will have a great impact on the ideology of cadres and party members. It is one of the causes leading to self-evolution and self-transformation, seriously affecting the Party building and rectification work.

The situation of the party committee making excuses, replacing or loosening the leadership for the operation of the political system in a number of fields still exists in many agencies and units. Specific regulations on how the Party leads the State, the Fatherland Front and mass organizations, and on the working relationship between organizations in the political system have been issued slowly, without breakthrough innovation and according to practical requirements.

The work of inspection, supervision and enforcement of Party discipline in many places has not been paid much attention, which is one of the main causes of self-evolution and self-transformation in a “not small part” of cadres, party member. Inspection and supervision that is not strict or loose will lead to subjective thinking, false reporting and is a place where individualism arises and develops among cadres and party members.

Popularizing on the importance of Party building and rectification with cadres and party members has been still limited, has not really gone into depth, has been still heavily formal, and has had no specific methods for each object, each locality, and each unit, so the efficiency has been not high.

Those are some of the issues being raised at present for Party building and rectification that need to be resolved in the coming time in order to improve the capacity and the combat strength of the Party and its members.

### 3. SOME SOLUTIONS TO ENHANCE THE ROLE OF THE CURRENT PARTY BUILDING AND RECTIFICATION WORK

*Firstly*, actively popularize to cadres, party members and people about the importance of Party building and rectification, thereby helping cadres, party members and people to clearly see their responsibilities to this work. Besides, it is necessary to renew the content and methods of popularizing to suit the reality of each region, agency and unit. Launching movements of emulation and popularizing must be constantly and continuously, thereby creating a strong motivation to spread to cadres and party members, contributing to improving revolutionary morality, wiping out individualism, making the Party grow stronger.

*Secondly*, continue to promote, innovate and improve the quality of political theory education, protect the ideological foundation of the Party, and fight against the wrong and hostile views of hostile forces. The importance of political theory education must be shown to cadres, party members and people so that they can fight, oppose, and strengthen the great unity bloc of the whole people with the Party and ideological consolidation for officials and party members. This is a very urgent requirement in the current Party building and rectification work.

*Thirdly*, it is necessary to immediately prevent the loose leadership in branches, party committees and grassroots organizations. Emphasize the responsibilities of the heads of agencies and units. Well promote the regulation of democratic centralism, promote the development of party members in localities and units.

*Fourthly*, strengthen the inspection and supervision of the activities of grassroots organizations and party members. Avoid the phenomenon of indulgence, fear of collision in the inspection, evaluation and handling of cadres and party members who violate the Party's charter. Timely prevent and repel self-evolution and self-transformation among cadres and party members.

*Fifthly*, promote learning and following President Ho Chi Minh's ideology and moral example. In addition, it is necessary to continue to implement Directive No.05-CT/TW, dated May 15, 2016, of the 12th Politburo, “On promoting learning and following Ho Chi Minh City’s ideology, morality and style”, attached to Resolution No. 04-NQ/TW, dated October 30, 2016, of the 4<sup>th</sup> Plenum of the 12<sup>th</sup> Central Committee, “On strengthening Party building and rectification; preventing and reversing the deterioration of political ideology, morality, lifestyle, and internal “self-evolution” and “self-transformation” manifestations. Consider self-criticism and criticism in each cadre and party member as a job that needs to be done every day in order to self-correct and self-regulate.

*Sixthly*, to promote theoretical research, historical research, and practical review. Through each different historical period, the domestic and international situation has profoundly changed, so it is necessary to actively study theory and summarize reality to propose specific methods and solutions for Party building and rectification in the next period. In addition, it is necessary to focus on historical research to see the lessons learned from the practice of Party building and rectification behind the obvious lessons

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about the collapse of the socialist model in the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries due to their failure to do well in Party building and rectification, neglecting Party work, and seeing that to give orientations for the path to socialism in Vietnam.

### 4. CONCLUSION

The issue of Party building and rectification in the current situation is considered to be the most important work in order to improve the capacity and combat power of the Communist Party of Vietnam in particular and other parties in the world in general in order to prevent, push back self-evolution and self-transformation within the Party and its members. This is a vital task that affects the survival of the Party and the socialist regime, because Party building is the root and foundation for the Party's development. Only when the Party is strong, will it be able to steer the revolution through the rapids of the times, lead Vietnam to develop quickly, strongly, and firmly to socialism.

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