

# HO CHI MINH'S IDEOLOGY ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE APPLICATION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF VIETNAM

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## Abstract

On the journey to find the way to liberate the Vietnamese people, to help Vietnam escape from the domination of colonialism; since coming to the theory of Marxism-Leninism and spreading it into Vietnam, President Ho Chi Minh has always dreamed of a society that is universal, just, equal, and in his opinion, "socialism an equal society". Social justice is one of the humanistic features of the socialist regime. Ho Chi Minh outlined the goal for socialism: "Change the whole society, change the whole nature, make society no longer exploit people, no longer hunger and cold, everyone is warm and happiness". Thereby, it can be seen that the eradication of oppression and exploitation and the realization of social justice is a striving goal of socialism. In the process of leading the country, through historical periods, the Communist Party of Vietnam has instilled this ideology and introduced many lines and policies to realize this thought of Ho Chi Minh in life.

**Keywords:** Ho Chi Minh's ideology, social justice, Communist Party of Vietnam

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## INTRODUCTION

Social justice is a goal identified by the Party and President Ho Chi Minh right from the early days when the country entered the cause of building socialism. He once said: "Only Communism can save humanity, give everyone without distinction of race and origin freedom, equality, fraternity, solidarity, well-being on earth, for everyone and for everyone, joy, peace, happiness" (Minh, 2011, vol 1, p. 496). The implementation of social justice demonstrates the superiority of the new social system, and it is also the dream, ambition, and burning aspiration of our people. In this article, the author focuses on generalizing Ho Chi Minh's views on social justice and how our Party has realized his views from the post-renovation period to the present.

During the renovation process, the Communist Party of Vietnam has always thoroughly grasped and implemented social progress and justice according to Ho Chi Minh's thought. The Party's program on building the country in the transitional period to socialism (Added and developed in 2011) of the Party sets out the general goal at the end of the transition to socialism in our country, which is to create an economic infrastructure, superstructure for our country to become an increasingly prosperous and happy socialist country. To do that, our entire Party and people must be determined to thoroughly grasp and well implement the eight directions outlined by the Platform. One of the contents of the third direction is "Implement progress and social justice". Moreover, the implementation of social progress and justice is one of the important solutions to maintain the socialist orientation in the country's development process.

## RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Ho Chi Minh's ideology on social justice

From the human desire for justice from the ancient history of East and West, to socialism, justice has reflected the qualitative development as a profound communist humanism. More than 2,000 years ago, when discussing the theory of universality and equality, Confucius (551-479 BC) pointed out: "People are not afraid of lack, only afraid of having irregularities". With that spirit, nearly half a century ago, Ho Chi Minh warned: "Not afraid of lack, just afraid of unfairness; not afraid of poverty, just afraid of people's uneasiness" (Minh, 2011, 2011, vol 15, p. 224).

Ho Chi Minh saw that, due to the lack of justice and democracy, resulting in the explosion of intense social conflicts. Justice, according to Ho Chi Minh, is not equal to the average, equally good or bad, which destroys the economic and social motivation. He once said: "People have different bits of intelligence, abilities, and bodies, so they have different contributions. There should be no situation of good people, bad people, difficult jobs, easy jobs, and the same points. That is egalitarianism. Egalitarianism must be avoided" (Minh, 2011, vol 8, p. 264).

From the very exciting practical activities, Ho Chi Minh affirmed that in the colonial society there is no social justice, but "The people only have obligations, such as paying taxes and serving in the army. working without any rights" (Minh, 2011, vol 4, p.143), workers and farmers are the main producers of material wealth for society, thanks to which society can survive and development, but it is very unfair because they are always the poor, while some people "sat and eat a bowl of gold", according to him, the cause of that injustice is because some people have taken up the capital possess the means of production of society. He concluded that social justice is only possible in the new society, under the republican democracy, the people have obligations and rights at the same time. He said: "Our state today belongs to all workers, etc. The working people are the collective owners of all material and cultural wealth, are equal in rights and obligations service" (Minh, 2011, vol 13, p. 66).

Social justice in Ho Chi Minh's thought is often associated with social equality, that is, the relationship between rights and obligations, equality between obligations and rights, equality between people in the implementation of social justice obligations and enjoying those rights, that is the implementation of social justice.

In the equitable distribution according to Ho Chi Minh is: "Work according to ability, enjoy according to labor, it is a society without exploitation regime, an equal society, which means everyone has to work, and have the right to work, those who work a lot enjoy more, those who work little enjoy little, those who do not get nothing, except the elderly, sick and children" (Minh, 2011, vol 8, p. 226). This is also the law of value: Value creates value; the value received must correspond to the value spent, and this is also the basic principle of fair distribution in our country's current conditions. Therefore, the equality of workers in the relationship between obligations and rights, specific equality in the status of mastering the country, mastering the means of production, ensuring each person's rights. Everyone can develop all their abilities to reach a happy and prosperous life, like His burning ambition and aspiration is: "I only have one desire, the ultimate desire, how to do it? For our country to be completely independent, our people to be completely free, all compatriots to have food, clothing, and education" (Minh, 2011, vol 15, p. 627). And in order to do that, we must first try to emulate production development.

Thus, in Ho Chi Minh's view, justice and equality are a goal of the cause of building a new social regime, it is not poverty-equal egalitarianism. But, to be socialist, it must have humanistic attributes, such as helping poor workers and having special difficult circumstances. The goal of socialism is to constantly improve people's living standards, to strive "to make the poor enough to eat, the people who have enough to eat, to be quite rich, the rich to get richer, etc." (Minh, 2011, vol 4, p. 214). Because, the most core problem of man is "in life and as a human being, that is, to love the country, the people, and the suffering and oppressed humanity", that is the philosophy of life, that is the universal value that he has bequeathed to our generation today.

In addition, he paid great attention to the conditions for the realization of social justice, which are personal interests, in order to encourage each person to constantly strive and contribute the most to society, and at the same time fight against the government, individualism is the root cause of hundreds of diseases such as bureaucracy, orders, factions, embezzlement, wastefulness, subjectivity, etc. are personal, not thinking about class interests. , nation. However, it should also be distinguished that individualism is different from personal interests, if it is against individualism and violates the legitimate interests of individuals, it will lead to mistakes, he affirmed that: "Personal interests individual is in the collective interest, is part of the collective interest. When the collective interests of the collective are guaranteed, only the individual interests can be satisfied" (Minh, 2011, vol, p. 81). The guarantee of the common interest means the protection of conditions for the realization of the interests of each individual, (ie measures to ensure social justice). The idea of "self for everyone, everyone for himself" is the expression of fairness between the interests of individuals and individuals, individuals with collectives, and the community.

Ho Chi Minh had a quite comprehensive and profound view of social justice. The essence of social justice according to him is nothing but the relationship between giving and enjoying. He also clearly showed that it is not necessary to have a rich society to realize social justice, but even when the society is not very rich, social justice can still be achieved, depending on socio-economic conditions a different but different implementation of social justice. Our Party has gradually realized and realized his views on social justice in the current Innovation period of Vietnam.

### **The process of renewing the Party's thinking on social justice**

#### ***Pre-Innovation period (before 1986):***

In the first stage of building socialism, although the issue of implementing social justice is not directly mentioned in the Party's documents, but from the point of view that private property is the source of Because of exploitation, injustice, and social inequality, in fact, the abolition of private property has been quite thoroughly implemented by our Party and State in order to realize social justice in the pre-revolutionary new period. At the

Third Party Congress, our Party affirmed: "Socialist reform aims to reform non-socialist relations of production, etc. in which the key is to transform the individual ownership regime and capitalist ownership of the means of production into various forms of socialist property" (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2002, vol. 21, pp. 531–532). The implementation and implementation of the Resolution of the III Congress laid the foundation for building a socialist property regime, creating a basis for building a fair and equal social system as the goal set by the Party. By the Fourth Congress (December 1976), with the construction of the socialist collective ownership regime, affirming the mastery of the working people in all aspects of the economy, politics, culture, etc. The Party has commented: "The greatest achievement is the annihilation of the human exploitation regime" (Communist Party of Vietnam, 1997, p. 29). Although we have achieved some important achievements in the initial steps of building socialism on a national scale, we have to face many difficulties in economic development and improvement of people's living standards. At the 5th National Congress of Deputies, our Party affirmed: The path to socialism comes from a small, scattered, and backward production. The maintenance of the centralized management mechanism of bureaucracy and subsidies for too long has hindered production and failed to promote the creative enthusiasm of workers. There is a comment that: "The subsidy was a tragic time, also an expensive lesson about the law of social development".

The maintenance of a homogenous socialist economy with two forms of all-people and collective ownership, the two main economic sectors being state-owned and collective, so other economic sectors are eliminated, there is no opportunity to participate equally in the activities of social production. This is the driving force for the development of productive forces. This shows that, in the implementation process, our Party has gone against the direction of Ho Chi Minh.

In the pre-renovation period, the principle of distribution in the form of allocation and handover was mainly implemented by normative ordinances and administrative measures. Therefore, this distribution should be of an average and equal nature, not taking into account the real economic efficiency, thereby eliminating the dynamism and creativity of the workers and the development motivation of the society. The pre-renovation labor-based distribution regime was not implemented in the form of wages, but instead in the form of an in-kind, which was implemented by way of allocation, equalization, and egalitarianism. Therefore, the social productive power was not released, the inertia of the economy increased, creating a burden on the country and inevitably leading to the socio-economic crisis in the late 1970s the early 80s of the twentieth century.

***From after Innovation until now (1986 to now):***

Faced with the increasingly serious socio-economic crisis, the Sixth Party Congress in the spirit of: "Looking at the truth, properly assessing the truth, stating the truth" (Communist Party of Vietnam). Nam, 1987, p. 12), frankly self-criticized about having implemented many wrong undertakings and policies in reforming and building socialism. The Sixth Party Congress affirmed: "Promoting socialist reform is a regular and continuous task during the transition to socialism, with appropriate forms and steps, making relations of production in accordance with the nature and level of the productive forces, always have the effect of promoting the development of the productive forces" (Communist Party of Vietnam, 1987, p. 57). Affirming that we cannot soon achieve the goal of social justice by doing as in the pre-doi moi era as quickly abolishing private property, on the other hand, it is also not possible to achieve the goal of equity society in a short time, which must be appropriate steps, a relatively long process.

The VI Congress (1986) has determined the content and solutions to implement social justice in a relatively appropriate way. The Congress has overcome the average, overcome the "separation of the payment of labor from the quantity and quality of labor" (Communist Party of Vietnam, 1987, p. 63). The document of the Congress wrote: "Solving an important part of employment for workers and ensuring the basic distribution of labor. Implement social justice in accordance with specific conditions in our country" (Communist Party of Vietnam, 1987, p.45). The Congress also raised a number of important points to guide the implementation of social justice: "Along with moving towards eliminating the socio-economic basis of social injustice, etc. make the principles of public justice social equality, and a healthy lifestyle is affirmed in the daily life of our society" (Communist Party of Vietnam, 1987, p. 87) and "removing biases in evaluation and treatment of workers of different economic sectors, etc. It is a consistent policy for all citizens, regardless of economic sectors" and ensures fairness in rights and obligations for all citizens with all citizens, against privileges, special interests.

If the 6th Congress only affirmed that the distribution must be basically guaranteed according to labor, the next congresses have clarified the content of the principle of ensuring fairness in distribution. In the mid-term national conference of the VII term, it was clearly stated: "Economic growth must be associated with progress and social justice in every development step. Social justice is expressed both in the rational distribution of means of production, and in the distribution of production results, as well as in the conditions of capacity development of all members of the community. Implement the principle that whoever works more efficiently, has more contributions, has a larger income, and vice versa; against egalitarianism, against dependence and dependence. Distribution according to labor is the key, encouraging and properly treating talents, and

distributing them according to contributed capital, production, and business” (Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam on historical milestones, 2011, p. 266). The document of the 8th Party Congress clearly states: "Implement various forms of distribution, taking distribution according to labor results and economic efficiency as the main, and at the same time distributing based on the contribution of resources other forces on production and business results and distribution through social welfare, coupled with reasonable regulation policies, protecting workers' interests” (Communist Party of Vietnam, 1996, p. 47). Encourage legal enrichment, coupled with active poverty reduction. Gradually narrowing the gap in development level and living standards among regions, ethnic groups, and population classes.

The IXth Congress (2001) demonstrated more fully, clearly, and specifically the principles of distribution outlined in the VI (1986), VII (1991), and VIII (1996) congresses, in addition to emphasizing the principle of distribution according to labor. , and at the same time make distribution according to social welfare like in previous congresses, this time adding the content of distribution according to the level of capital contribution to production and business. The socialist-oriented market economy distributes mainly according to labor results and economic efficiency, and at the same time distributes according to the level of contribution of capital and other resources to production, business, and information through social welfare” (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2001, p. 88).

In addition, the Party put forward the view that development is fast, efficient, sustainable, economic growth goes hand in hand with progress and social justice, which is: "Improving capacity and creating opportunities for all everyone can bring into full play their talents, participate in the development process and enjoy the fruits of development, and at the same time enhance the responsibility of each person to contribute to the implementation, rich people, strong country, just society, democratic and civilized. Improve people's quality of life in terms of food, clothing, accommodation, transportation, disease prevention and treatment, study, work, information reception, cultural activities, encouragement of legal enrichment, and at the same time strive to eliminate hunger and reduce poverty, create conditions for infrastructure and production capacity so that regions and communities can develop on their own, moving towards narrowing the gap in economic, cultural and social development levels festival. Practically taking care of gender equality and the advancement of women; special care for the development and progress of children” (Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam on historical milestones, 2011, p. 365).

In the renovation period, the principle of distribution according to labor is considered the only principle of distribution, because according to Marx's concept, only the distribution according to labor creates surplus-value. Therefore, in socialism, to have real social justice, the measure of that social justice must be the principle of distribution according to labor, not the distribution according to capital as capitalism. Since the renovation until now, the emphasis has returned to the requirement to implement the principle of distribution according to labor, both to overcome the average distribution and to overcome social injustice.

The document of the Xth Party Congress (2006) has just emphasized the goal of realizing social justice in the process of building socialism in Vietnam, "implementing social progress and social justice in every step and every step. development policy" and just emphasized "implementation of the distribution system mainly according to labor results, economic efficiency, economic efficiency, and at the same time according to the level of capital contribution and other resources and through welfare social benefits” (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2006, p. 26).

The implementation of the principle of distribution according to both labor and contribution is still not a socialist distribution principle, and therefore has not achieved the level of equality we desire. But this move is appropriate and right. Firstly, it shows the innovation of thinking about social justice when moving from a subsidized economy to a socialist-oriented market economy. Second, in accordance with the transition to socialism. Third, it is suitable for the period of concentration of all economic development resources. Fourth, as a driving force for socio-economic development.

The XIth (2011) Congress of the Party has made a significant step forward in clarifying the issue of social justice: “Focusing on solving the employment and income issues for workers, improving material and spiritual life god of the people. Make clear progress in the implementation of social progress and justice, ensure social security, reduce the rate of poor households; improve health care conditions for the people, associate obligations with rights, dedication with enjoyment, personal interests with the interests of the collective and the social community” (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2011, p. .26).

Continuing to summarize practice and theoretical research to build a theoretical model of social development, progress, and social justice in accordance with our country's conditions, the XIIth (2016) Party Congress determined : “Good management of social development; ensure social security, improve social welfare; well implement policies with people with meritorious services; raise the quality of people's health care, the quality of the population and the quality of life of the people; well implement policies on labor, employment, and income;

building a healthy, civilized and safe living environment” (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2016, p. 78). The above viewpoint represents a new development in the Party's awareness of social justice, concretizing the implementation of social justice, linking the implementation of social justice with social security, the management of social justice sustainable social development.

Most recently, the XIIIth Party Congress (2021) determined: Effective and rigorous management of social development, ensuring social security and human security; implement social progress and justice; building a healthy and civilized cultural and social environment; focus on improving the quality of health services, the quality of the population, linking population with development; pay attention to all people, ensure policies on labor, employment, income, well implement social welfare and social security. Continuously improve comprehensively the material and spiritual life of the people.

In addition to the stated policies of implementing social justice that is driving economic development, the implementation of social justice through the distribution of social benefits, first of all with the support of the Government water to help many disadvantaged groups in society, etc. In essence, this is a measure to reduce inequality in society. The realization of social justice through the distribution of social welfare is carried out by different specific social policies, which must be based on consistent implementation with economic development policies. . Implementing social justice in the economy is a condition for realizing social justice in different social fields.

## CONCLUSION

Choosing the path to socialism, Ho Chi Minh soon outlined the humane and preminent nature of this regime. In particular, the superiority of socialism is most evident in the goal of building a just and equal society, eliminating unjust oppression, and pursuing happiness for everyone and every family and society as a whole. In all circumstances, Ho Chi Minh consistently considered social justice as the goal and at the same time, the driving force of the process of building socialism.

The implementation of social justice with the new contents introduced by the Party and State in recent years demonstrates the thorough absorption and application of Ho Chi Minh's views on social justice, in line with the principles of social justice conditions for the development of a socialist-oriented market economy in our country and is becoming a driving force for economic development, a fundamental measure to realize lofty ideals and values of socialism. In the current conditions, when we move to a socialist-oriented market economy, social justice is not only a general trend of the contemporary world but also a condition for economic growth, which is a criterion to measure the level of sustainable development of a society.

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