

Cultural Development in the New Phase from the Viewpoints of the Party and the State

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Abstract

Currently, the trend of globalization, regionalization and international economic integration has been having a strong impact on the cultural life of our country. Globalization and regionalization is an objective trend that has both positive and negative aspects affecting the national culture. We resolutely oppose the imposition of cultural values, ethics, lifestyle in the way of "Europeanization, Americanization". On the other hand, we need to actively study and absorb positive values, the quintessence of human culture to enrich ourselves, avoid closed-minded, xenophobic. The view that culture is considered a resource for socio-economic development is a scientific, modern and highly practical view, especially in the period of accelerating industrialization associated with the knowledge economy and integration, international today. We must pay special attention to enhancing the vision and culture in the guidelines and policies of the Party and State in all different fields. Deep understanding of the era and the nation is an important starting point for us to make the right policy and action. The article mentions the views of the Party on building and developing an advanced culture imbued with national identity; direction of cultural construction and development; At the same time, he mentioned the basic tasks in the process of building and developing the cause of cultural development in our country.

Keywords: Party's point of view, cultural development.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Cultural issues adopt a *central* role that reflects *the superiority of a socio-political regime, the quality and ultimate goal* of economic growth in the socialist regime. The striving goal of the Party and our people today is for "wealthy people, a strong country, a just, democratic and advanced society", which just means an emphasis on dealing with these basic relationships on the basis of fundamental points of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thought. Within this article, we do not repeat the entire Resolution of our Party on the issue of culture and people, but rather *mention some key issues that demand attention today*.

II. CONTENTS

1. The Party's viewpoints on building and developing an advanced culture imbued with national identity

In the current renovation period, our Party has affirmed that the culture we have been building is an advanced culture imbued with national identity. The Resolution "Building and developing an advanced

Vietnamese culture imbued with national identity" put forward by the 5th Plenum of the 8th Party Central Committee (1998) has still been of strategic and directive significance until now yet it should be inherited, supplemented and promoted in the new period. The documents of the 10th Congress (2006) emphasized: *"It is necessary to further develop extensively and improve the quality of the advanced culture imbued with national identity, closely and synchronously associate it with socio-economic development, making culture permeate all areas of social life"* [1].

The Political Platform for National Construction in the Transitional Period to Socialism (Supplemented and developed in 2011) approved by the 11th National Congress of the Party stated: *"It is a must*

¹Vietnamese Communist Party, Documents of the 5th Conference, 8th Tenure, National Political Publishing House, H.1998, pp.54-55

to build an advanced Vietnamese culture richly imbued with national identity that fosters comprehensive development and unity in diversity and that is immersed in the humanistic, democratic and progressive spirit; make culture closely linked and integral to social life as a whole, becoming a solid spiritual foundation, an important internal strength for development [2].

Our Party has determined: "The overall direction of our country's cultural development cause is to *promote patriotism and the tradition of great national unity, a sense of independence, self-reliance; build and safeguard the homeland*; build and develop an advanced Vietnamese culture imbued with national identity, absorbing the quintessence of the mankind's culture, making the culture permeate the whole life and social activities, into each individual, each family, each collective and community, each residential area, so that creating a good spiritual life, high education levels, scientific development, effectively serving the cause of industrialization and modernization in pursuit of wealthy people, a strong nation that enjoys democracy, fairness and civilization, making steady progress towards socialism" [3].

2. Regarding the current directions of the building and development of Vietnamese culture, we need to highlight the following two points:

Firstly, in the current renovation period, we must promote patriotism and the tradition of great national unity, a sense of independence and self-reliance to build and defend the homeland. Although this phase is characterized by peace and nation-building, it is not the time for *relaxation and enjoyment*, but for the start of *a new war against poverty and backwardness* to bring the country to prosperity and further development.

In this fierce war, the people's patriotism, intelligence and creativity, the tradition of great national unity, the sense of independence and self-reliance are the bases for creating ***national unity in willpower and bravery*** during the arduous, strenuous and challenging struggle to build and defend the homeland. Therefore, the entire Party and the people should be tasked with the education about the patriotic tradition and supplement of new contents to the concept of patriotism, the combination of patriotism with contemporary revolutionary and progressive thinking; the education about the spirit of national pride and confidence, and the trust in the path to socialism chosen by Ho Chi Minh, our Party and the people; the nurturing of political determination, the building of national willpower and bravery in this new fight.

²Vietnamese Communist Party. Documents of the 11th Congress, *ibid.*, p.76.

³ Vietnamese Communist Party. Documents of the 10th National Congress of Duties, National Political Publishing House, H.2006, pp.106.

Secondly, in terms of action, we must be more proactive, active and creative in *improving the quality of building an advanced Vietnamese culture* imbued with national identity, creating more favorable conditions and opportunities to raise people's education level, develop human resources and science and technology, build a healthy cultural environment, and promote industrialization and modernization. Here, it is necessary to *promote the political positivity of citizens, pay attention to mass movements* in cultural development, making culture more closely linked and synchronized with economic development, Party building, the strengthening of the political system and permeate the entire social life.

3. Fundamental guiding viewpoints in the process of building and developing Vietnamese culture

- Culture is the spiritual foundation of society, both a goal and a driving force for socio-economic development.
- The culture that we are building is an advanced one deeply imbued with national identity.
- Vietnamese culture is unified yet diverse among Vietnamese ethnic groups.
- The cause of building and developing Vietnamese culture is shared by all Vietnamese people, led by the Party. In this cause, intellectuals play an important role.
- Culture is a front; cultural construction and development is a long-term revolutionary cause that requires revolutionary willpower, carefulness and perseverance.

These five points of view are of long-term strategic importance and need to be grasped thoroughly and consistently throughout the process of building and developing Vietnamese culture in the period of accelerated industrialization and international economic integration.

4. Basic tasks in the process of building and developing Vietnamese culture

In order to implement the guiding viewpoints on cultural building and development, our Party has set out 10 tasks and 4 major solutions. Those tasks include:

1. The building of Vietnamese people in the new revolutionary period.
2. The building of a cultural environment.
3. The development of literature and arts.
4. The preservation and promotion of cultural heritage.
5. The development of education-training and science and technology.
6. The development and good management of mass information systems at the same time.
7. The preservation, promotion and development of ethnic minority cultures.
8. Cultural policies for religions.
9. The expansion of international cooperation on

culture.

10. The consolidation, building and perfection of cultural institutions.

Major solutions to build and develop culture include:

1. Launching a campaign aimed at educating patriotism in association with patriotic emulation and the movement "All people unite in building cultural life".
2. Formulating and promulgating cultural laws and policies.
3. Supplying more resources and means for cultural activities.
4. Improving the effectiveness of the Party's leadership in the field of culture.

The Resolution of the 5th Plenum of the 8th Party Central Committee affirmed: in order to guarantee the Party's leadership in culture, culture must be instilled within the Party and within the state apparatus as pointed out by Ho Chi Minh: "Our Party is moral and civilized". The education of Ho Chi Minh's ideology and morality must be promoted in the entire Party, army and among all the people. Setting good examples is an important content and method in the Party's leadership work.

It can be seen that the Resolution of the 5th Plenum of the 8th Central Committee of Vietnamese Communist Party covered basic and important contents of building and developing culture in the Doi Moi period. Therefore, while summarizing the 5-year implementation of the Resolution of the 5th Plenum of the 8th Central Committee, the 10th Conference of the 9th Central Committee affirmed that the adoption of this Resolution did "satisfactorily meet development requirements of our country and aspirations of the people. It quickly came into the people's lives and was enthusiastically carried by the whole society. It enabled a more closely association between culture and other fields of social life, making an important contribution to maintaining political stability and creating achievements in the national economy, society, security, defense, foreign affairs, etc" [4]. And it was "a resolution of strategic significance on culture for our country's revolution in the period of national industrialization and modernization. The ongoing implementation of the Resolution is a decisive factor in improving the quality of Vietnamese people's lives, making the spiritual foundation of our regime and our society increasingly steady and progressive, contributing to maintaining independence, unity, socialist orientation and speeding up the development

⁴Vietnamese Communist Party, *Conclusions of the 10th Conference of the 9th Central Committee of the Party. On continuing to implement the Resolution of the 5th Plenum of the 8th Central Committee on "building and developing an advanced Vietnamese culture imbued with national identity" in the coming years.*

process of the country [5].

On the basis of affirming the achievements and pointing out the weaknesses and shortcomings in the process of implementing the Resolution of the 5th Plenum of the 8th Central Committee and the Party's resolutions on culture, the conclusion of the 10th conference of the 9th Central Committee emphasized the following goals:

Through the implementation of specific cultural tasks, the expected goal is to create a synchronous development of cultural quality in the following aspects:

- a. Ensuring the coherence between economic development - a central task and Party building and rectifying – a vital task and constant improvement of culture – the social spiritual foundation; Creating a synchronous development of the above three fields is a decisive condition for Vietnam's comprehensive and sustainable development.
- b. In the process of expanding international economic integration and cultural exchange, along with focusing on cultivating new values of contemporary Vietnamese culture, it is necessary to continue to speed up the preservation, enrichment and upholding of good traditional values of Vietnamese culture, and selectively absorbing the world cultural achievements and quintessence, catching up with the development of the times.
- c. Strongly promoting the diversity and unique identity of ethnic groups' culture and enriching the national culture; at the same time, persistently consolidating and enhancing the unity in diversity of Vietnamese culture, fighting against the tendency to take advantage of culture to divide and destroy the national unity bloc.
- d. Studying and promptly being aware of achievements of modern culture and media, mobilizing all social potentials for cultural development, nurturing talents, proactively working out appropriate plans and policies that foster the national culture's firm development in the right direction in the new period.

The conclusion of the 10th Plenum of the 9th Central Committee identified the central task that was to keep putting on top the task of building morality, a healthy lifestyle and cultural life in society; improving the quality and efficiency of the task of nurturing

⁵Vietnamese Communist Party, *Conclusions of the 10th Conference of the 9th Central Committee of the Party. On continuing to implement the Resolution of the 5th Plenum of the 8th Central Committee on "building and developing an advanced Vietnamese culture imbued with national identity" in the coming years*

Vietnamese people in accordance with the five virtues identified in the 5th Plenum of the 8th Central Committee; paying attention to building cultural life at the grassroots-level, especially residential communities, building a healthy cultural environment.

The 10th Party Congress (2006) continued to affirm the Party's basic viewpoints on cultural building and development stated in previous documents and emphasized the idea of building Vietnamese culture, the spiritual foundation of society. Our Party affirmed: "Continuing to develop deeply and improve the quality of an advanced culture imbued with national identity that is closely and synchronously associated with socio-economic development, making culture permeate all areas of social life" [6]. At the same time, our Party also pointed out: "It is necessary to build an advanced Vietnamese culture imbued with national identity, meeting the development requirements of society and the people in the context of accelerated industrialization and modernization and international economic integration. It is required to maintain a connection between economic development – the central task and Party building – the vital task and cultural development - the spiritual foundation of society" [7].

Hence, the issue of cultural building and development was placed in the dialectical relationship among the *three fundamental fields of economy, politics and culture*. The country's comprehensive and sustainable development in the Doi Moi period required synchronous development of all the three fields, each of which has organic relations with the other ones, creating a sustainable synergy for development, in which culture is the spiritual foundation for economic development and the basis of Party building and political system consolidation. Affirming this important thought in the Party's cultural guidelines, we need to criticize the viewpoints in which the three fields are not equally respected. *The dialectical relationship among economy, politics and culture* has been increasingly occupying a special position in guidelines for national construction and development, demonstrating the Party's clear vision of the country's sustainable development process. This is also a new thought showing our Party's creativity in the process of adopting Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thought to culture building during the transitional period to socialism.

On the basis of inheriting our Party's viewpoints on cultural development in the recent Doi Moi period, the 11th Party Congress emphasized a

⁶Vietnamese Communist Party, *Documents of the 10th National Congress of Deputies*, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2006, p.107.

⁷Vietnamese Communist Party, *Documents of the 10th National Congress of Deputies*, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2006, p.213.

number of policies to be implemented as follows:

- Developing comprehensively and synchronously cultural fields; promoting good values of the nation while absorbing cultural quintessence of the mankind; well handling the relationship between economy and culture so that culture can truly be the spiritual foundation of society, a driving force for socio-economic development and international integration.
- Focusing on building a healthy life, lifestyle and cultural environment, attaching importance to culture in leadership, management, business and behavior patterns. Paying attention to nurturing Vietnamese people's personality in terms of ideals, wisdom - morality, lifestyle, physical strength, national confidence, social responsibility, sense of law observance, especially among young generations.
- Building a wealthy, progressive and happy family. Well implementing gender equality, the advancement of women; care, education and protection of children's rights.
- Guaranteeing citizens' right to freedom of belief and religion under law.
- Encouraging freedom of literary and artistic creativity.
- Building and synchronously upgrading the system of cultural and sports institutions.
- Attaching importance to preserving and promoting national cultural heritage.
- Improving the quality of information, press, internet and publishing systems. Guaranteeing the people's right to information access and opportunities to access information, especially in remote and isolated regions, ethnic minority areas...
- Preventing and combating counter-cultural expressions, negatives and social evils.
- Improving the quality of the movement all the people unite in building cultural life.

III. CONCLUSION

Seen from the Party's viewpoints on cultural building and development during the transitional period to socialism, it can be seen that our Party has always relied on the objective reality, its firm grasp of fundamental principles of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thought to actively and creatively propose guiding ideas, work out specific tasks, contents and solutions for each revolutionary period while ensuring the inheritance and the development to gradually improve the quality and efficiency of building and developing an advanced Vietnamese culture imbued with national identity. Thanks to that creativity and dynamism, the Party's cultural guidelines have met the people's needs and requirements and were enthusiastically implemented by the people, forming a

new strength as a driving force for socio-economic development, contributing to maintaining the socialist orientation, consolidating the political system, maintaining national security and defense, making a great contribution to the country's sustainable development.

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