

Ho Chi Minh - A Man, A Nation, An Age and A Cause
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The Gioi, Hanoi, 1999 (Third Edition)
[Written in Spring 1990.]

Ho Chi Minh - His Theory and Action

‘..... he mobilized all the toiling people, turning all workers into socialist men.’ p29

‘Ho Chi Minh made theory lively in practice and made practice full of theory. For him, theory was extremely important, as it illuminated action and was summed up from action.’ p35

‘Ho Chi Minh could be considered as an innate dialectical materialist and historical materialist who successfully settled the relationship between the seemingly contradictory aspects of revolutionary work: nation and class, national and international, creativeness and faithfulness, inheritance and renovation.’ p36

‘Marxist-Leninist theory is a method of thinking and research for a policy and the measures to organize its implementation, linked to the reality in each country, each time, each work. Applied correctly, it brings efficiency to action. If it is understood, but applied incorrectly, it leads to failure and possibly to heavy loss.

In our country, especially since 1975, we have deviated and paid a dear price for our mistakes. It is the same in many other places.’ p36

Ho Chi Minh - His Cause

‘..... and build socialism bypassing the stage of capitalism’s development (1)

(1) Many say “bypassing the stage of Capitalist development”. I think that we should say, “...bypassing the stage of development of Capitalism”.’ p39

‘In the particularly difficult circumstances of war, the Vietnamese people gradually consolidated people’s power, carried out land reform, organized the peasants into co-operatives, build (sic) up the economic infrastructure, developed education, culture and health service, and made socialist thinking gradually into the leading influence in the people’s spiritual lives, thus creating good relationships between men. On the basis of a low-level economy and low living standards, there already appeared a wholesome society with a strong fighting force and many humanist values, leaving a deep impression upon foreigners visiting Vietnam during the wars of resistance.’ p44

‘.... to abide by collectivism and reject individualism.’ p46

‘Ho Chi Minh promoted a fine relationship of solidarity between the Communist Party of Vietnam and the Soviet Communist Party, the Chinese Communist Party, French Communist Party, and other communist and workers’ parties near and far throughout the world. While they were joined to one another, disagreement could happen, but Ho Chi Minh persistently worked for the unity of the international communist movement on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, conforming to reason and sentiment.’ p47

‘In the period of war of resistance, building the country, and the period of land reform, when there were shortcomings or mistakes, Ho Chi Minh and the Party undertook frank self-criticism and when necessary criticised themselves in public and promised to set those mistakes right.’ p51

‘In concluding this chapter, I think I should make it clear that in the light of the present renovation, when looking back to the past, we can realize the shortcomings and mistakes in social and economic construction, which were due to the limits of historical experience.’ p53

‘... the building of socialism met with difficulties and snags, exactly as he warned. Our Party has time and again undertaken self-criticism and drawn conclusions from it.

Making a turning-point, which time makes all the more significant, the Sixth Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam decided to begin an all-round renovation.’ p55

‘To carefully preserve Ho Chi Minh’s revolutionary legacy is to carry on revolutionary work in today’s world, the pressing requirement of which is renovation. As the world evolves rapidly and intricately in an unprecedented way, many new concepts crop up in all fields, which we have to grasp and apply. However, we should not forget Ho Chi Minh’s legacy. This is precisely the basis on which to create the new.

Being true to Ho Chi Minh’s legacy is the basis for uniting the whole people, mobilizing all potentialities of the country, and carrying out renovation in a creative and effective way.’ pp55-56

Ho Chi Minh - The Man

‘Despite his supreme position in the Party and State and his very high prestige, he continued to live like an ordinary Party member and worker, respecting the masses and abiding by the collective will, listening to his followers and the people around him when preparing important policy or writing a newspaper article.’ p64

‘Also at that time [in the few months before his death], he reminded us of what was to be done to improve our northern compatriots’ lives. We then stressed what he recommended: “To work and to produce so as to get a good result, hence to improve our living standard.” That did not answer his request as we can now clearly see. He requested something practical and timely. This was too difficult. Of course he knew that, and his longing gnawed at his heart during his last months.’ p69

Ho Chi Minh Lives Forever in Our Cause

‘Ho Chi Minh’s theoretical and practical legacy should be promoted in keeping with new trends in our epoch and conditions.’ p70

‘The Soviet Union and other socialist countries have undergone important changes in order to become powerful forces in the world, but they have not clearly demonstrated the superior ability of socialism to respond to the people’s trust and ardent aspirations. Some European socialist countries are experiencing a serious crisis.’ p71 [This statement must have been made much earlier in the ‘90s when the First edition was brought out.]

‘The economies and life styles of all nations are becoming more and more internationalized; that is a new historical trend which offers them opportunities to increase exchange and cooperation and pool their efforts in finding solution (sic) to global problems, the most important and pressing of them being how to protect the environment, and at the same time prevent other dangers such as illiteracy, disease, and drug addiction.’ p73

‘In Vietnam, renovation has become a guideline ever since the 6th Party National Congress, conceiving of this process as a fundamental requirement of all nations, an inevitable trend of our time, and as part of the very nature of Marxism-Leninism and socialist revolution.’ p74

‘.... we have committed errors which were profoundly analysed at the 6th Congress of the Party.’ p74

‘In our present drive for renovation, we are endeavouring to overcome shortcomings in our socio-economic policy in order to continue and develop revolutionary achievements and creativity in seeking the right solutions, combining the strength of our nation and our time, and advancing our country.’ p74

‘Marxism-Leninism is not a dogma.’ p75

‘Socialism is not a rigid pattern.’ p75

‘Leadership by the Communist Party is not a privilege.’ p76

‘Socialist democracy is not a kind of formal, fake democracy.’ p76

‘Proletarian internationalism is not an outdated concept.’ p76

‘Fully grasping the above basic principles will be a factor in ensuring the success of renovation, avoiding all manifestations of conservatism and dogmatism, and at the same time avoiding the danger of bourgeois liberalization and the trap of “peaceful evolution” promoted by imperialism.

Relying on those basic principles, we have to solve major problems of socialist construction in our country, step by step fulfilling the following tasks: to develop productive forces, carry out modernization and industrialization, continually improve the people’s material and moral living conditions, perfect socialist democracy, renew political processes and organization, achieve ideological and cultural revolution, consolidate national defence and security, expand relations with foreign countries, and increase the Party’s militancy and leadership in an effective way.’ p77

‘That would be a society where relationships between people are marked by integrity, morality and genuinely humanitarian concern, where the potential of both community and individual are maximised, where “the free development of each constitutes conditions for the free development of all people”. That would be a flower garden, in which each region and nationality is represented by its own fragrance and beauty. That would be a homeland that is a source of happiness and pride for each Vietnamese. Here we would find the modest contribution of the Vietnamese nation to the newly created civilization of mankind.’ p78

‘In past years we have been confronted by extremely difficult socio-economic problems which sapped our confidence and morale, but an overall and in depth analysis would show that Vietnamese working people and the nation - and Vietnamese in general - have proved their

political consciousness and understanding in overcoming adversity and advancing with determination. In the last twelve months, our economic situation has experienced some initial improvements, which have had a positive effect on the psychology of various strata of the people. And this represents a force and a confidence portending the success of renovation.’ p79