



## Criticize and refute wrong viewpoints on democracy and multi-party implementation in Vietnam today

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### Abstract

Throughout history, our people have had to unite to build and defend the country, the spirit of great solidarity has become a precious tradition of our people. The Communist Party of Vietnam is the highest embodiment of that spirit of great solidarity. Vietnam does not implement a multi-party system not because we are conservative or undemocratic as hostile forces deliberately distort, but it is an objective requirement, for the stability and development of the country. "Pluralism, multi-party" is not suitable for our country's situation and certainly cannot be accepted by our people. Regarding this issue, it is necessary to clarify the following major points: First, the truth about democracy in bourgeois institutions and in multi-party countries. Second, is it necessary for Vietnam to implement pluralism, multi-party and what are the real plots and intentions of hostile forces in promoting political pluralism, multi-party opposition in Vietnam?

**Keywords:** Criticism, rebuttal, democracy, multi-party

### Introduction

The birth of the Communist Party of Vietnam was an extremely important turning point in the history of the Vietnamese revolution, ending the crisis in the leadership and organization of patriotic movements, opening a new period for the country - a period of revolutionary struggle under the leadership of the Party. Since its inception, the Party has led our people from one victory to another, driving out all invaders, liberating the nation, and unifying the country. Entering the renovation process, the Party continued to lead the country to build socialism and achieve many great achievements. Thus, reality has proven that the leadership role of the Party is the decisive factor for all victories of the Vietnamese revolution, this is an undeniable truth.

In the current period, due to the impact of ideological sabotage activities of hostile forces, combined with the lack of self-cultivation, training, and inactivity in studying and thoroughly understanding Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought, as well as poor political awareness, within the Party, there have appeared a number of cadres and Party members who have "self-evolved" and "self-transformed" politically. Notably, there are some people who agree with, support, and even advocate a very popular ideological sabotage argument, that is, only by implementing political pluralism and multi-party opposition can Vietnam have democracy and Vietnamese society can develop to catch up with other countries in the world. And conversely, if the one-party regime is still maintained, it will be synonymous with dictatorship and will hinder the country's development process.

It can be seen that this is an extremely dangerous argument because it deliberately equates the issue of pluralism and multi-party system with democracy and development. People with unstable political awareness can easily be fooled by this argument, thereby advocating the establishment of a pluralistic and multi-party system in Vietnam. For that reason, fully identifying and fighting to refute convincingly, clearly pointing out the false, anti-revolutionary, and unscientific points in the argument that

"pluralism and multi-party system are synonymous with democracy and development" is extremely important in the ideological struggle, protecting the ideological foundation of the current regime.

### 1. The reason why Vietnam does not need to implement political pluralism and multi-party opposition

Firstly, the sole leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam is the inevitable choice of history.

The historical reality of the Vietnamese revolution has shown that the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam for the country is an inevitable choice of history, the will of the entire people. The birth of the Communist Party of Vietnam followed both the general law and the specific historical law of Vietnam, resolving the crisis of the path to national liberation. In the last decades of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, our whole country was immersed in the misery of slavery under French colonialism. Many patriotic movements appeared such as the Can Vuong movement, the Yen The and Yen Bai uprisings, but they failed one after another. The search for a way to save the country by patriotic predecessors such as Phan Boi Chau, Phan Chau Trinh... was completely deadlocked. In that context, leader Nguyen Ai Quoc turned to Marxism-Leninism and spread it to Vietnam, preparing the political, ideological and organizational prerequisites for the birth of the Communist Party. The birth of the Communist Party after the unification conference in early 1930 under the chairmanship of leader Nguyen Ai Quoc was an inevitability in the history of the Vietnamese revolution, ending the period when the Vietnamese revolution was in crisis in terms of direction, opening a new era in the country's history.

15 years later, in the period 1930-1945 Vietnamese history proved that only the Communist Party, not any other political organization or party, led the Vietnamese revolution. The victory of the August General Uprising in 1945, which led to the birth of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, was the work of the Communist Party. By 1946,

due to the political situation at that time, in Vietnam, in addition to the Communist Party, many political parties had appeared, of which two parties emerged: the Vietnam Nationalist Party and the Vietnam Revolutionary Alliance. However, in essence, the leadership of the Vietnamese revolution was still only the Communist Party, while the two parties, the Viet Quoc and Viet Cach, "following Chiang Kai-shek's footsteps", did not stand for the national interest. Until Chiang's army withdrew from Vietnam, these two parties also left with Chiang's army, leaving only the Communist Party of Vietnam to lead the political stage. The emergence and withdrawal of the two parties Viet Cach and Viet Quoc showed that only the Communist Party was chosen by the people and history of Vietnam, while the parties that did not stand on the side of the people were eliminated by history and the people themselves. In the period after that, besides the Communist Party, there also existed two other parties: the Vietnam Democratic Party and the Vietnam Socialist Party. However, both parties acknowledged the leadership role of the Communist Party and then declared their own dissolution.

Thus, it can be seen that Vietnam has had a precedent for a multi-party system, but history and the Vietnamese people have denied that system. In the context of Vietnam's historical situation, the Communist Party of Vietnam's role in leading the State and society is completely consistent with reality. This is the choice of Vietnamese history. Reality has proven that the Communist Party of Vietnam has never and will never give itself the right to lead the State and society, but the role of leading the State and society is the noble task that the Vietnamese people trust and entrust to the Communist Party of Vietnam. Since its establishment, the Communist Party of Vietnam has always been the vanguard; representing the will, aspirations, and loyalty to the interests of all working people and the entire Vietnamese nation.

Second, the leadership of the Communist Party is enough to develop the country; there is no need to implement pluralism and multi-party system.

The Communist Party of Vietnam is a party with a strong political will and a very correct leadership that has led Vietnam to victory after victory. This has been proven by history. In 1945, only 15 years after its founding with only about 5,000 party members, the Party led the entire people to make the historic August General Uprising, overthrowing the feudal colonial oppression, establishing the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, bringing the Vietnamese people into a new era, an era of independence and freedom. After that, the Party led the people to make two sacred resistance wars against French colonialism and American imperialism, creating resounding victories around the world and firmly protecting the independence and unity of the country. With the correct renovation policy, the Party is leading the entire nation to successfully carry out the renovation cause, turning the country from a poor, backward country devastated by war into a dynamically developing country, the material and spiritual life of the people is constantly improving, Vietnam's position is constantly being enhanced in the international arena. Currently, Vietnam has established diplomatic relations with nearly 200 countries and territories in the world. Vietnam is also an attractive destination for many foreign investors. Security and defense are maintained, culture and society have many steps of development. It can be affirmed that under the leadership of

the Communist Party, Vietnam is still on the path of very strong development, so there is no need to implement pluralism and multi-party system.

Third, the highest criteria of political activities are sustainable social stability and growth, and social security is guaranteed. One-party or multi-party, pluralistic or non-pluralistic, all must be based on this core issue.

In Vietnam today, under the sole leadership of the Communist Party, this issue is being addressed very well. With a one-party system, Vietnam has the conditions to maintain political stability. Vietnam is considered one of the countries with the most political stability in the world. This is a bright spot for Vietnam and a leading factor in attracting foreign investment. Vietnam rarely experiences political instability or terrorism, large-scale street riots, which often happen in multi-party countries due to power competition. Political stability, security, and foreign investment have been maintained, so the Government has the conditions to improve and enhance people's lives as well as enhance the country's position in the international arena. If Vietnam now implements pluralism and multi-party system, the country will fall into chaos and political instability due to the power struggle between parties. In reality, many countries in the world are currently facing serious political instability due to power competition between political parties, leading to economic decline and people's difficult lives. This is a lesson that has happened in many countries such as Ukraine, Egypt...

Fourth, democracy and development are not synonymous with pluralism and multi-partyism, and implementing pluralism and multi-partyism is not synonymous with democracy and development.

Democracy is a historical category, appearing when the state appears and each democracy must be associated with a certain state, in a certain law regulating the rights of citizens, it depends on the economic, cultural and social development in the corresponding historical period. In Critique of the Gotha Program, C. Marx wrote: "*Rights can never be higher than the economic regime and the socio-cultural development determined by that economic regime*". Each country has different characteristics and levels of political, historical, economic development..., therefore has different democracies. It is those factors that determine democracy, not the pluralistic, multi-party or single-party mechanism. The view that multi-party has democracy and single-party lacks democracy is actually a "tricky trick" aimed at promoting the establishment of a pluralistic, multi-party mechanism in Vietnam. General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong, while in his capacity as Chairman of the National Assembly, during his visit to India in 2010, in response to a question from an Indian Express reporter about whether the time was ripe for Vietnam to have a multi-party system, or to have parties other than the Communist Party of Vietnam to take into account the views of many ethnic groups and different nationalities, affirmed: "It is not true that having many parties means more democracy, having few parties means less democracy, each country has different specific historical circumstances and conditions, the important thing is whether society develops, whether people enjoy a prosperous and happy life and whether the country is stable to develop further? That is the most important criterion. And it is not necessary that a market economy must have a multi-party system and in

Vietnam, the objective necessity for a multi-party system has not been seen, at least until now”.

In practice, implementing pluralism and multi-party system does not mean democracy or development of the country. The reality of many countries has shown that there are multi-party countries but they are still among the poorest in the world. However, there are also countries with only one party but they are still very developed with a prosperous life for the people.

That means pluralism and multi-party system are not the solution for development. Implementing multi-party system does not mean that the country will develop. The important issue is not multi-party system or one-party leadership, but the most important is the correct leadership of the ruling party. And as affirmed, in Vietnam today, with wise leadership, the Communist Party of Vietnam is still leading the country to continuous development, people across the country are enjoying the fruits of the renovation cause, democracy is still being constantly expanded and human rights of the people are always guaranteed. Vietnam becoming an official member of the United Nations Human Rights Council is one of the typical evidences for the issue of whether Vietnam has democracy and human rights or not. Furthermore, it is necessary to clearly distinguish between the issue of multi-party, pluralism and multi-party, monism. Some people, including officials and party members, often vaguely use the American political system to praise the superiority of the pluralism, multi-party model. However, if you study carefully, you will see clearly that in the US, there are only two parties that take turns leading American society: The Democratic Party and the Republican Party. In essence, these are both parties of the bourgeoisie. So, in essence, American politics is multi-party but monistic, not multi-party, pluralistic as many people mistakenly think. Similarly, in some other Western capitalist countries, although the communist party may be allowed to exist, if the bourgeoisie feels that its existence has the ability to threaten their leadership and domination of society, then that communist party will immediately be outlawed. The democracy that they often boast about is only a fake democracy. So, don't have too many illusions about the pluralistic, multi-party system that the West considers a unique miracle.

## **2. The theoretical basis for implementing a scientific and revolutionary pluralistic and multi-party system is contrary to the ideology of Marxism-Leninism.**

It must be affirmed that the theoretical basis for implementing pluralism and multi-party is pluralism and this is a non-Marxist doctrine. Pluralism is a school of bourgeois social philosophy proposed by German philosopher Wolf Christian Von (1679-1754) in the early 18th century. The worldview of pluralism is to deny the unity of the world, considering the world as a combination of primitives and exaggerated elements that exaggerate the individual. Pluralism takes bourgeois society on the left-right regime as a model, they believe that society is always divided into a number of individuals, groups, classes, corporations, distinguished by property and income, beliefs, religions, parties, occupations, covering up the antagonism in social relations and especially denying the division of society into classes, denying class struggle. Pluralism advocates the construction of a social management mechanism based on the principle of multi-force, multi-

party, and these party organizations interact with each other based on the principle of consultation. This viewpoint of pluralism, if applied to socialism, will lead to the risk of denying the leadership role of the Communist Party, reducing the Party to an ordinary social organization. It is completely opposite to the new party theory of Marxism-Leninism.

It can be seen that pluralism is a product of the bourgeoisie with an unscientific worldview, contrary to the ideology of Marxism-Leninism. It is one of the theoretical tools for the existence of the "Peaceful Evolution" strategy of forces hostile to socialism. Because of the political and hostile nature of pluralism, if we accept this doctrine, accept pluralism and multi-party, it is no different from a compromise with the bourgeoisie in the ideological field. And everyone knows that compromise in the ideological field is a serious mistake.

## **3. Plots and intentions of hostile forces in promoting pluralism and multi-party system in Vietnam**

It must be affirmed that the demand for political pluralism and multi-party opposition is part of the plot to carry out "Peaceful Evolution" to eliminate the leadership role of the Communist Party and change the political regime in Vietnam. The leadership of the Communist Party is the decisive factor in the victory of the Vietnamese revolution. For that reason, in order to sabotage the Vietnamese revolution and block the country's path to socialism, hostile forces seek every way to attack the leadership role of the Party. The demand for pluralism and multi-party, in essence, is to create favorable conditions for the birth, publicization and legalization of political organizations that oppose the Communist Party of Vietnam, thereby competing for the leadership role of the Communist Party and moving towards eliminating the leadership role of the Party. What happened in the Soviet Union and the socialist countries of Eastern Europe has clearly demonstrated this sinister plot and intention. Under the influence of hostile forces and the "betrayal" of some Politburo members, members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, especially Gorbachev, on March 15, 1990, at the Extraordinary Congress of People's Representatives, Article 6 of the Constitution of the Soviet Union (stipulating the leadership role of the Communist Party) was abolished. This was an important "milestone" leading to the formation of a pluralistic, multi-party mechanism in the Soviet Union with the birth of many opposition organizations and political parties competing for the leadership role of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Up to 153 other organizations and parties were born and competed for the leadership role with the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. By early 1991, the existence of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union was only in name and the collapse of the Soviet Union in August 1991 was inevitable when the Communist Party lost its leadership. So if Vietnam accepts pluralism and multi-party system, it will certainly "fall into the trap" of hostile forces and follow the "mistakes" of the Soviet Union, and all the achievements of the revolution will be lost.

In addition, it is also necessary to affirm that the Communist Party of Vietnam is always strict and highly responsible for its leadership mission. The Party is not conservative or distant from the masses. On the contrary, the Party always promotes criticism and self-criticism, always attaches

importance to the work of Party building and rectification, always knows how to self-renew and is closely attached to the people. This has helped the Party improve its leadership capacity and guide the Vietnamese revolution through many storms. There were times when the revolutionary situation fell into an extremely dangerous situation, "hanging by a thread", such as in 1945-1946, the difficult times in the 1980s of the 20th century or after the collapse of the Soviet Union. However, with its mettle, intelligence and creativity, the Party has steered the revolutionary boat through and continued to create momentum for development. Currently, the Party is also very determined in the fight against degradation, "self-evolution" and "self-transformation" to improve leadership capacity and meet revolutionary requirements and tasks in the new situation.

Resolution No. 08-NQ/TW dated December 17, 1998 of the Politburo on National Security Strategy affirmed: "Protect the leadership role of the Communist Party of Vietnam; do not accept political pluralism; do not allow the formation of political organizations that oppose or counterbalance the Party and the State". Directive No. 05-CT/TW dated October 14, 2006 of the Politburo on strengthening leadership to ensure national security in the new situation once again emphasized: "In any circumstances, it is necessary to maintain political and social stability, firmly protect national security and maintain social order and safety. Do not allow terrorism, sabotage, political riots, demonstrations, and disturbances of security and order; resolutely do not allow the formation of political organizations that oppose the Party and the State domestically; do not allow bad guys to take advantage of freedom of the press to slander and defame our Party and State". This shows that our Party's consistent viewpoint is not to accept political pluralism and multi-party opposition.

### Conclude

In the process of building and developing, leading the Vietnamese revolutionary cause, our Party has always focused on protecting the Party's ideological foundation, fighting, criticizing, and rejecting erroneous and hostile viewpoints in all circumstances and situations. In terms of theory and practice, the argument that in order to expand democracy and develop society, Vietnam must implement pluralism and multi-party system is a wrong argument. Vietnam currently does not need to implement political pluralism and multi-party opposition.

The great achievements of historical significance of more than 35 years of national renovation are vivid evidence affirming the Party's intelligence, mettle and responsibility; affirming the role of steadfastly grasping, applying and creatively developing Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought. These important achievements are solid conditions and premises, consolidating confidence and adding strength to our entire Party, people and army to clearly identify higher requirements and tasks, with stronger will, aspiration and determination to strive to achieve the goal that by 2030 Vietnam will be a developing country with modern industry and high average income, and by 2045 it will become a developed country with high income, steadily moving forward in the direction of socialism.

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