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THE ROLE OF POLITICAL THEORY LECTURERS IN PROTECTING THE IDEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF VIETNAM

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Abstract

Protecting the Party's ideological foundation is the responsibility of the Party, the people, and the armed forces. For political theory lecturers, this is a crucial task and a major responsibility in contributing to the firm protection of Vietnam's socialist-oriented political system. This article examines several key issues, including the concept of the Party's ideological foundation, the protection of the Party's ideological foundation, the objective necessity of such protection, and the characteristics of political theory lecturers in safeguarding the Party's ideological foundation. On that basis, the article analyzes and highlights the role of political theory lecturers in protecting and consolidating the ideological foundation of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

Keywords: protection, ideological foundation, political theory lecturers, political theory, role.

1. Introduction

In the context of profound, complex, and unpredictable changes taking place in the world and the region, together with the rapid development of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, particularly in information technology and social media, ideological and theoretical struggles have become increasingly intense. Hostile and reactionary forces have continuously intensified their efforts to undermine the Party, the State, and the socialist regime in Vietnam through sophisticated and insidious schemes and tactics. Their primary objective is to attack the ideological foundation of the Communist Party of Vietnam, thereby creating confusion, skepticism, and ideological instability among cadres, Party members, and the people, with the ultimate aim of weakening the Party's leadership role and eventually undermining the socialist regime in Vietnam.

In this complex struggle, the intellectual contingent, including political theory lecturers, plays an especially important role. Due to the specific nature of their profession as individuals who directly engage in research, teaching, and the dissemination of political and legal knowledge important instruments for Party leadership and State governance—they bear a particularly significant position and responsibility. They not only provide students with professional knowledge but also exert profound influence on the formation of personality, worldview, methodology, and, more importantly, the political and ideological orientation of the younger generation, who will directly contribute to the cause of national construction and defense.

2. Content

2.1. Protecting the Party's Ideological Foundation as an Objective Necessity

The Concept of the Party's Ideological Foundation

The Party's ideological foundation is a system of scientific and revolutionary theories that have been tested through practice, selected, supplemented, and continuously developed by the Communist Party of Vietnam throughout the process of leading the revolution. It serves as the principal theoretical and methodological basis guiding all activities of the Party and the Vietnamese revolution.

The ideological foundation of the Communist Party of Vietnam consists of two core components: Marxism - Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought.

Marxism - Leninism is a system of ideas, viewpoints, and scientific doctrines concerning class emancipation, social emancipation, and human emancipation, while also identifying the forces, pathways, and methods necessary to achieve these objectives. It consists of three organically unified and inseparable components: Marxist - Leninist philosophy, Marxist - Leninist political economy, and scientific socialism.

Ho Chi Minh Thought is a comprehensive and profound system of viewpoints on the fundamental issues of the Vietnamese revolution. It is the result of the creative application and development of Marxism - Leninism under Vietnam's specific conditions, inheriting and promoting the nation's fine traditional values while absorbing the cultural achievements of humanity. It constitutes an invaluable spiritual asset of the Party and the Vietnamese nation, serving as a guiding light for the revolutionary cause of the Vietnamese people.

Based on the ideological foundation of Marxism - Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought, the Party has concretized these principles into political platforms, guidelines, policies, laws, and institutional frameworks throughout the process of national leadership. In a broader sense, the Party's ideological foundation also encompasses the Party's Political Platform, Party Charter, guidelines, and leadership orientations.

The Concept of Protecting the Party's Ideological Foundation

Protecting the Party's ideological foundation refers to the comprehensive system of methods and approaches employed by relevant actors to preserve and strengthen the scientific and revolutionary nature, vitality, and enduring value of the Party's ideological foundation in the face of various challenges, while simultaneously combating and refuting erroneous and hostile viewpoints under the leadership of the Party.

Protecting the Party's ideological foundation and effectively combating and refuting erroneous and hostile viewpoints is a crucial and vital task in Party-building work. It is also a key domain in consolidating the political foundation of the socialist regime. Therefore, effectively carrying out this task is a fundamental factor in ensuring the Party's governing role over the State and society, thereby contributing to the successful realization of the socialist construction process in Vietnam.

Protecting the Party's Ideological Foundation as an Objective Necessity

Throughout successive Party Congresses, the Communist Party of Vietnam has consistently affirmed that Marxism - Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought constitute the Party's ideological foundation and guiding principle for action, as well as an invaluable spiritual asset of the Party and the nation, illuminating the revolutionary cause of the Party and the Vietnamese people. Protecting the Party's ideological foundation is therefore a key task that is decisive for the survival of the Party and the socialist regime. Accordingly, protecting the Party's ideological foundation is an objective necessity.

Based on practical realities and the specific tasks of each revolutionary period, the Communist Party of Vietnam has issued directives concerning the protection of the Party's ideological foundation and the struggle against erroneous and hostile viewpoints. These include Resolution No. 01-NQ/TW on theoretical work in the current period (March 1992), Resolution No. 09-NQ/TW on major orientations in ideological work (February 1995), the Resolution of the 4th Plenum of the 11th Central Committee (2012), and the Resolution of the 4th Plenum of the 12th Central Committee (2016) on Party building and rectification.

In the Resolution of the 4th Plenum of the 11th Central Committee, the Party frankly identified the malicious schemes of hostile forces in implementing the strategy of "peaceful evolution" in Vietnam. Within this strategy, cultural and ideological activities are regarded as a "breakthrough spearhead," a "bridge into the battlefield," and a leading area for eroding trust, creating ideological confusion, and gradually paving the way for the infiltration of bourgeois ideology with the ultimate aim of undermining socialist ideology.

With a spirit of confronting reality directly, the Resolution of the 4th Plenum of the 12th Central Committee pointed out that a considerable number of cadres and Party members had "misunderstood the significance and importance of theory and political theory education; neglected the study of Marxism - Leninism, Ho Chi Minh Thought, Party guidelines and resolutions, and State policies and laws," thereby creating opportunities for hostile forces to sabotage and distort the Party's ideological foundation.

Most recently, Resolution No. 35-NQ/TW of the Politburo (October 22, 2018), entitled "On Strengthening the Protection of the Party's Ideological Foundation and Combating and Refuting Erroneous and Hostile Viewpoints in the New Situation," clearly emphasized that protecting the Party's ideological foundation means protecting the Party, protecting its Political Platform and leadership orientations, protecting the people and the socialist rule-of-law State of Vietnam, protecting the cause of national renewal, industrialization, modernization, and international integration, safeguarding national interests, and maintaining a peaceful and stable environment for national development. This constitutes a fundamental, vital, and decisive task in Party building and rectification and represents a top priority for the entire Party, the people, and the armed forces.

The 13th National Party Congress further reaffirmed the necessity of steadfastly and creatively applying and developing Marxism - Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought; remaining committed to the goal of national independence and socialism; upholding the Party's renewal policy; and adhering to Party-building principles in order to build and firmly defend the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Throughout the leadership of the Vietnamese revolution, the Communist Party of Vietnam has consistently maintained its ideological foundation and resolutely struggled against erroneous and hostile viewpoints in order to protect the Party and the socialist regime.

Particularly in the current context, as the Fourth Industrial Revolution continues to develop rapidly, creating both opportunities and challenges, Vietnam's position and strength have grown significantly. However, the struggle to protect the Party's ideological foundation has also become increasingly complex, with hostile forces employing more sophisticated and aggressive methods of sabotage. Therefore, it is necessary to deepen awareness of the Party's ideological foundation and strengthen efforts to protect it in the context of rapid technological and social transformation.

2.2. The Role of Political Theory Lecturers in Protecting the Party's Ideological Foundation

Characteristics of Political Theory Lecturers in Protecting the Party's Ideological Foundation

Political theory lecturers constitute an integral part of the teaching profession. They directly engage in research, teaching, and the dissemination of legal knowledge, Party guidelines and policies, and State laws and regulations, thereby contributing to the formation of a scientific worldview, a revolutionary outlook on life, and creative capacity among learners. Their primary functions include teaching, scientific research, and participation in ideological and theoretical struggle. Therefore, they possess distinct characteristics and maintain a close relationship with the task of protecting the Party's ideological foundation.

First, political theory lecturers possess a strong political stance. They remain steadfast in the goals of national independence and socialism and demonstrate absolute loyalty to the Party's guidelines and ideals. This serves as an ideological safeguard that enables them to protect themselves and guide learners in confronting distorted and misleading arguments.

Second, political theory lecturers possess high professional qualifications in political theory, law, state governance, and political systems. Working in academic environments, they are regularly exposed to diverse intellectual and ideological currents. Universities are spaces where multiple streams of knowledge and ideas converge. Political theory lecturers therefore have opportunities to access different doctrines and viewpoints, both domestic and international. This requires them to maintain strong political conviction and to possess the capacity to analyze, identify, and critically refute erroneous and hostile viewpoints in a sharp and convincing manner.

Third, political theory lecturers are a contingent with a solid grasp of political theory and a thorough understanding of domestic and international realities. They continuously update themselves on new Party resolutions, policies, and current affairs in order to clarify theoretical issues. They are also directly involved in the formulation, implementation, and protection of legal frameworks, thereby contributing to the realization of Party guidelines and State policies. Consequently, their role in imparting knowledge, providing ideological orientation, and helping learners develop a firm political stance is of great significance.

Fourth, political theory lecturers also play a role in the institutionalization of Party guidelines and State policies through

legal frameworks. For Party guidelines to become effective in practice, they must be translated into legal institutions. With their professional expertise, political theory lecturers contribute to clarifying the relationship between Party leadership and State law, affirming the scientific and practical correctness of legalized policies and guidelines. Through teaching and research, they help strengthen public confidence in the Party's leadership and in the socialist rule-of-law State of Vietnam.

Because of these characteristics and close connections, political theory lecturers are not merely transmitters of political knowledge but also ideological actors on the theoretical front, bearing important responsibilities in protecting, consolidating, and developing the Party's ideological foundation in educational institutions and across society.

The Role of Political Theory Lecturers in Protecting the Party's Ideological Foundation

As educators, scholars, and social actors, political theory lecturers make distinctive and important contributions to the protection of the Party's ideological foundation. Their role is reflected in a variety of professional and social activities.

In Teaching Activities

Political theory lecturers play an important role in integrating the protection of the Party's ideological foundation into teaching in a scientific, persuasive, and contextually appropriate manner.

They are responsible for clarifying the theoretical and legal foundations of Party guidelines and policies in specific subjects. In teaching, lecturers need to demonstrate that Marxism - Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought constitute the worldview and methodological basis for building and defending the socialist-oriented political system in Vietnam. For example, when teaching about the socialist rule-of-law State of Vietnam, lecturers should explain the working-class nature, popular character, and national orientation of the Vietnamese State under the leadership of the Party, based on Marxism - Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought. When teaching human rights and citizens' rights, lecturers should clarify the Party's viewpoints on these issues, distinguish them from bourgeois perspectives, and critically analyze distorted narratives concerning democracy and human rights in Vietnam.

Political theory lecturers also integrate the identification and criticism of erroneous and hostile viewpoints into teaching content. They must proactively update themselves on new distorted arguments and prepare scientific and legal analyses to refute them directly in classroom settings. For example, in response to arguments advocating the "depoliticization" of the armed forces, the "separation of powers" according to Western models, or the denial of the Party's leadership role over the State and society, lecturers need to provide rigorous explanations demonstrating the impracticality and political motivations behind such arguments in the Vietnamese context.

Another important role is guiding students in methods of accessing, evaluating, and distinguishing between accurate and inaccurate information, as well as between official and unofficial sources. In the era of information explosion, especially in cyberspace, equipping learners with critical thinking skills and the ability to verify information is extremely important. Lecturers should orient students toward reliable information sources, help them identify false or distorted information, and encourage objective and cautious approaches to sensitive issues.

Political theory lecturers also contribute to building political awareness, a firm ideological stance, patriotism, and national pride among learners. Through classroom content and extracurricular activities, they help foster love for the homeland, pride in national history, and appreciation for the country's achievements under the Party's leadership. They also help students understand the nature of the socialist regime and the historical rationale for Vietnam's socialist development path, thereby strengthening confidence in the Party's leadership and promoting a sense of civic responsibility and respect for the law.

In Scientific Research Activities

Political theory lecturers contribute to clarifying, supplementing, and developing theoretical understandings of Marxism - Leninism, Ho Chi Minh Thought, and the Party's renewal policy.

They engage in in-depth research to explain the enduring values, scientific nature, and revolutionary significance of Marxism - Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought in the cause of national construction and defense in Vietnam. They also study and summarize political realities in Vietnam, thereby contributing to the development of theoretical understandings of the Party, the State, and political institutions in new circumstances.

Furthermore, they analyze and forecast emerging legal and political issues in the context of globalization, international integration, and the Fourth Industrial Revolution, thereby proposing legal and policy solutions consistent with the Party's orientations and national interests.

Political theory lecturers also proactively participate in ideological and theoretical struggle by constructing solid scientific and legal arguments to refute erroneous viewpoints concerning democracy, human rights, religious freedom, maritime sovereignty, the leadership role of the Communist Party of Vietnam, and the socialist rule-of-law State model.

In addition, with their specialized knowledge, political theory lecturers contribute to the development and improvement of legal and policy systems by participating in consultations on draft laws, legal documents, and major Party and State policies. Through these activities, they help ensure that legal regulations correctly institutionalize Party guidelines, reflect national realities, and protect the Party's ideological foundation while safeguarding the legitimate rights and interests of the people.

In Other Social Activities and Exemplary Roles

Political theory lecturers also contribute through propaganda, public communication, and legal education associated with protecting the Party's ideological foundation.

With their knowledge and pedagogical skills, they can become effective public communicators, helping citizens correctly understand Party guidelines and State laws while raising awareness and resilience against harmful and distorted information.

They may actively contribute articles to newspapers, academic journals, and media platforms, and participate in seminars, policy dialogues, and public discussions to analyze and clarify legal and social issues from the perspective of the Party's ideological foundation.

Political theory lecturers are also expected to serve as exemplary models in political qualities, ethics, lifestyle, and professional conduct. Their words must be consistent with their actions. They

must demonstrate ideological steadfastness, loyalty to the Party's ideals, commitment to the nation and the people, integrity in professional ethics, simplicity in lifestyle, and resistance to manifestations of ideological degradation, "self-evolution," and "self-transformation."

They must continuously improve their professional qualifications, teaching skills, and political theory competence to meet the increasingly demanding requirements of education and ideological work. A scientific, objective, disciplined, and honest working style in teaching and research is also essential.

In the digital era, political theory lecturers are also expected to participate proactively and responsibly in forums and social media platforms, identifying and warning against false information and distorted narratives, while engaging in reasoned and evidence-based ideological struggle to contribute to a healthier information environment.

3. Conclusion

Political theory lecturers play an important role in protecting the Party's ideological foundation. As key actors who directly impart and affirm the scientific and revolutionary nature of the Party's ideological foundation to students, they also constitute a core force in researching, applying, and creatively developing Marxism - Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought. At the same time, they serve as pioneers in the struggle to combat and refute erroneous and hostile viewpoints, thereby contributing to the protection, consolidation, and development of the Party's ideological foundation in the new context.

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