



PROTECTION OF NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE RIGHTS IN VIETNAM IN GLOBALIZATION CONTEXT

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Abstract. President Ho Chi Minh once emphasized, “Freedom and independence are natural rights of every nation.” Therefore, it is possible to consider National independence and freedom as the sacred and inviolable rights of the peoples. It is manifested in all aspects of the social life, namely, politics, economy, culture, society, security, national defense, diplomacy, and territorial integrity of a particular nation. Respecting the independence rights of citizens is a fundamental principle of international laws, and no entity can interfere or dominate and violate this independence. In the current globalization context, the issue of firmly defending national independence rights is a central task that requires nations to have appropriate measures and solutions in the new situation.

Keywords: Ho Chi Minh, freedom, natural independence, globalization

1. Introduction

Lenin said: “Different nations are equal; different nations have their own rights self-determination.” [16, p. 375]. These statements mean that a nation that is independent and free has full self-determination and self-control of its destiny; it has the rights to choose its development path independent of the will of other nations. Following the viewpoints of other Marxist leaders, Ho Chi Minh considered “Independence means that we run our affairs by ourselves without the intervention of external forces [7, p. 162]. He also stated, “If Vietnam has independence without its own arm force, foreign policies, and economy, Vietnamese people decidedly denies such falsified independence.” [7, p. 602]. According to a Vietnamese dictionary, “A country having independence is the one that has sovereignty and does not depend on another country or nation. It is a free and independent country. It is the status of a country or nation with sovereignty in politics, independent of another country or nation. It is national independence” [15, p. 1010]. Hence, the rights for independence and freedom of a nation can be comprehensively understood as the rights for self-determination and self-control towards the nation’s destiny, the management of economy, politics, culture, society, defense, and security within its

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territory; the rights for implementing national foreign policies, without the intervention and directing from outside. For every nation or country, independence means the factual control upon politics, economy, preservation and development of cultural identity, and preservation of sovereignty and whole territory.

“Globalization is a social condition with inter-relations worldwide in terms of economy, culture, politics, society, and environment, and the distributive currents enable the countries to shorten their distances and blur national borders. From another aspect, globalization is a social change and the increasing interconnection between societies and their elements due to cultural entanglements with a transportation and communication boom, contributing to international economic and cultural exchanges” [12, p. 25]. The tendency of globalization enhances the relationship, mutual influence and dependence between nations and between different regions around the world. “When talking about fast globalization, we imply that the impacts of international dependence become more evident with increasing rates and closeness [14, p. 45]. Currently, the world has entered a period of deeper and deeper globalization with strong impacts on mankind in terms of both advantages and challenges. This trend threatens the cause of building and protecting the national independence rights of nations.

2. Influence of globalization on the cause of building and protecting national independence rights

2.1. Positive effects of globalization

Economically, globalization is an opportunity for Vietnam to promote economic development, creating a premise for the country to keep pace with developed countries in the world. Our country has opportunities to promote its comparative advantages in international economic relations that bring about higher economic effectiveness, create chances to participate in the international labor distribution, open up new markets, take advantage of external resources, such as capital and modern technology. This, in turn, enables businesses to develop new products, to broaden the scale of the economy, and to step up the industrialization and modernization of the country. It also creates more jobs, gradually enhances citizens’ welfare, and forms a premise for ensuring national independence rights. Besides, globalization enables the country to integrate more closely with large economic powers worldwide and thus create new cooperative relationships of mutual development, leading to long-lasting peace and prosperity. This is an obvious opportunity for Vietnam to ensure its independence and sovereignty in economic development, contributing successfully to the cause of defending the socialist Fatherland.

Politically, first of all, globalization enables Vietnam to integrate and establish different relations with various countries around the world via bilateral and multi-lateral diplomacy, and thus taking advantage of the support of the international community. Globalization also helps Vietnam to affirm the prestige of the socialist regime that our people are building, contributing to enhancing the country's position and role in the international arena and reinforcing the belief of the citizens in the leadership of the Communist Party and State. Furthermore, globalization also facilitates the country to access, investigate, and analyze social and political models around the world. This helps our country to find out the advantages and drawbacks, thereby benefiting from the experiences of other countries in terms of social management. This also enables the Party and State to work out appropriate guidelines and policies, constantly improve the organizational structure, and increase the capacity to protect the country's independence.

Regarding culture and society, globalization has created new cultural movements via the boom of science and technology and the development of information technology, and specifically the 4.0 industrial revolution, which enables the citizens to acquire new knowledge of mankind and enhance their intellectual levels. In addition, globalization gives Vietnam the opportunities to promote traditional cultural values, selectively absorb the elite of mankind in the cause of building new citizenship for the development of the country. Globalization has brought tremendous changes in the working habits and lifestyle of the Vietnamese people. Globalization also opens doors for the country to cooperate and coordinate with the international community to deal with global issues, such as environmental pollution, poverty, social misconduct, and diseases.

2.2. Challenges of globalization for the country's development

Globalization has created tremendous challenges for the countries following socialism like Vietnam. Because globalization is controlled by monopoly capitalism, and it is taking place in the context of stagnation of socialism, it negatively affects these countries significantly.

In terms of economy, this is an extremely fierce and complicated confrontation among countries when monopolies greatly affect and dominate global economy. The two largest economic challenges of all countries nowadays are "The risk of losing autonomy in economy and lagging behind in the present fierce international competition" [4; p. 429]. Globalization causes market competition to become more intense for not only the global market but also the domestic market. It creates strong pressure on businesses, especially state-owned companies, as well as small and medium companies in Vietnam. On the other hand, the factors concerning market, taxation, and science and technology have posed new issues regarding the scope and scale of the state's intervention in the settlements of necessary requirements of the market. Globalization also enlarges the gap between prosperity and poverty and the threat of greater economic lagging behind in comparison with other countries in the region and around the world. It caus-

es the national economy to lose balance and independence, threatening the cause of development and defense of the nation.

Politically, globalization causes social controversy, enhances the process of "self-evolving" and "self-transforming" among a substantial part of the cadres and party members, making them gradually depart from and deny the basic principles of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's ideology. This, in turn, entrains the stagnation of political ideology, morality, lifestyle, corruption, and position and power lobby, threatening the political security of the country. Globalization also enables enemy forces to enhance the "peaceful evolution" strategy without taking into consideration of international laws and intensify the measures of "soft attack" to lessen and abolish the leading role of the Party and State in the cause of building and defending the country. In addition, the intervention of international and regional economic and financial entities and the influence, campaign, and pressure of non-governmental organizations have caused pressure to diminish the role of the State, leading to the political turmoil in the process of globalization.

Socio-culturally, globalization with the rapid economic and technological development makes room for foreign evil and anti-valued culture to penetrate, deforming the national cultural identity. Globalization triggers pragmatism, appreciating material values, earning at all cost, and promoting the commercialization of everything for profit, including cultural and spiritual products. Furthermore, globalization also leads to social differentiation and injustice under different forms, causing tensions and conflicts among social classes. Consequently, the society derails from the equal, democratic, and humanitarian nature of our socialist regime. As U. Beck stated "Globalization under various forms, including economy, diminishes and questions on the strength of the nation and State, penetrating the country's territory via versatile social reliance, market relations, communication networks, and traditions and practices, extraneous to the indigenous population. This is manifested in all most important aspects, including national prestige in tax policy, the ultimate authority of the police apparatus, foreign policy, and security and military" [11, p. 14, 15]. The negative impacts of globalization represent a substantial challenge to the cause of construction and defense of the nation.

3. Solutions to maintaining national independence rights in Vietnam under impacts of globalization

At present, the process of globalization and international integration together with emerging radical nationalism, strategic competition, economic competition, and fierce trade wars has threatened the independence and freedom of our nation. However, with the spirit "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom" [10, p. 131] and following the

guideline of the Party and State, the whole nation of Vietnam will firmly defense for its independence and freedom.

Ensuring national independence rights during globalization has to be considered and implemented under two aspects. First, it is the supreme right to decide the issues related to the nation's existence. Second, it is to protect the equal rights of the nation in foreign policies and international integration. To bring these two aspects into practice, we need to have appropriate approaches to evaluate the situation, which is consistent with the particular characteristics of the nation and the world. On this basis, we can work out fundamental solutions according to the unalterable principle, which is firmly ensuring national independence rights, unity, and territorial integrity of the country.

First, we have to enhance the propaganda work so that all citizens are sufficiently and accurately aware of the relationship between globalization and the cause of protecting national independence rights. At the same time, we must increasingly foster patriotism, national pride, and responsibility of each citizen to the destiny of the nation. It is necessary to completely discard one-sided ideas and viewpoints that say that participating in globalization might lose national independence rights. Besides, we have to pay more attention to the study and evaluation of the positive aspects and shortcomings of globalization in the development of the country. We also need to analyze domestic, regional, and international circumstances to clarify new contents and appearances of the national independence rights during globalization. These outcomes will become important products for the propaganda work in globalization integrity, connected to the cause of building and defending the country in the present period.

Second, it is necessary to determine that national independence rights are “not merely the integrity of territory, sea, air, natural environment, and the sovereignty in culture, but also the security and the lack of threat to the political regime, the leadership role of the Party, and the socialist political orientation, as well as the right for maintaining and defending the legitimate interests of citizens” [3, p. 4]. President Ho Chi Minh decidedly stated that if the revolution is successful, “First, we must have a revolutionary party” [5, p. 289]. This means that the cause of the defense of national independence and freedom under globalization must be implemented in all aspects of society. This means that ensuring national independence rights during globalization has to be implemented in all aspects of social life. Therefore, we need to further promote the leading role of the Communist Party of Vietnam – the decisive factor to ensure that national independence rights are maintained. To fulfill that historical task, the Party should continuously enhance its leadership capacity with strong and comprehensive innovation. On the other hand, “we need to further enhance the campaign of learning and acting according to Ho Chi Minh’s ideology, morality, and lifestyle. At the same time, we have to fight against the stagnation of political viewpoints, conduct, lifestyle, and the manifestation of “self-evolution” and

“self-transformation” in the Party. We also need to fight resolutely against bureaucracy, corruption, wastefulness, individualism, opportunistic lifestyle, pragmatism, “group interests”, and the fact that saying is inconsistent with doing” [2, p. 203]. In addition, the political system under the leadership of the Party must also be innovated in the direction of compact, synchronous, and effective performance in the methods as well as the operating mechanism. At the same time, we have to resolutely fight against negative practices, such as bad behavior, corruption, and the risk of self-evolution and self-transformation of a part of the Party’s members in the entire political system. All this will create the resistance that defeats all schemes and tricks of the “peaceful evolution” of the enemy forces towards the independence of the nation.

Third, it is necessary to pay special attention to and mobilize all resources to support and develop the solidarity of the whole nation on the basis of the alliance of workers, farmers, and intellectuals to enhance and further promote the united strength of the nation. This is the issue of strategic importance, which is decisive to the cause of ensuring the national independence rights and the development of the country following the orientation of socialism. Therefore, in the context of globalization, all the directives, policies, and pathways of the Party and State must derive from the legitimate interests of the citizens with the paramount interest of the nation. In addition, in the planning and implementation of the directives of the nation’s development in all aspects, we must be alert, flexible, and creative. It is necessary to recognize the relation between national independence rights protection and the country’s development and between self-reliance and international integrity; always bear in mind the self-spirit, relying on the self; always see the national strength as the decisive factor and the forces of the era as the supporting element. We should not be subjective and conservative, only taking into account national strength and at the same time ignoring the forces of the era or vice versa. By contrast, we need to combine both forces as the Party proposes: “combine the national strength and the forces of the era and internal as well as external facilities. In many circumstances, we need to uphold the national independence and self-control spirit. We also have to appreciate international cooperation, benefit from internal power, take advantage of external aids, and combine the national tradition with the era forces” [1, p. 66].

Fourth, we need to have particular measures to protect national independence and self-control rights in the economy during globalization. “People only recognize the value of independence and freedom when they have enough what to eat and what to wear.” [6, p. 175] We also benefit from this opportunity for economic development, and thus firmly maintain national independence rights. We have to recognize that “economic development is the central issue, with the industrialization and modernization of the country, knowledge economy, environmental protection, and sound and modern sustainable economic structure based on industry, agriculture, and services” [1, p. 175]. The ultimate priority is industrialization and modernization and building the market economy with the socialist orientation. Besides, we need to “stabilize macro-economy,

innovate the growth model and economic structure, enhance quality and effectiveness with sustainable development; mobilize and effectively utilize resources and step by step build modern infrastructure. We have to perfect the market mechanism with socialist orientation, focusing on creating new jobs and increasing income for laborers and improving the material and spiritual conditions for citizens" [1, p. 188]. We have to concentrate on economic and cultural development and environmental protection, ensuring social welfare. This is the indispensable requirement to precisely direct the country's socialistically oriented market economy. We have to change the economic thinking and invest both material and human resources to adapt to the requirements of economic development in new circumstances. Particularly, we need to concentrate on the country's comparative advantage and learn from the ways other countries develop their economy, but we must not copy their experience so as not to fall dependent. It is necessary to build a sufficiently strong economy with key sectors, invest and develop the premise for science and techniques and information technology to create internal forces for economic development with the independent and self-control spirit. We have to deeply and comprehensively understand the Party and State's viewpoints on economic development with defense, security, and foreign policies and step by step accomplish socio-economic goals and firmly ensure national independence rights, protecting the Party, State, citizens, and the socialist regime.

Fifth, to ensure the political and economic stability of the country, we must have solutions to strengthen defense and security forces to fight against the maneuver of the enemy forces domestically and internationally to disorganize the country on different aspects and fields to firmly protect national independence rights. President Ho Chi Minh stated, "Establish an arm force – a strong people's arm force following the leadership of the working class and the Party. Our army must be fully equipped and must develop its technical competencies. The political awareness must be enhanced to ensure being a revolutionary army and a non-defeated army" [8, p. 265]. We have to pay more attention to and actually invest material and spiritual resources to enhance defense and security preparedness. The directives and policies of building and developing defense and security must derive from the real circumstances of the country. However, this does not mean that we just invest; by contrast, we have to buy modern and advanced weapons and equipment to further build the official and skillful army and police forces. At the same time, we must concentrate on political and ideological education; build and organize local military forces that can support the official forces in the cause of building and protecting the farther land.

Sixth, it is important to practice an active diplomatic policy, ready and willing to be a trustful friend and partner with all the countries all over the world on the basis of respecting the national independence rights of each other. We have to execute a diplomatic strategy with the perspective of "serving the goal of maintaining the peaceful environment, stability, taking advantage of external resources to foster the country, increase the living standards of the citizens, the position and prestige of the country, contributing to peace, independence, democracy, and progress all

over the world” [2, p. 34, 35]. We also have to intensify the multilateral cooperation and diversification, keeping in mind the principle of flexibility in tactics, resolvedness on strategy, and always considering the interests of the country on the first position. Implementing a policy of independent foreign affairs, we have to rely on five important principles inherited from President Ho Chi Minh “Respect the sovereignty and whole territory of each other; Not intrude to each other’s territory; Not intervene the internal affairs of each other; Treat each other equally with mutual benefits; Live peacefully with each other” [9, p. 385]. We must resolutely settle the issues of sovereignty, border, territory on the basis of peaceful negotiations in accordance with international laws. We must combine political, economic, diplomatic, and defensive measures to form a unified force for Vietnam’s diplomacy to maximally benefit from external forces for the resolute national independence rights. At present, the position and role of Vietnam are increasing in the international arena. We have actively participated in numerous international forums and organizations, and therefore we must benefit from this advantage to seek international cooperation and assistance to deal with social issues, such as education, health care, defense, security, environment, and diseases. We also have to use this advantage to implement the programs of poverty eradication, job creation, and economic promotion, contributing to the cause of building and defending our socialist Fatherland.

4. Conclusion

In the context of deep and large globalization, Vietnam has carried out active and appropriate measures within the country’s circumstances and initially achieved certain success in the cause of building and defending our socialist Fatherland. However, globalization has entered a new stage with further development in information technology, especially the 4.0 industrial revolution, along with a stronger competition among economic powers, creating further challenges affecting the national independence rights of Vietnam. Therefore, to foster and protect national independence rights, we have to be alert, rational, and flexible in the outlining and synchronously performing comprehensive solutions in terms of ideology, politics, economy, diplomacy, defense, and security to solidly strengthen the solidarity of the whole nation on the basis of the alliance of workers, farmers, and intellectuals. In globalization integration with varied complications and entanglements, it is imperative that we take national independence rights as an unalterable factor with the paramount importance and have a forecast policy and an appropriate roadmap to maximally mobilize the national strength and benefit from external forces to successfully carry out the national goal, which is rich population, a strong nation, democracy, justice, and civilized society.

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