

THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT MODEL IN THE POLITICAL FIELD IN VIETNAM TODAY: CURRENT SITUATION AND SOLUTIONS

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***Abstract:** Based on an overview of the social development management model in politics “the Party leads, the State manages, the people master” and its application in the survey of the current situation of this management model from pre- and post-renovation up to the present, the author proposes 3 main solutions: Building a pure and strong Party, improving the Party's leadership and ruling capacity; building and perfecting the socialist rule of law State of Vietnam; promote socialist democracy, ensure the people's right to mastery.*

***Keywords:** Management model of social development in politics.*

The relationship between the Party's leadership, the State's management and the people's mastery is the basic and core relationship in the organization and operation of the political system in general and the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in particular since the establishment of the State of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam until now. This relationship shows both the nature of the regime, the Party's leadership purpose, the State management purpose, and the central role and position of the people in our political system. That is also the model of social management in the political field, particularly in Vietnam today.

1. A brief overview of the social development management model in

the political field in Vietnam

Subjects of the social development management model in the political field include: Party, State, and the People. The specific characteristics of the subjects can be seen where management is said to be the management of the State, but in Vietnam, the State is led by the Communist Party of Vietnam. The management of the State cannot be separated from the leadership of the Party. Therefore, when it comes to social development management in the political field in Vietnam, we cannot avoid talking about the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam. The

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Party does not manage the State, but the Party orients the model of social development management; social development management objectives; sets out guidelines and directions for the State to concretize and institutionalize by policies and laws in the practice of social development management. Another special feature is that in Vietnam, the Communist Party is the only party in power. Hence, the model of social development management in the political field is different from that of other countries. However, in the condition that the party is the only one in power, the three subjects Party-State-People always agree with each other on goals and interests. Therefore, these three subjects are not contradictory but work together to achieve a common goal. The Party, State, and the People are the three subjects and the three basic components of the political system in Vietnam.

The Communist Party of Vietnam has common interests with the interests of the Vietnamese people, the Vietnamese nation. And “Our State is a socialist rule of law State of the people, by the people, for the people. All State power belongs to the people, whose foundation is the alliance between the working class, the peasantry and the intelligent, led by the Communist Party of Vietnam”¹. Furthermore, “The State respects and guarantees human rights and citizens’ rights; take care of everyone’s happiness and free development”². That is, our

State has no purpose other than to take care of the people’s happiness and serve the people. Therefore, the relationship “The Party leads, the State manages, the people master” in politics in Vietnam has a foundation for development.

For the people as the subject, the concept of “*people are the root*” is clearly understood by our Party and State in the social development management model in the political field. By doing so, there is no political pluralism.

The management content of this model focuses on the relationship between the three subjects: Party, State, and People. This is the vital political relationship of Vietnamese politics and strengthens, protects, and exercises the right to mastery of the people.

In this model of social management in the political field, there is a unity between two parts (one is the Party and State, and the other is the People). The Party has the leading role, the State has the management role, and the people are both the object of the leadership and the management, while the self-managing subject of this process. There is a dialectical relationship between the Party, the State, and the people, and the unity in goals and interests. The Party, State, and people all share the same goal of successfully building socialism with the strategic goal of “rich people, strong country, democracy, justice, and civilization” and the same goal of serving the people.

The relationship between the

Party, the State, and the people is also understood in the sense that, on the one hand, the Party and State “must” orient to the People and rely on the People to carry out the process of leadership and management and achieve common goals. Without the people, the Party and State do not have the force and basis to realize their goals and interests, which are the people’s goals as well. Therefore, the XIII Congress of the Party emphasized the requirement of “tightening close relationships with the people, relying on the people to build the Party”³. Moreover, it is the people who play an important role in building the Party and State in terms of politics, ideology, organization, cadres, and morality. *On the other hand*, the people also “need” the leadership of the Party and the management of the State to realize and practice their genuine mastery, achieve their interests, and achieve a happy, free, and happy life.

The difference between the two parts, the Party and the State, is reflected in the roles and functions of each element. In particular, the Party is the subject that leads the State and the people towards common goals and common interests. The State’s management of society, management of socio-political organizations, and management of the people is also aimed at achieving common goals and ensuring common interests. The people are both the object of the Party’s leadership and the State’s management, and an active subject

of all movements and the subject of benefits from the leadership of the Party and the management of the State. In this relationship triangle, all three subjects are important and indispensable.

The relationship between the Party and the people, on the one hand, is the relationship between the leader and those being led, but on the other hand, is the relationship between the “loyal servant” and his “master,” that is, the people. This is clearly stated in the Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (Clauses 1, 2, and 3 of the 2013 Constitution) as well as in the Party’s 2011 Supplemental and Development Program⁴. Thus, although the Communist Party of Vietnam is the leader of the people, the Party has responsibilities and interests that are closely linked to the people, serving the people, subject to the people’s supervision, and responsible before the people for their leadership decisions.

The relationship between the Party and the State is “the Communist Party of Vietnam is the ruling party, leading the State and society”⁵. In essence, the leadership and ruling goal of our Party is to actualize and institutionalize political power, political will, and determination of the working class and the working people into State power - public power for the whole society to implement. Only through the state apparatus and organizations in the political system, through mastering and using the state government apparatus,

can the political power of the Party be realized, and the Party's goals and ideals be achieved. Thereby, the Party has fulfilled its historical role, mission, and goal of serving the people. The Party's credo, guidelines, and directions can only become reality when they are realized and concretized by the State through institutions, mechanisms, policies, and laws. Without the State, the Party cannot perform its leadership and ruling role. Therefore, the Party respects the autonomy, creativity, and relative independence of the State and the political system. In leadership and ruling over the State, the Party does not "encroach on" or change the functions, roles, and positions of the State. At the same time, the Party did not let go of its leadership and authority over the State. The Party also "unified leadership in cadres planning and management of cadres and introduced talented and qualified elite party members to work in the leading bodies of the political system"⁶, including the State. In order to assume the role of leading and ruling over the State, the Party must be politically, ideologically, and organizationally strong, regularly renewing itself, improving its bravery, moral qualities, and leadership and ruling capacity; unite, unify, and oppose all manifestations of departure from Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thought.

The relationship between the State and the people is the relationship

between the "public servant" - the State, and the master - the people. This is clearly stated in the Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (Clause 1 and 2, Article 2, Article 3, Constitution 2013). Thus, the socialist rule-of-law State of Vietnam is a tool and means of exercising the state power of the Vietnamese people, serving the people, being closely linked with the people, respecting and listening to the opinions of the people, and subject to the supervision of the people. Also, the State is strong, clean, and integrity, effective, and efficient only when it fully promotes the people's right to mastery.

In the relationship between the people and the Party and State, the people are the master - "the people are the root". That is, our Party and State have no other goal than serving the people. Without serving the people, the existence of the Party and State has no basis.

The purpose of this management model is to improve the quality and efficiency of political management of social development, strengthen the State of the people, by the people, for the people, giving full play to the mastery of the people.

2. The current situation of the social development management model in the political field in the period before the renovation in 1986

Before the *Doi Moi* (1986), it can be seen that our management model of social development in the

political field was also influenced by the centralized and subsidized economic management model in general. In the centrally subsidized economic management mechanism, the State performs economic management mainly by administrative orders and based on a system of detailed norms and ordinances that are applied from top to bottom. The State sets the targets subjectively, then puts them down for businesses and cooperatives to do together. In the relationship between the Party, the State, and the people, the Party plays an absolutely decisive role. Party implementation of both leadership and management functions of the State's functional role. Leadership and management functions are not clearly separated. However, this model also met the requirements of the mission in the war conditions to protect the North and liberate the South. Thanks to that, we have brought the human resources and the physical material sources into play for the liberation of the South and reunification of the country, and we have firmly defended the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the Fatherland. Our Party has very well applied the lesson "the revolution is the cause of the masses" and knows how to lead, persuade, motivate, and promote the people's role of collective mastery in national construction and defense. In economic development and building socialism.

However, we must also frankly

realize that the implementation of this management model still has many limitations and inadequacies. The mechanism for combining activities between the Party, the people, and the State has not been institutionalized⁷⁷. This limitation has many causes, both objective and subjective, but the main reason is subjective ones. The Party has not yet set forth specific policies and guidelines on this issue. The model of social development management in the new political field is stated too generally. The State has not yet concretized the policies and guidelines of the Party. Socio-political organizations have not fully played their role of educating, persuading, motivating, and rallying the masses. The masses themselves have not fully played their mastery and active role.

3. Model of social development management in the political field from Doi Moi 1986 to present- Current situation and solutions

3.1. The current situation of the social development management model in the political field from the Doi Moi 1986 up to now.

The model of social development management in the political field in Vietnam over the past 40 years of renovation has achieved remarkable achievements. This is reflected in the following key points:

Firstly, all three subjects, Party - State - People, have developed in awareness, role, position, and function.

The Party has been built more and more cleanly and strongly, which is the decisive factor for all victories of the doi moi process and ensures the country's development in accordance with the socialist orientation. Party building and rectification are considered key tasks that have vital meaning for the Party and the socialist regime. The Party adheres to the direction linking national independence and socialism, upholding the goal of "rich people, strong country, democracy, justice and civilization". The socialist rule of law State in Vietnam is increasingly streamlined, compact, effective, and efficient; it is a tool to express and exercise the people's right to mastery, to ensure and protect the interests of the majority of the people. Through law enforcement, the State provides the conditions for the people to be the subject of political power and to carry out a dictatorship with all actions that infringe upon the interests of the Fatherland and the people. The people are increasingly promoting their mastery role and central position in national construction and development. Socio-political organizations have promoted their roles in promoting, mobilizing, and rallying the people to promote socialist democracy.

Secondly, the operating mechanism of the model of Party's leadership, State's management, and People's mastery has gradually come into order and initially met practical requirements. This is reflected in the fact that there has

been a consensus from the guidelines and directions of the Party and State, which have been concretized by the Constitution, laws, and specific policies to implement the guidelines and directions of the Party. On that basis, the Fatherland Front and its member organizations and the entire people promote the tradition of solidarity and strive to implement the Party's guidelines and directions through the Constitution, laws, and policies issued by the State. In relation to the State, "the Communist Party of Vietnam is the ruling party, leading the State and society."⁸. In essence, the leadership and ruling goal of our Party is to actualize and institutionalize political power, political will, and determination of the working class and the working people into state power, public power for the whole society to implement. Only through the state apparatus and organizations in the political system, through mastering and using the state government apparatus, can the political power of the Party be realized, and the Party's goals and ideals can only be achieved. It is thanks to this improved social management mechanism that in all aspects, over nearly 40 years of renovation, Vietnam has achieved very proud achievements.

Third, the central role and position of the People are aroused and promoted. The Constitution and laws protect the rights: to participate in the construction of state government

through representative democracy and direct democracy; formulating statutes, decisions, and policies of the State; deciding on major issues of the country; supervising state management activities and the people's social criticism. The Ordinance on Implementing Democracy in Communes, Wards and Townships No. 34/2007/PL-UBTVQH11 has been incorporated into the Law on Implementing Democracy at Grassroots, No.: 10/2022/QH15. The motto "*people know, people discuss, people do, people check*" set out by the VIII National Congress has been added "people monitor, people benefit" at the XIII Congress. Our Party and State advocate "*Highlighting the mastery role and central position of the people in the national development strategy*"⁹ in general, in the management strategy of sustainable social development, ensuring social progress and justice in particular. This manifests in: Firstly, ensuring the socialist orientation in social policies, controlling social stratification, "timely and effectively handling risks, contradictions, social conflicts, ensuring social order and safety, and protecting the people's rights, legitimate and legal interests. Link economic development policy with social policy, pay attention to the field of social work, and improve people's quality of life"¹⁰. Secondly, "Develop a comprehensive social security system, towards universal coverage with policies to prevent, reduce and overcome risks

for the people, ensure support for disadvantaged groups"¹¹. Thirdly, effectively implementing population and development policies improves population quality and the quality of health care, medical examination, and treatment services for the people¹².

Along with remarkable achievements, the social development management model in politics in Vietnam in recent years has also been limited and inadequate. This is reflected in the following key issues:

Firstly, for the Party, "The Party's leadership method for the political system is still slow to innovate and has an awkward face. The mechanism for controlling power in the Party and State is not complete and synchronous; effectiveness and efficiency are not high."¹³.

Secondly, for the State, "between economic innovation and organizational renewal, the state apparatus's operation has a number of confusing aspects. The power control mechanism is incomplete; The supervision role of the people has not been strongly promoted."¹⁴. The State is still slow to institutionalize the Party's guidelines and direction. There is still a situation where, after the National Assembly passes important laws or policies, it takes too long to wait for Government decrees and guiding circulars of ministries and branches. Therefore, the management role of the State in the model of social development management in politics has not been

fully promoted.

Thirdly, for the people, “The people’s right to mastery is sometimes and somewhere violated; still manifesting facial democracy, separating democracy from discipline and rule.”¹⁵. Representative democracy is the main form, and direct democracy is still rarely promoted. The mechanism to promote democracy is still confusing and unclear.

3.2. Solutions for completing the social development management model in the political field in Vietnam today

Firstly, it is important to build a clean and strong party and improve the party’s leadership and ruling capacity. The party’s ruling capacity is essentially the ability to maintain the state government, to use state power in a scientific, democratic and legal manner to set goals, visions, development orientations; and strategy objectives are expressed by the right policy, directions and strategy for development; and the leadership of the organization to realize the goals, vision; and development orientation in reality. On the basis of the Constitution and laws, the Party leads the State and inspires the entire people and society to realize the Party’s goals, vision, and development orientation. For the Communist Party of Vietnam, the Party’s rule is based on the condition that we already have a socialist rule of law, State of the people, by the people, for the people. The strategic

objective of the Party is to successfully build socialism in Vietnam with “rich people, strong country, democratic, just and civilized society”. Only on this basis will the leadership of the Party in relation to state management and the people’s mastery be harmonious and effective. To do so, it is necessary to build a comprehensive Party in terms of politics, ideology, organization, morality, and cadres in the spirit of the 13th National Congress.¹⁶.

Secondly, building and perfecting the socialist rule of law State in Vietnam. In order to realize the important goal of continuing to build a socialist law-ruled State that creates development, integrity, and action¹⁷ it is necessary to implement the following solutions: i) On the basis of continuing to build and perfect the socialist law-ruled State. In a socialist rule of law country, it is necessary to focus on “improving the capacity and efficiency of management and administration and the capacity to create development”¹⁸. ii) “Strengthening the improvement of the law in association with improving the effectiveness and efficiency of law enforcement organizations”¹⁹. iii) “Improve the capacity to effectively organize the legal system, institutions, and policies for socio-economic development”²⁰. iv) “Concentrating on building a state administration in service of the people, democracy, rule of law, professionalism, modernity,

purity, and strength, ensuring publicity, transparency, consistent and smooth management, effective, efficiency”²¹.

v) “Building a professional, modern, just, fair, and honest Vietnamese judiciary, serving the Fatherland, serving the people”²². vi) Building a contingent of cadres, civil servants, and public employees with high professionalism and creative capacity.

Thirdly, promote socialist democracy and ensure the people’s right to mastery. In order to effectively promote socialist democracy, it is necessary to: i) Continue to concretize and perfect the institution of democratic practice. ii) Correct and effective implementation of direct democracy, representative democracy, and democracy at the grassroots. iii) There is a mechanism to practice the motto “people know, people discuss, people do, people monitor, people supervise, people benefit”. iv) Cadres and party

members, especially leaders, set an example in exercising the people’s right to mastery. v) Upholding and realizing the mastery role and the central position of the people in the construction and defense of the Fatherland. vi) Strictly handle organizations and individuals that take advantage of democracy to disrupt social order, violate democracy, and harm the people’s right to mastery.

The above solutions must be organized and implemented synchronously in practice to contribute to the awareness and proper handling of the relationship between the Party’s leadership, the State’s management, and the people’s mastery in the condition of a single ruling party. In particular, the leadership of the Party is the leading factor determining success in understanding and handling all major relationships, including the relationship between the Party leadership, the State management, and the people as the master.

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