

ON THE NEW VIETNAMESE NATIONAL VALUE SYSTEM

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Abstract: *A national value system is among the most important and fundamental issues of a nation and country. It creates the national identity of a nation and has very important epistemological, theoretical and practical significance for the development of a country. Researching, defining and implementing the construction of a national value system is a historical, objective and urgent necessity in our country today. This paper initially explores some of Vietnamese new national values such as the rule of law; human rights, civil rights; Vietnam's socialist rule of law State of the People, by the People, for the People; socialist democracy and democratization; and socialist-oriented market economy. These are the new national values that have been received, formed, developed and promoted since the country's renovation until now.*

Keywords: *The value of the rule of law; the values of human rights and citizenship; the value of the socialist rule of law State of the People, by the People, for the People; the values of socialist democracy and democratization; the value of socialist-oriented market economy.*

1. On the value of the rule of law

The rule of law is one of the popular recognized values in the world and one of the global values. The rule of law is a value that was born, formed, and developed throughout the history of human society, until now, it is accepted by the United Nations as one of the

common values of the international community together with the values of peace, democracy, consensus, human rights, and national governance.

The rule of law is an aggregate

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ON THE NEW VIETNAMESE NATIONAL VALUE SYSTEM.

value containing many contents and can be understood as component sub-values. The rule of law has the main meaning of the spirit of the rule of law, according to which no entity, including the State, is above the law. Next, the content of the rule of law also includes the restriction (limitation) of state power by law, the division and control of state power, respect, security, and protection of human rights, equality before the law, before the jurisdiction of the Court, the law must be democratic, fair, humane, public and transparent. The main axis of the rule of law is related to the role, position, values, goals, and nature of the law in the life of society, the state and people.

The rule of law as a universal value is widely used around the world both at the national and international levels. The core value of the rule of law is to take the abidance of the law as the basic and fundamental element that governs the activities of all subjects in order to protect the basic values that the United Nations supports, including peace, democracy, consensus, and human rights.

The rule of law is also understood as a principle of organizing social

life, state, and people, and a principle of national governance. The rule of law principle is a value that is both universal and specific. The popularity of the rule of law principle is reflected in the fact that the rule of law principle deals with the relationship between state power and the law; power must be exercised lawfully in accordance with laws that are made public, transparent, and accessible; ensuring equality before the law; and there is a mechanism to protect the law when there is a violation of the law. The specificity of the rule of law principle is reflected in the fact that there are many different approaches to the rule of law; different views on the elements constituting the rule of law (fairness, justice, democracy, human rights); requirements for the content of the law; whether or not it recognizes the content of decentralization,... The peculiarity of the rule of law depends on historical factors, cultural traditions, legality, and political regime where that principle is applied.

The rule of law, as a principle, is a political-legal principle. The rule of law is understood as a guiding principle, ideology, and viewpoint that must be followed with the core

content: the law is paramount, state power is controlled and bound by the law, only be authorized by the law, and must be done on the basis of and within the framework of the law. The rule of law principle requires legal subjects, first of all, state agencies, officials, public servants, and public employees to respect the law, and operate within the limits prescribed and bound by the law and the implementation of the law, including acting or not acting on the basis of the law, is only allowed to do what the law allows and does not violate what the law prohibits. The rule of law is one of the central principles of modern national governance.

The specific requirements of the principles of the rule of law, in turn, are also understood as principles and are referred to as the rule of law principle. Specifically, respect for the Constitution and the law; state power is assigned, controlled, and bound by law; equality before the law; legal safety,...

The rule of law, the principles of the rule of law, as a universal ideology and value of mankind, was received very early by President Ho Chi Minh, from the very beginning to find a way to save the country. That was

Uncle Ho's thought on upholding the Constitution and the rule of law as an important factor and premise of the regime of the rule of law. From a very early age, that thought was expressed by him in "The Claim of the People of Annam" in 1919, in which, the seventh requirement is expressed as follows: *"The seventh article asks the Constitution to promulgate. Hundred things must have the spirit of the rule of law"*. In the work "A shout out to the Ten Thousand Nations Association", Nguyen Ai Quoc clearly stated his claim: *"If we are independent, our country (...) will arrange a Constitution according to the ideals of civil rights"*.

After our country gained independence, President Ho Chi Minh determined that *"Before we were ruled by an autocratic monarchy, then by a no less autocratic colonial regime, so our country has no Constitution and our people are not entitled to freedom and democracy. We must have a democratic Constitution"*.

Thus, *Ho Chi Minh's thought of the rule of law* was formed and put into practice during the Vietnamese Revolution with the pillar elements being people's sovereignty, the

Constitution, and the rights and freedoms of people and citizens. In particular, he considered the Constitution as the premise and condition, democracy based on the Constitution as the essence and human rights, and citizenship as the goal and driving force of the cause of national construction and development.

Up to now, the rule of law and the rule of law principle as global universal values have been received, applied, and creatively developed by our Party and State in the process of national renovation. The rule of law, the principle of the rule of law, the contents and requirements of the rule of law, and the principle of the rule of law have been recognized in the Documents of the Communist Party of Vietnam (the Platform for National Construction in the transitional period towards socialism (supplemented and developed, 2011) and resolutions of the Party Congress), and in the 2013 Constitution of Vietnam. The next problem is how to make that value most realistic contributing to the rapid and sustainable development of the country.

Thus, through the above analysis, it is shown that the rule of law is a

new national value that is received from the value of the rule of law of mankind, and is creatively applied in accordance with the conditions of Vietnam. This is the objective and modal value of building socialism in Vietnam.

2. On the values of human rights and citizenship

Human rights are one of the universally recognized values in the world. Human rights are a value that was born, formed, and developed throughout the history of human society, so far, recognized as one of the common values of the international community by the United Nations along with the values of peace, democracy, rule of law, and national governance.

Human rights and citizen's rights are both an intrinsic value, a target value, and a characteristic value of socialism, of the Socialist rule-of-law state of Vietnam of the People, by the People, and for the People. Human rights and citizen's rights are complex value that includes many specific values as human rights and citizens' rights. These are civil, political, economic, cultural, and social rights as well as the rights of

the new generation. Those rights have the following attributes: universality, inalienability, indivisibility, relatedness, and interdependence.

Human rights include: 1) Social values (that) show respect for individual human dignity; 2) Social values (that) impose obligations on all people to respect because they may violate them; 3) social values (that) are recognized, guaranteed, and protected by national and international laws; 4) social values(that) are both popular and specific.

Human rights and citizen's rights are noble values of Vietnamese society. Recognizing, respecting, guaranteeing, and protecting human rights and citizens' rights is both the essence and goal of the rule-of-law socialist State of Vietnam.

In Ho Chi Minh's thought, there is *a thought for people, towards people, all for the people's freedom, well-being, and happiness*. President Ho Chi Minh affirmed that, in terms of its nature and goals, *"there is no regime that respects people, pays attention to consider the right personal interests and ensures that it is satisfied better than socialist system"*.

President Ho Chi Minh's thoughts

on human beings as well as (on) respecting, guaranteeing, and protecting human rights is a noble humanist thought in the flow of great ideas of mankind. Therefore, in the 1945 Declaration of Independence of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, President Ho Chi Minh solemnly reiterated the core contents of the thought of the American Revolution and the French Revolution: "All men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness".

President Ho Chi Minh associated human rights with the sacred right of self-determination of the nations in the world. He asserted, "All the peoples on the earth are equal from birth; all the peoples have a right to live, to be happy and free"³.

Thus, *Ho Chi Minh's thought on human rights and citizen's rights is a thought for the people, towards people, all for the People's freedom, well-being, and happiness*, considers human rights such as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are natural and inalienable rights and links human rights with the sacred right of self-

determination of the nation.

The point of view of our Party and State is to take people as the center, ensure human rights and integral human development. The State recognizes, respects, guarantees, and protects human rights and the rights of citizens; realizes the goals of rich people, a strong country, democracy, justice, and civilization, and everyone has a satisfied, free, and happy life as well as has conditions for comprehensive development⁴.

The respect, guarantee, and protection of human rights and citizens' rights are associated with the tasks of the State and the entire political and social system in educating awareness and responsibility for people, human rights, and civil rights; requirements to ensure human rights and citizenship are attached with policy and law formulation activities; institutions need to be built sufficiently and effectively to protect human rights and citizens' rights; protecting human rights is identified as a fundamental and important task of the state apparatus

Thus, human rights and citizenship are new national values that are formed, developed, and promoted in

the process of national renewal and international integration of Vietnam. This is the value with the essence, goal, and content of socialism in Vietnam.

3. On the value of the socialist rule of law State of the people, by the people, for the people

The rule of law state is a universal value of mankind. This is also a composite value including many component values.

The rule of law state is expressed in two aspects: 1) thought/ideology, theory, and opinion; 2) the practice of organizing state power with diverse and abundant models and with a long history. Those ideas, theories, views, and models all point to a common idea of how to organize socio-political life according to the requirements of ensuring democracy, and justice, and for the people on the basis of law; to establish the principle of obeying the law in the relationship between law - state power - human rights.

Human history shows that the rule of law state is not a type of state but a good way to manage the state and society, to organize and operate state power in the spirit of abiding law, towards people, liberating people, respecting human

dignity, recognizing, respecting, guaranteeing, and protecting human rights and citizenship, establishing and implementing values such as democracy, justice, fairness, and equality. The rule of law state has common characteristics that have been tested in the world and are generally recognized as the necessary and sufficient requirements and conditions for the practical implementation of its ideas and values. These are: Affirming the sovereignty and subject role of the People in the state power; upholding the role of the Constitution and the law in power activities and social life; ensuring the observance of the Constitution; respecting, ensuring, and protecting human rights, citizens' rights, the values of fairness and justice; the legal system is democratic, fair, humane, complete, unified, synchronous, transparent and accessible, and is strictly, consistently and effectively implemented; decentralization and control of state power; and judicial independence.

The rule of law state is universal and specific. The universality of the rule of law state first shows that this is the value and quintessence of humanity. It is formed and developed in a long

history, tested, and expressed in the practice of organizing and operating state power of countries around the world. There are many models of the rule of law state but within each of them, there are common and specific elements. The specificity of the rule of law state comes from the level of socio-economic development; cultural characteristics, including political culture and legal culture; traditions of organizing the lives of communities, and the nature and characteristics of the legal system,... When applying the model of the rule of law state, all countries derive first of all from common values on the basis of combining with national characteristics. That combination does not interfere with each other, in which indispensable elements in the rule of law state are universal factors, placed in a unified relationship with national-specific factors.

During his revolutionary activities, President Ho Chi Minh received the core contents of the rule of law state in the world and applied them to Vietnam's conditions, then forming his thought on the rule of law state. Ho Chi Minh's thought on the rule of law state is expressed

ON THE NEW VIETNAMESE NATIONAL VALUE SYSTEM.

in the following core contents: *First*, the idea of “taking the People as the root”, therefore, the people are the source and subject of state power; *second*, the idea of doing for people, towards people, all for the people’s freedom, well-being and happiness; *third*, the idea of upholding the role of the Constitution, the rule of law and the law; *fourth*, the idea of assignment and control of state power; *fifth*, the idea of state management and social management by law; implementing the law fairly with incorruptible ethical administration and judiciary as well as serving the Fatherland and the People; combining social management by law with ethical education; *sixth*, the idea of the leadership and ruling role of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

During the process of leading Vietnam’s revolution and the cause of national renewal, the Communist Party of Vietnam always derives from the reality of Vietnam’s revolutionary history, the practice of national renewal, and creatively applies the views of Marxism and Leninism, at the same time, has selectively absorbed the quintessential human values, including the idea of the rule of law state.

On the basis of Marxism - Leninism and Ho Chi Minh’s thought on the rule of law state, our Party perceives the rule of law state as the quintessential value of humanity, has selectively absorbed that thought, and built an overall view of the socialist rule of law state in Vietnam. The Party’s theoretical awareness of the socialist rule of law state of the People, by the People, for the People is a long, durable development process and is closely linked with the history of the Vietnamese nation’s revolutionary struggle. Up to now, the overall model of the socialist rule of law State of the People, by the People, for the People has been recognized in the Party’s documents, and institutionalized in the Constitutions, especially in the 2013 Constitution of our country. The overall model of the Socialist rule of law State of Vietnam that our Party has put forward includes viewpoints, general objectives, specific objectives, central issues, tasks, and solutions for constructing and perfecting the socialist rule of law state of Vietnam and organizing the implementation of that overall model. Next, the Vietnamese socialist rule of law state model has been formed in practice

and is constantly being improved with the general operating mechanism “the Party leads, the State manages, and the people master”. This makes an important contribution to the great achievements of the country’s innovative cause.

Thus, the socialist rule of law state in Vietnam is the general model of the state during the transition to socialism in our country, one of the three pillars of national development. The socialist rule of law state of the People, by the People, for the People as a value, is reflected in the viewpoints on the Vietnam socialist rule of law state and its reality in our country. The value of Vietnamese socialist rule of law state is a modal value for building socialism in Vietnam. This is a new national value that is formed, developed, and promoted in the process of national renewal.

4. On the values of socialist democracy and democratization

Democracy is a universal value of mankind. It can be said that this is one of the values with the longest history of development in human values. Socialist democracy is a type of democracy and a noble value of a socialist society. Democracy in general

and socialist democracy in particular are also a set of values including many specific values in it.

In its most general form, socialist democracy affirms the people’s sovereignty and the people’s subjective role in state power. The people are the source of state power, exercise state power through democratic forms, and are the official, justifiable and legitimate source of state power.

Stemming from and on the basis of the thought of recognizing the natural and inalienable rights of the people, the idea of people’s sovereignty over the state has been affirmed as a fundamental characteristic and popular value of the Socialist Rule of Law State of Vietnam: The People are the supreme master of the State and the people’s sovereignty is inalienable. All national decisions must be based on the consent and consensus of the people and reflect the will and interests of the people. The contemporary meaning of the value of people’s sovereignty is reflected in the State’s responsibility to serve the people, to properly and effectively implement the people’s delegation, and to prevent the risk of taking advantage, abusing, and manipulating power for personal

ON THE NEW VIETNAMESE NATIONAL VALUE SYSTEM.

or group interests, going against and harming the interests of the people, the country, or the nation.

In the process of national renovation, thinking and awareness of the value as well as the importance and role of building and promoting socialist democracy have become more and more complete and profound; affirming democracy is the essence of the regime, both the goal and the driving force of the renovation and development of the country; the socialist democracy in Vietnam shows both universal democratic values of humanity and specific values that reflect the identity, cultural characteristics and traditions of Vietnam; has the core content of recognizing, respecting, ensuring and protecting human rights, citizenship and the people's mastery associated with the responsibilities and obligations of citizens in order to create more and more adequate conditions for the release of all human potentials and creative capacities.

Thinking and perception are more and more comprehensively and fully about the objective necessity to promote the development of forms of democracy as democratic values, about the relationship between

direct democracy and representative democracy in the direction of promoting direct democracy; promoting democracy needs to be associated with strict law enforcement and discipline; better awareness of democracy in the Party has a decisive meaning in the organization and operation of the whole socio-political system associated with the democratization of the entire social life; Only with democracy will there be social consensus, then only with social consensus will create the strength of national unity.

The thought of democracy and democratization of social life has been positively received by society and has been gradually realized. Democracy and the implementation of democracy as well as the democratic rights of the people are gradually institutionalized by law. Democracy in the economic field has pioneered and achieved certain results. The right to freedom of business was gradually expanded and guaranteed in practice. Democracy in the political field has been step by step started, promoted, and initially achieved positive results. Democracy and democratization in other fields of social life have made certain

improvements. The sense of mastery, the sense of democracy, the political-legal positivity, and the level and capacity of mastery of the people and the society have been gradually raised. Many measures are promulgated and implemented to promote democracy. Grassroots democracy is promoted and contributed to the democratization process; forms of democratic practice are expanded and institutionalized.

In order to continue to promote the values of democracy and democratization, it is necessary to grasp and well solve the relationship between democracy, democratization, and law with the following contents:

- Democracy is the people's power, and the people's sovereignty; strengthening democracy means strengthening the people's power and people's sovereignty. Democracy must be legalized and institutionalized.

- The more democracy is strengthened, the more respect must be given to the law. Democracy is the essence, fresh air, and flow for the law, and on the contrary, the law is the environment that nurtures and fosters democracy and orients it.

- Enhancing democratization goes hand in hand with strengthening law,

discipline, order, and responsibility.

- Institutionalizing and legitimizing concretely and clearly the forms of democracy, the process of democratization, and the legal mechanisms of the implementation of democracy.

- Promoting the implementation of direct democracy and forms of doing direct democracy; strongly renovating thinking about elections such as being fully and deeply aware of free elections, exercising voting rights, constituencies, and standards of elected representatives.

- Completing representative democratic institutions and forms of representative democracy in the direction of improving the responsibility of representative democratic institutions before voters, improving the quality of operation of representative institutions, and clearly defining the criteria for evaluating the operation of these institutions which must be the satisfaction of the people and the degree of assurance of the people's legitimate rights and interests.

- Firmly grasping and well solving the relationship between direct democracy and representative

ON THE NEW VIETNAMESE NATIONAL VALUE SYSTEM.

democracy in the direction as follows: Direct democracy is the people's power, people's sovereignty, and forms representative democracy. Representative democracy is a proxy democracy. The more developed the society is, the more direct democracy is promoted, in which representative democracy promotes direct democracy.

Thus, the above analysis shows that socialist democracy and democratization are one of the core values of the national value system and socialism in Vietnam, one of the three pillars of national development, and has been increasingly promoted in the process of national renewal, making an important contribution to the great achievements of the national renovation cause. This is a target, driving force value, and is a method in Vietnam's national value system.

5. On the value of the socialist-oriented market economy

The market economy is a popular type of economic development in the world and is a common value of mankind. The socialist-oriented market economy is an economic type and a new value of socialist society in Vietnam. The market economy

in general and the socialist-oriented market economy in particular is also a set of values including many specific values in it. Thus, the socialist-oriented market economy is a value that is both common and specific to Vietnam.

In the process of national renewal, our Party has selectively absorbed the positive values of the market economy, applied it creatively to the specific conditions of our country, and built a general model of a socialist-oriented market economy. Our Party is becoming more and more aware of the necessity, goals, nature, characteristics, structure, institutions, and operating mechanism of the socialist-oriented market economy. During the renovation process, from practice, our Party is aware more clearly that the commodity economy and market economy are the necessary methods and conditions for building socialism; then from the application of the market mechanism to the development of the market economy, the concept is formed and it is step by step to concretize the socialist-oriented market economy model and institutions. It can be said that it is a great achievement and value of the country's renovation in the

economic field, contributing to human knowledge about the development of the market economy.

The socialist-oriented market economy is the general economic model of the transition to socialism in our country. The socialist-oriented market economy in our country is a multi-sector commodity economy operating under the market mechanism with the management of the State and the leadership of the Communist Party. This is a step forward in the Party's theoretical thinking.

Our Party clearly indicates the content and factors to ensure the socialist orientation in the market economy, first of all, to realize the goal of “rich people, strong country, democracy, justice and civilization”; to vigorously liberate and continuously develop production power, gradually perfect progressive production relations in line with the development level of the productive forces, and improve people's living standards; to promote hunger eradication and poverty alleviation, encourage people to rise up to get rich legitimately, help others escape poverty and step by step become better off; to ensure economic growth in association with

the realization of social progress and justice in every step and each development policy; to promote the people's right to master society, and to ensure the economic management role of the socialist rule of law State under the leadership of the Party.

The ownership regime and economic components are gradually more aware. Vietnam's market economy is a socialist-oriented market economy with many forms of ownership, and many economic sectors, in which, the government economy plays the leading role. All economic sectors are important components of the government economy. Subjects of all economic sectors are equal, cooperate and compete according to the law.

Market factors and types have been formed more and more synchronously, ensuring supply-demand relationships and healthy competition; flexible and effective use of macroeconomic policy tools according to market principles.

The role and function of the State in the market economy are intended to be fundamentally renewed both in perception and in practical action. The State manages, operates, and regulates the socialist-oriented market economy through laws, strategies,

ON THE NEW VIETNAMESE NATIONAL VALUE SYSTEM.

projects, plans, policies, economic tools, and necessary material forces in accordance with the principles of the market economy; builds and perfects institutions, creates a macro-economic environment, a business environment, and limits negative impacts of the market economy. The state is an economic subject in the market.

Thus, with the above arguments, it can be affirmed that the socialist-oriented market economy is one of the new values of the Vietnamese national value system as well as socialism in Vietnam. It has been formed in the process of national renewal, one of the three pillars of national development, and made an important contribution to the great achievements of the national renovation cause. This is a modal value in the national value system and is an indispensable method and condition for building socialism in our country.

In terms of viewpoints, objectives, tasks, and solutions to continue building, perfecting, and promoting the national value system:

We suppose that it is necessary to study theories, summarize practices, and consult foreign experiences to build an Overall View or Strategy on

building and promoting the national value system (or Vietnamese value system) to serve the development of the country. That Overall View or Strategy includes *the viewpoints, goals, tasks, and solutions to build, perfect, and promote the national value system for national development*. The first step can be sketched out thought about the Overall View or Strategy as follows:

- *About the point of view*. The foundation of the national value system is Marxism and Leninism, and Ho Chi Minh's thought; the national value system is the ideological foundation and development goal of the country and nation; the national value system is a value system that follows the value system of the nation in history; the national value system needs to ensure the highest interests of the country and nation; the national value system is a soft power for national development such as building and defending the socialist Vietnamese Fatherland; building and perfecting the national value system is building an important and core element in the spiritual foundation for national development;... Ho Chi Minh's thoughts on values, that is independence for the Vietnamese

people; freedom for the People; happiness for the People; people's sovereignty; the right to self-determination of the nation; the rule of law, law, and other values.

- *About objectives.* The general objective is to study, identify, develop, perfect, promote, increase, actualize, ideologicalize, form lifestyle, and behavioralize the national value system for serving national development.

- *About the tasks and solutions.* Tasks and solutions include tasks and solutions on the innovation of thinking and awareness; on institutional improvement; on the realization of the national value system; on the responsibility of the State; on promoting the role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and the People in building and perfecting the Vietnamese national value system; and on the leadership of the Party.

A group of tasks and solutions on renewing thinking and raising awareness of Vietnam's national value system in the most general form includes strengthening research, summarizing practice, building a complete and comprehensive system of theories on the Vietnamese national value system; promoting

propaganda, dissemination, and education to raise awareness about the national value system, and request to continue building, perfecting and promoting the national value system of Vietnam; to respect (highlight) the Vietnamese national value system in the development of the country.

A group of tasks and solutions on continuing to build and perfect the institution of Vietnam's national value system includes full and comprehensive institutionalization of the national value system; developing corresponding mechanisms to effectively implement the national value system.

A group of tasks and solutions on realization, ideologicalization, lifestyle, and behaviorization of the national value system includes persistence in building a sense of and a way of life that respects (highlights) values in the officials, party members, civil servants, public employees, and the whole society; putting contents about values into the educational curricula of the national education system.

A group of tasks and solutions on the responsibility of the State includes continuing to build a national value

ON THE NEW VIETNAMESE NATIONAL VALUE SYSTEM.

system to meet the new development requirements of the country; continuing to perfect the mechanism for effective implementation of the national value system; realizing the national value system through formulating and organizing the implementation of policies, laws, projects, programs, and plans for national development as well as regional and local development.

A group of tasks and solutions on promoting the role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and the People in building and perfecting the national value system of Vietnam includes continuing to renovate the organization and operation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, socio-political organizations, and social organizations in building and perfecting the national value system. Building and perfecting a mechanism for the Vietnam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations to promote the socio-political positivity of the people in consolidating and spreading the national value system in society,

strengthening the strength of the great national unity in the construction and defense of the Fatherland.

A group of tasks and solutions for strengthening the leadership of the Party: it is necessary to research to develop a strategy on the Vietnamese national value system. That Strategy must aim to: 1) Deepening existing national values such as national independence and socialism; rich people, strong country; democracy, justice, civilization, and happiness; national sovereignty; peace, unity, independence, and territorial integrity; people's sovereignty; power belongs to the People; state power is unified; great national unity,...; 2) establishing (forming and affirming) new national values such as freedom, the rule of law; human rights, and citizenship; Socialist rule of law State of Vietnam; socialist democracy, democratization and promoting socialist democracy; socialist-oriented market economy; Party leadership and other values.

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