

THE VALUES OF SOCIALISM IN VIETNAM IN THE PERIOD 1930 - 2022

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Abstract: *In this paper the author outlines the brief process of building socialism in Vietnam. The process was theoretically prepared by the Communist Party of Vietnam as early as 1930. The author argues that the specific ideas about socialism and building socialism reflect distinctive characteristics of Vietnam, shaped by the complex historical and social conditions of the country. The author emphasizes that within the whole process of building socialism in Vietnam, the most striking period was the emergence of a renewed socialist Vietnam—one that is open to integration and continuously developing in recent decades. Over more than three decades since Doi Moi (Renovation), a long period of peace and stability in the country's history has created conditions for Vietnam to awaken its spirit of independence and self-reliance, while adapting to a dynamic, civilized, and developing world.*

Keywords: *Vietnam, Communist Party of Vietnam, socialism, values of socialism, Renovation.*

The process of building socialism in Vietnam was theoretically prepared by the Communist Party of Vietnam, but it truly began only 25 years later, in 1955, after the resistance against the French ended, the country gained independence, but was divided into two parts. The South was under the Republic of Vietnam, with direct support from the United States. Only the North carried out the socialist revolution to establish socialism in Vietnam.

The 1950s to the 1970s was a period of prosperity for the Soviet Union and other countries in the socialist system. The construction of socialism in Vietnam was encouraged by these

achievements, so many views and ideas about socialism in Vietnam inevitably carried faith and hope in the Soviet model.

It (socialism) started with land reform, followed by the transformation of capitalist private enterprises, collectivization of agriculture, and industrialization. Many achievements were made, especially in the industrialization of the country and the development of a new mode of production. However, many issues arose, including naive mistakes and left-wing extremism in building socialism,

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particularly in the land reform process.

After a short time, the face of the country has changed a lot. However, the period of enthusiasm for building socialism did not last long. Only in 1964, in the North the period of peace ended because the US waged a fierce war of destruction in the North, and the whole country was in a state of war. The work of building socialism in the North in the following years continued, but the situation was different than before, due to the task of supporting the resistance war in South Vietnam.

In 1975, the South was liberated, and the country was unified to build socialism. However, during this period, Vietnam was besieged and subject to embargoes; international aid to Vietnam was interrupted; the socialist camp faced many problems and weakened; wars broke out at both ends of the country, leaving the nation facing numerous challenges and plunging into a severe economic and social crisis. As a result, the socialist construction effort across the country not only failed to achieve significant results, but also caused many complex economic and social issues.

The *Doi Moi* (Renovation) process, which began in 1986, opened the way for the country to escape the crisis. More importantly, *Doi Moi* brought about profound changes in the conception and practice of building socialism in Vietnam. Many ideas about socialism in Vietnam were adjusted, renewed, and proved successful when applied in practice. Ideas about socialism and its essential characteristics to be

built in Vietnam, the length of the transitional period, the role of private property, exploitation, capitalism, and the market economy—concepts now widely embraced by society—are fundamentally different from those in the past.

The country, by freeing itself from rigid dogma, overcame the crisis by the late 1980s, proactively embraced globalization, integrated more deeply with the world, joined international institutions, and used the market economy to build socialism... In 2009, Vietnam got rid of its slow development and became a middle-income country. Currently, although it is still facing many pressing and pressing socio-economic problems, but Vietnam is one of the 40 major economies in the world with GDP per capita is about 3,700 USD per year (according to the World Bank in 2022¹), many development indicators are at a positive level, the rate of participation in the Internet and social networks is very high. Vietnam is a reliable partner of many countries, and the living standards of many classes of residents have been greatly improved. compared to the past and compared with some countries in the region.

Thus, socialism in Vietnam was only actually built for about 10 years, from 1955 to 1964. From 1975 to 1986, the need to survive and stand firm for development became greater than the need to build socialism. From 1986 to the present, the dominant trend has been to find a way to renew socialism both in terms of understanding and in practice.

To date, as assessed in the documents of the 13th Party Congress, the theory about the renewal path, socialism, and the way to socialism in our country has been increasingly refined and gradually realized. Understanding of the market economy has become more complete. The country has achieved great, historically significant accomplishments and is developing strongly and comprehensively compared to the past, and has never had such national strength, potential, position, and international prestige as it does today².

I. Socialism in Vietnam in the period 1930 – 2022: on theoretical issues

Surveying Party documents from 1930 to the present, the paper shows that the main theoretical ideas on building socialism in Vietnam include:

1. Vietnam, from the bourgeois-democratic revolution and the land reform revolution, will progress towards a communist society; the Indochinese countries will, with the help of the proletarian dictatorship of other nations, bypass the capitalist stage and move directly to socialism (Brief Program, 1930).

2. Three phases of the Vietnamese revolution - national liberation, consolidation of the people's democratic state; abolishing the feudal system, implementing "land to the tiller"; advancing to socialism (Vietnamese Revolutionary Program, 1951).

3. The revolution in the North could not follow a death end but must go to the path of life, must go to socialism

(Political Report of the Third Party Congress, 1960).

Those are the three major ideas that were formed from 1930 to the Second Party Congress of the Party. These ideas affirm the development trend of the Vietnamese revolution: after implementing the national-democratic revolution and abolishing the French colonial yoke, Vietnam must necessarily eliminate the remnants of feudalism, carry out the land revolution, perfect the people's democracy, and move up to socialism. The international context of Vietnam in the early 20th century allowed Vietnam to choose the path towards socialism, which, in theory, was the most optimal and desirable path.

From the 3th to the 4th Party Congress, the cause of building socialism in Vietnam was argued and confirmed by the following ideas:

1. The socialist revolution is the most radical and profound revolution, it abolishes private ownership of means of production, implements public ownership, and opens the path for production to advance from backwardness to modernity (Report on Politics of the 3rd Party Congress, 1960).

2. The North has all the conditions to bypass the stage of capitalist development and advance directly to socialism (Political Report of the 3rd Party Congress, 1960).

- (3) In building socialism, alongside the revolution in ideology, it is necessary to carry out a socialist revolution in culture and technology (Political Report of the 3rd Party Congress, 1960).

(4) The transitional period begins when the North is completely liberated and will end when the construction of socialism is fundamentally completed; industrialize socialism by prioritizing the rational development of heavy industry, while also striving to develop agriculture and light industry... (Political Report of the 3rd Party Congress, 1960).

(5) The socialist revolution is a process of class struggle that creates new forces of production (FOP), new relations of production (ROP), new infrastructure, and a new superstructure, as well as new material life and new spiritual and cultural life (Political Report of the 4th Party Congress, 1976).

(6) The socialist revolution in Vietnam is the process of carrying out three revolutions: a revolution in the relations of production, a revolution in science and technology, and a revolution in ideology and culture, with the revolution in science and technology being the key... (Political Report of the 4th Party Congress, 1976).

(7) Socialist collective ownership means collective ownership in politics, economy, and culture... (Political Report of the 4th Party Congress, 1976).

(8) The general line of the socialist revolution: firmly grasp the proletarian dictatorship, promote the collective ownership of the working people; simultaneously carry out three revolutions; accelerate socialist industrialization; build a system of collective ownership, large-scale production, a new culture, and the new socialist person (Political Report of the

4th Party Congress, 1976).

(9) Economic policy: build the material and technical foundations of socialism, elevate the economy from small-scale production to large-scale socialist production; combine the development of the forces of production with the establishment and improvement of new relations of production. The period to move the economy from small-scale to large-scale socialist production is about 20 years (Political Report of the 4th Party Congress, 1976). 8. The general line of the socialist revolution: To firmly grasp the dictatorship of the proletariat, promote the collective mastery of the working people; conduct three revolutions simultaneously; promote socialist industrialization; build a regime of collective ownership, mass production, a new culture and building a new socialist human (Political Report of the 4th Party Congress, 1976).

Those were new, creative ideas but many ideas had not yet been tested in the practice, because the country's situation from the 1960s to 1986 had many vital problems to be solved before building socialism according to theoretical models. Peace was only temporary in the North for the period of 10 years from 1955 to 1964. From 1964 to 1975 there was war in the whole country, the task of national liberation was given priority above all else. Since 1975, the severe socio-economic crisis has significantly limited all wishes to build socialism. And by 1986, the world and Vietnam's practical situations were full of challenges, forcing society to

innovate. The cause of Doi Moi, in fact, has brought new ideas to the theory of socialism in Vietnam, which are summarized in the documents of the 6th, 7th, 11th, 13th Party Congresses as follows:

1. The transition period is a relatively long historical process, going through many stages; It is not in a hurry to immediately eliminate the non-socialist economic sectors; The multi-sector economic structure will exist for a long time in socialist society (Political Report of the 6th Party Congress, 1986).

2. The productive forces are constrained not only when the relations of production are backward, but also when the relations of production have elements that go too far (Political Report of the 6th Party Congress, 1986).

3. Taking the people as the root; Starting from reality, respecting and acting according to objective laws; Combining the strength of the nation with the strength of the times (Political Report of the 6th Party Congress, 1986).

4. National independence is a prerequisite for the implementation of socialism, and socialism is a solid foundation for national independence (the 1991 Platform and 2011 Platform).

5. Capitalism still has potential for development. Developing a market economy and building a socialist rule of law state are features of socialism but the abolition of private property is not a feature of socialism (Programme 1991 and Platform 2011).

6. The transition to socialism is a long process, going through many

stages (Programme 1991 and Platform 2011).

7. Building socialism in today's conditions requires successful resolution of 10 major relationships (Principle 2011 and Political Report of the 13th Party Congress, 2021).

At the 13th Party Congress, achievements in national construction and development and socialist construction were reflected in theory into valuable and meaningful theoretical ideas that paved the way for the country to continue to develop. development with new expectations for a prosperous and happy Vietnamese society in the middle of the twenty-first century:

8. Developing a market economy with many forms of ownership is one of the major orientations of economic development. The private economy is one of the driving forces of the economy in the transition period (Political Report of the 13th Party Congress, 2021).

9. Theory of renovation, socialism and the way to socialism in our country has

been improved and gradually realized; awareness of the market economy is more and more complete (Political Report of the 13th Party Congress, 2021).

10. By 2045 Vietnam will become a developed, high-income country (Political Report of the 13th Party Congress, 2021).

II. Socialism in Vietnam in the period 1930 – 2022: on practical issues

In the period from 1955 to 1975, the

country was divided. The construction of socialism in the North is often divided into the following periods: (1) The years 1955–1957 were a period of economic recovery, healing the wounds of war, completing land reform, and laying the foundation for the North’s progress towards socialism. (2) The years 1958–1960 focused on implementing the task of socialist transformation of the economy. (3) The years 1961–1975 were dedicated to developing a socialist economy in the context of war.

After 1975, the country was unified, and the whole nation began building socialism. However, the socio-economic situation from 1975 to 1986 was marked by crisis. From 1986 to the present, the Renovation (Đổi mới) process has freed up internal resources, attracted external resources, and gradually led to the development of Vietnam’s economy and society. In 2009, Vietnam surpassed the threshold of 1,000 USD per capita, becoming a middle-income country. According to the World Bank, Vietnam is a successful developed country. Economic reforms since 1986 combined with favorable global trends have rapidly helped Vietnam grow from one of the poorest countries in the world to a low-middle-income country within a short period of time. generation. From 2002 to 2020, GDP per capita increased 3,6 times, reaching nearly 3.700 USD³.

1. Land reform in the North 1953-1956

Between 1953 and 1956, land reform was carried out in northern Vietnam. This was part of the “land reform”

program, aimed at redistributing rural land, eliminating the remnants of feudalism and imperialism, and was implemented by the Communist Party and the government of Vietnam.

Before 1945, in the North, only 4% of the population owned 24.5% of the total land. By early 1945, 60% of farmers owned only about 10% of the land⁴. The feudal landlords, French colonial landlords, and Catholic landlords, who made up less than 5% of the population, controlled 70% of the land⁵. The famine of 1945, which led to the deaths of 2 million people, disproportionately affected landless farmers, who had the highest mortality rate.

Based on the “land reform” model of China (1946–1949), land reform in the North was organized with direct advice from China. On December 4, 1953, the National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam convened and passed the Land Reform Law 197/HL. This law was officially promulgated on December 19, 1953.

The Law on Land Reform stipulated the policy of confiscating all or part of the land and property of each type of subject; stipulated the price for the purchase of land, cattle, agricultural tools, etc., and the payment term. Unauthorized arrest and killing, beatings, torture, or any other form of humiliation are prohibited. The Party also appointed a leadership committee for the land reform program, consisting of: Campaign Initiator and Ideological Leader: Hồ Chí Minh (President of the Labour Party of Vietnam and Head of

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State); Head of the Steering Committee: Trường Chinh (General Secretary); Head of the Pilot Steering Committee for Thái Nguyên province: Hoàng Quốc Việt (Politburo member); Head of the Pilot Steering Committee for Thanh Hóa, Nghệ An, Hà Tĩnh provinces: Lê Văn Lương (Alternate Politburo member); Direct Director of Campaign Operations: Hồ Việt Thắng (Alternate Central Committee member).

At the third session of the First National Assembly of Vietnam (December 4, 1953), President Hồ Chí Minh stated: “Our Land Reform Law is based on benevolence and righteousness, and is reasonable and just. It not only allows poor peasants, landless peasants, and middle peasants to own land, but also takes into account the interests of wealthy peasants and landlords...”⁶.

Land reform began with a rent reduction program. From 1953 to 1956, a total of 8 rounds of rent reduction were carried out in over 1,875 communes. The Land Reform Teams entered villages and implemented the “3 Together” policy with poor and middle peasants. All families were classified into 7 categories: (1) landlords; (2) wealthy peasants; (3) middle peasants (hard); (4) middle peasants (moderate); (5) middle peasants (weak); (6) poor peasants; (7) landless peasants. Landlords were further categorized as: (1) ruthless landlords; (2) regular landlords; (3) landlords who supported the resistance.

From 1953 to 1956, 5 rounds of land reform were conducted in 3,314

communes. By the end of 1954, the reform was intensified, especially in Thái Bình, where 294 communes were included in the reform program.

In the first stage, the reform achieved good results, contributing to boosting the morale of the army and people in the resistance war against the French. However, in the later period, the reform caused many losses in the localities. From middle of the year 1955, in some places, farmers became violent, and denounced rampant, causing many people to be wronged, typically Mrs. Cat Hanh Long, ie Nguyen Thi Nam, in Thai Nguyen province. Many landlords’ families with achievements in the resistance war, including party members, cadres and soldiers serving the resistance were also denounced. Many “special people’s courts” have abused their power and arbitrarily pronounced sentences.

The stipulated figure of 5.68% landlords in the population was much higher than the actual percentage. The total number of people classified as landlords during the land reform was recorded as 172,008 individuals. Among them, “ruthless landlords” numbered 26,453 people, and after corrections, 20,493 people were found to have been wrongly classified, with an error rate of 77.4%. “Regular landlords” were 82,777 people, and after corrections, 51,480 were found to have been wrongly classified, with an error rate of 62%. “Landlords who supported the resistance” numbered 586, and after corrections, 290 were

found to have been wrongly classified, with an error rate of 49%. “Wealthy peasants” numbered 62,192, and after corrections, 51,003 were found to have been wrongly classified, with an error rate of 82%. The total number of people classified during the land reform was 172,008, of whom 123,266 were found to have been wrongly classified after corrections, with an error rate of 71.66%⁷.

These mistakes were addressed in a speech by lawyer Nguyễn Mạnh Tường at the Vietnam Fatherland Front on October 30, 1956⁸.

After realizing the extent of these injustices, in February 1956, the 9th Central Committee Conference ordered a suspension of the land reform program. On August 24, 1956, *Nhân dân* newspaper announced that some loyal party members had been mistakenly executed during the land reform process. In September 1956, the 10th Central Committee Conference imposed disciplinary measures on the leadership of the land reform program: Comrade Trường Chinh was required to resign as General Secretary, Comrade Hoàng Quốc Việt was removed from the Politburo, and Comrade Lê Văn Lương was also resigned as an alternate member of the Politburo, Comrade Ho Viet Thang had to leave the Central Committee. On October 29, 1956, General Vo Nguyen Giap, who did not participate in the Land Reform program, on behalf of the President read the report of the 10th Central Conference publicly admitting mistakes and launching

a campaign to correct the problem. wrong. In December 1956, at the 6th session of the National Assembly, term I, Ho Chi Minh cried and on behalf of the government admitted shortcomings in land reform.

According to the census as of September 1957, the correction campaign has restored honor and returned property about 70-80% of convicts.

The reform actually redistributed land to the majority of farmers in the North. 810,000 hectares of land in the Northern Delta and Midlands, from 1953 to 1957, was divided among 2 million farming households (about 10 million people), accounting for about 72,8% of the farming households in the North. The reform eliminated the landlord class and the remnants of feudalism in the North. 1957 was a year of great harvest, food production reached over 4,5 million tons, far exceeding pre-war levels. The North has solved the grain famine, a chronic disease since feudal times. After 3 years of reform (1955-1957), the cultivated area in the whole North increased, rice yield increased by 30,8%, food production increased by 57%, food per capita increased by 43,6%.

2. The process of socialist cooperation in the North before 1975⁹

As early as the late 1950s, the process of collectivization following the Soviet model began in the North. According to this model, cooperatives are economic units next to the state economic system. The decision-making power of the

cooperative is almost always subject to the guidance of the plans from the superiors. Membership of agricultural cooperatives is almost mandatory, although in theory it is voluntary.

In just a short time, by the end of the 1960s, the whole North had more than 50.000 cooperatives established in the following industries and fields: agriculture, handicrafts, trade, fishery, credit, more than 41.000 agricultural production cooperatives were established with 2,4 million households, accounting for 84,8% of the rural population and cultivating about 76% of agricultural land. Since the late 1960s, the government has encouraged the consolidation of cooperatives, thereby reducing the number from more than 40.000 to less than 20.000. By that time, the cooperative had an average of 300-500 households and an area of 200-300 ha. By 1975, 95% of rural households in the North were members of cooperatives who cultivated over 95% of agricultural land and produced 92% of total agricultural output¹⁰.

Agricultural production cooperatives (APC) directly manage the land, organize the production, supply and consumption of products. In addition, 5% of the land in each cooperative is allocated to individual farming households. In practice, there is little or no incentive to work in the cooperative system. In many cooperatives, people do not have enough to eat. To the extent that 5% plots contribute 40-60% of total production and 60-70% of farmers' income.

In the South, after 1975, collectivization was also applied. By 1980, there were 1.750 agricultural production cooperatives and 18.800 production teams. These units account for 50% of rural families and use 36% of the arable land. However, the cooperatives only existed for a very short time, after which private production continued to be as small as before. By 1985, only about 750 agricultural cooperatives remained in operation.

3. The process of socialist industrialization in the North before 1975

According to the Soviet economic model, industry in the North developed relatively strongly, growing 18% per year in the years 1960-1964. The number of workers also increased to more than one million. Industry attracts 49% of state capital compared with 22% of spending on agriculture. Heavy industries such as electricity, metallurgy, chemicals, and minerals account for 80% of the budget. Light industry produces consumer goods, which is spent 20%. State-owned industry accounts for 93,1% of the total value of industrial output in the North, playing a key role in the national economy. Heavy industry output in 1965 increased three times compared to 1960, state-owned industry accounted for 93% of the total value of industrial output in the North. The electricity industry, until 1965, built 40 power plants (compared to 5 plants before 1954), bringing the total electricity supply 3,4 times higher¹¹.

From the point of view of “Prioritizing the development of heavy industry reasonably on the basis of the development of agriculture and light industry”, the North advocates to attach importance to state-owned industry. The five-year plan 1961-1965 set the target of increasing industrial output by 150% compared to 1960. Small and private factories were gradually eliminated. By 1964, only state-owned enterprises remained. Thai Nguyen iron and steel zone with a capacity of 200,000 tons/year was established in 1959, Uong Bi thermal power plant was built in 1961, Thac Ba hydroelectric power plant was built in 1971, Bac Giang fertilizer plant was built in 1960, Lam Thao Super Phosphat factory built in 1959... In light industry, Viet Tri industrial park was built in 1959, Thuong Dinh (Hanoi) industrial park was built in 1957, Van Diem sugar factory was built in 1958, Hai Duong porcelain factory built in 1960, Van Dien battery factory built in 1960, 8-3 textile factory built in 1960...

In the period 1965-1975, the industrial growth rate decreased sharply due to sabotage war, only 3,9% per year. In general, the industrial growth rate in the North in the period 1960-1975 was quite limited, except for the coal, electricity, iron and steel industries (increasing about 2-8 times). However, the price is quite high, so it cannot be exported, but mainly supplies to the domestic market. Thus, in the period 1955-1975, the value of total industrial output increased 16,6 times, an average annual increase of 14,7%. Industrial

products per capita in 1975 reached a much higher level than in 1955, in which: electricity 13,8 times, coal 4,8 times, cement 25,2 times, paper 14,5 times times, cloth 4,8 times, sugar 4 times. In 1975, the North had 1.335 state-owned industrial enterprises, an increase of 323 enterprises compared to 1960. Some heavy industries had quite large production capacity. The position of industry in gross social product increased from 32,7% in 1960 to 42,6% in 1975; national income from 18,2% to 28,7% in 15 years respectively¹².

4. Socialist economy in the North in the period 1954-1975

In the period 1946 - 1954, policies on land, rent reduction, income reduction, and land reform were implemented. Food per capita in 1957 reached 303 kg. GDP per capita of family members of agricultural cooperatives in 1970 increased by 20% compared to 1965. In 1954, rice-sized food production in the liberated area reached over 2,9 million tons, an increase of 13,7% compared to 1946. The output of rice grain increased from 3.759 thousand tons in 1955 to 4.738 thousand tons in 1956 and 4.293.000 tons in 1957. In 1954, in the liberated area, there were 135 hospitals, clinics, 790 medical clinics, 740 first aid stations. hospitals and 300 maternity homes.

From 1958 to 1960 was the period of economic reform in the North. The average gross social product per year increased by 13,6%, the national income increased by 7,7%, the value of total industrial output increased by

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21,5%, the total retail sales of consumer goods and services. Social use increased by 9,1%, total export and import value increased by 13,8%. In 1975, in the North, the total social product was 2,3 times higher than in 1960, the national income was 1,9 times. The value of total industrial output is 3,4 times higher.

In the period 1955 - 1975, trade relations between the North and the world expanded, from 10 countries (including 7 socialist countries) in 1955, to 1965, it increased to 35 countries (including 12 socialist countries).

By 1975, in the North, there were 1.180 medical examination and treatment establishments, with 56,6 thousand hospital beds. The number of health workers is 93 thousand people, including 29.600 doctors and nurses. On average, there are 12,1 doctors per ten thousand people. In 1975, the health system of communes and wards was almost nonexistent. In 1985, the whole country had 11.059 medical examination and treatment establishments with 202,2 thousand beds. The number of health workers is 187,4 thousand people, including 62,3 thousand doctors and nurses. On average, there are 13,6 doctors and nurses for every ten thousand people.

In 1956, the GDP of the South was 5 times higher than that of the North. At that time, the North was severely damaged in the war. In the period 1955-1970, this gap gradually narrowed, especially since 1963, when the South's economy was in recession. Since 1972, the North's GDP has exceeded that of

the South, although from 1964-1972 the American war in North Vietnam was very fierce.

According to some statistics, the great influence of the destructive war in the North is more obvious. In the period 1955-1963, the North's GDP per capita increased 1,7 times. In the period of 1964 - 1975, the North's economy was greatly influenced by the American war.

In the period 1960-1976, the amount of rice per capita decreased from 335 kg/person (1959 when the cooperative was implemented) to 254 kg/person, because the population increased rapidly (from 13.5 million in 1955 to 24, 55 million in 1975) while production stagnated. In 1975, the amount of rice decreased to 194 kg/person. In the period 1965-1975, the North had to import 15% of the food needs to make up for the shortfall. In 1966 in Vinh Phu, a form of household contracting, called underground contracting, appeared. However, this method was condemned as contrary to socialist principles and Vinh Phu Provincial Party Secretary Kim Ngoc was disciplined.

According to Prof. Dang Phong, a total of 20 years, the socialist bloc has provided aid to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam with a total volume of 2.362.581 tons of goods; converted into money is more than 7 billion rubles (equivalent to 7 billion USD, of which more than half is military aid)¹³. According to a secret CIA document (declassified), the economic and military aid of the socialist bloc to North Vietnam, 1970-1974, was estimated at

\$5,6 billion. The aid of the socialist bloc to North Vietnam, according to the CIA, is much lower than that of the United States to South Vietnam. The figures below are all US estimates.

5. Renovation of private-capitalist industry and commerce after 1954 and after 1975

The Socialist Transformation was a policy based on a Soviet model, implemented in the North after 1954 and in the South—primarily in Ho Chi Minh city—after April 30, 1975. Its goal was to “eliminate the capitalist system of ownership of the means of production, capitalist exploitation, and the capitalist class”. This policy was commonly referred to as the “Transformation of Private Capitalist Industry and Commerce”.

In November 1958, the Government approved a three-year plan (1958–1960) for economic and cultural development and socialist transformation, which was ratified by the National Assembly on December 1, 1958. From April 16–30 and June 1–10, 1959, the 16th (expanded) Plenary Session of the Party Central Committee (Second Congress) passed a resolution on agricultural collectivization and the socialist transformation of private capitalist industry and commerce. The resolution outlined “the immediate task in the North as advancing the socialist revolution, with a focus on transforming the individual economy of farmers and artisans as well as the private capitalist economy”¹⁴. Specific policies included inventorying and valuing assets, setting

profit policies and rates, and assigning work for capitalists and their families.

Implemented from 1958 to 1960, the economic transformation process was considered completed: 81% of craftsmen had joined cooperatives. Excluding cooperatives involved in fishing, salt production, and timber extraction, by the end of 1960, the North had 2,760 handicraft cooperatives, including 521 advanced-level cooperatives and 2,239 basic-level cooperatives. 60% of small traders had been transformed and incorporated into cooperatives for buying and selling, and more than 10,000 people were transferred to other sectors of production. By mid-1961, 180,000 small traders, or 80% of the total, had been reorganized into cooperatives, with over 60,000 people having shifted entirely to production (no longer engaging in trade). In urban areas, 100% of the capitalist private industrial establishments subject to transformation were organized into joint-stock companies, cooperative enterprises, and joint-venture enterprises, with 1,553 businessmen becoming workers. 90% of craftsmen had joined handicraft cooperatives, and over 70,000 craftsmen were transferred to agricultural production¹⁵.

In urban areas, 100% of private capitalist industrial establishments subject to transformation were converted into joint public-private enterprises or cooperatives, turning 1,553 entrepreneurs into workers. Additionally, 90% of artisans joined industrial cooperatives, with over

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70,000 transitioning to agricultural production.

According to assessments, the transformation of Private Capitalist Industry and Commerce was effective. In the span of three years (1955-1957), the value of state-owned industrial output increased 6.4 times, from 34.1 million dong to 219 million dong. The total output of the industrial and handicraft sectors in the North increased by 269%, from 310 million dong to 834 million dong. State-owned industry increasingly dominated the output value of the modern industrial sector (rising from 41.7% to 66.6%), contributing to raising the proportion of modern industry in the economy from 1.5% to 9.5% (in 1939, this ratio was 10%). In 1960, state-owned industry reached an output value of 840 million dong, which was 383% of the 1957 output and 25 times the output value of 1955. The share of state-owned industry in the industrial and handicraft output of the North increased from 34.4% to 57%. The number of local state-owned industrial enterprises grew from 170 factories with 8,152 workers in 1958 to 546 factories with 25,712 workers in 1959, and 722 factories with 44,407 workers in 1960.

In the South before 1975, Saigon was the largest material, economic and technical base in the region, concentrating more than 80% of industrial production capacity in the Central and Southern regions. More than 38,000 industrial and handicraft establishments are concentrated here,

including 766 companies and 8,548 private industrial establishments. At that time, overseas Chinese controlled almost all important economic positions, and especially firmly grasped three important areas: production, distribution and credit. By the end of 1974, the Chinese controlled more than 80% of the production facilities of the food, textile, chemical, metallurgy, electrical... and almost achieved a monopoly on trade: 100% wholesale, more than 50% retail and 90% import and export¹⁶.

The transformation of Private Capitalist Industry and Commerce in the South has another reason: after 1975, the issue of the Chinese suddenly became complicated when they raised the Chinese flag and Mao Zedong's photo in the Cholon area, protesting for the preservation of Chinese nationality. This issue becomes a challenge to national sovereignty rather than an internal issue of Vietnam. Along with the complicated situation at the Border with Cambodia, Vietnam-China relations deteriorated rapidly. The policy of confiscation of property of the Chinese bourgeoisie in 1976 was conducted in this context.

On September 1, 1975, the Standing Committee of the Central Committee of the Department had a meeting to approve the code-name plan X2. On September 4, 1975, the government of the Republic of South Vietnam conducted the first campaign to renovate the South's bourgeoisie. The campaign was divided into two phases. Phase 1 attacked and captured 92 bourgeois bourgeois.

Phase 2 from December 4-6, 1975, confiscated 288 production and business establishments, including all assets, factories and machinery, including a usable area of 337.518 m² with an asset value of VND 31.293.550¹⁷.

On July 15, 1976, the Politburo issued Resolution 254/NQ/TW on abolishing the commercial village bourgeoisie and renovating the Transformation of Private Capitalist Industry and Commerce. In December 1976, the second bourgeois re-education campaign was conducted. In March 1977, the Politburo decided to complete the task of socialist renovation for the industry, commerce, and capitalism of the South's private enterprise in the two years 1977-1978. The Central Committee for Industrial, Commercial and Private Business Reform was established by Mr. Nguyen Van Linh as its head, and Mr. Do Muoi as its deputy; then from the beginning of 1978, Comrade Do Muoi was the head of the Committee. In Ho Chi Minh City, at that time, Mr. Do Muoi was the one who carried out the renovation work and was considered very active.

For those who are being rehabilitated, the confiscated shops and houses become public property and will often become a state-owned store or even housing for officials. Property is sealed, family members must receive a decision to go to "build a new economic zone". The total number of commercial households renovated in 1978 was 28.778; the value of the confiscated goods is 20,6 million dong. 3.494 households were moved to production in the provinces. 2.616

households moved back to their old hometown. In 1978, the state completed the basic reform of the small and medium-sized industrial bourgeoisie in the South, abolishing the control of many industries by the Chinese¹⁸.

By the end of 1985, the number of cottage industry establishments in the South had 2,937 professional cooperatives, 10,124 professional production groups, 3,162 agricultural and handicraft cooperatives, 529 cooperatives and 920 individual households.

Regarding commercial reform, Nhan Dan Newspaper, No. 8976, January 4, 1979 clearly stated that by the beginning of 1979, the State had forced 60,000 households (accounting for 26% of the total number of industrial goods trading households) to stop work. Procurement of goods from 30.000 households (accounting for 13% of the total number of industrial goods trading households). transferring 42.000 traders to production, transferring more than 8.000 people to operating in the state-owned commercial system; nationalized 17 shipping vessels, 500 river transport ships, organized 25 river transport cooperatives with more than 500 ships. In the field of construction, converting private production facilities of building materials into 10 state-owned enterprises and 22 public-private partnership enterprises. Has renovated 150 private construction contractors to establish 8 state-owned enterprises, 16 public-private partnership enterprises. About 10.000 construction workers out

of 16.000 jobs created¹⁹.

The transformation of Private Capitalist Industry and Commerce both in the North after 1954 and in the South after 1975, were criticized by many people responsible for the regime as being childish, leftist and considered as too heavy a blow to the country's economy. GS. Dang Phong commented: "In the end, this policy should not be attributed to an individual. It is a trend and a phenomenon that accompany all countries when entering the process of building socialism"²⁰.

6. Vietnam's economy in the period from 1975 to present

After the victory in the spring of 1975, the country was unified, entering a new stage, the whole country went up to socialism. Contrary to the simple hope of many, the consequences of war cannot be resolved in a day or two; Socio-economic recovery and development is not smooth sailing but faces great difficulties and challenges. The stature of the victory in 1975 made many people intoxicated with the victory. In particular, the illusion of promoting Vietnam's power during the war is very different from that in economic construction and development in later stages. After 1975, the source of non-refundable aid to Vietnam decreased and ceased to exist. The US policy of encirclement and embargo put Vietnam in isolation from the world. The complicated situation after 1975 along with wars and wars on the southwestern border and the northern border have put the country in unprecedented grim

situations.

Almost beyond all expectations, from 1975 to the end of the 80s, Vietnam's economy and society fell into crisis, with some areas of serious crisis. In 1996, looking back at the situation at that time, the document of the 8th National Party Congress commented: "The situation was complicated, at times it seemed difficult to overcome: inflation was at three digits for three consecutive years; the living standards of people receiving salaries and social allowances decreased sharply; many state-owned enterprises and many small-scale handicraft cooperatives stagnated, suffered losses, production was moderate and even had to close; tens of thousands of workers were forced to leave the factory; thousands of teachers have to quit their jobs; Credit fund failures occur in many places. Complicated international developments have adversely affected the situation in our"²¹. In that situation, society spontaneously found its way through the phenomena of "breaking the fence", "underground contract", "three benefits", "study more", etc.

Starting from 1965 to 1967, Vinh Phuc province, under the leadership of the Secretary of the Provincial Party Committee, Kim Ngoc, successfully "crossed the fence"/broke through by implementing a system of assigning agricultural production quotas directly to households. This was later criticized as "violating the principles of socialist management" and "contrary to the Party's agricultural collectivization

policy”²². Learning from Vĩnh Phúc, other provinces, beginning with Hải Phòng (1972) and Hà Sơn Bình (1978), followed by Thanh Hóa, Thái Bình, Đồng Nai, Hồ Chí Minh City, Hậu Giang, and Tiền Giang, also assigned production quotas to households. In June 1980, the Đồ Sơn District Party Committee issued Resolution No. 05, allocating land to cooperative members. On June 27, 1980, the Hải Phòng City Party Committee issued Resolution No. 24, officially abolishing collective labor quotas in six suburban districts. Subsequently, on January 13, 1981, the Party Central Secretariat issued Directive 100-CT/TW on assigning production quotas to groups and individual workers, formally recognizing the system nationwide. This contract system became commonly known as “Directive 100”.

Directive 100 brought tangible benefits to farmers, creating strong incentives for agricultural production. Responding to societal needs, on April 5, 1988, the Politburo issued Resolution No. 10 NQ-TW on Renovating Agricultural Management. This resolution allocated land contracts to households for 15–20 years for short-term crops and 1–2 cycles for long-term crops. This policy became widely known as “Resolution 10.” From this point, the economic role of farming households was reinstated, ushering Vietnam’s agriculture into a new era. From a situation of chronic food shortages—Vietnam still had to import over 450,000 tons of rice in 1988—the country achieved self-sufficiency by

1989. Vietnam not only met domestic food demand but also began exporting between 1 to 1.5 million tons of rice²³.

Since 1986, following the policy of Đổi Mới (Renovation), Vietnam began by renovation in thinking and subsequently reforming its economy. The administrative-subsidy mechanism and rigid dogmatic notions were abolished. New conceptions/views on socialism, the length of the transitional period, the adaptation and development of capitalism, the essence and economic role of exploitation, and private economic activities by Party members emerged, stimulating dynamism in economic and social life.

By 1995, most of the key targets of the Five-Year Plan (1991–1995) had been exceeded. The country emerged from crisis, and the average GDP growth rate for the decade 1990–2000 reached 7.5%. During 2006–2010, the average economic growth rate was 7%, with stable macroeconomic conditions, and the economy’s scale and potential expanded rapidly. By 2009, Vietnam had overcome its status as an underdeveloped country, and by 2010, the GDP reached \$101.6 billion. From 2011 to 2020, macroeconomic stability was firmly maintained, and inflation was controlled. During 2011–2015, the average growth rate was 5.9%, while for 2016–2020, it was estimated at 6.8% annually. The average labor productivity growth rate in the 2016–2020 period is 5.8%. Foreign exchange reserves increased from 12.4 billion USD in 2010 to over 80 billion USD in

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2020.

Agriculture's share in GDP also gradually decreased, from 38,06% in 1986 to 18,9% in 2010; 18,12% in 2014 and 13,1% in 2020. The share of the service sector in GDP has increased from 33,1% in 1988 to 38% in 2003 and 38,5% in 2010. From 2011 to 2020, the share of agriculture, forestry and fishery in GDP decreased from 18,9% in 2010 to 13,1% in 2020; the industrial, construction and service sectors increased respectively from 81,1% to 86,9%, exceeding the set target. The proportion of export value of high-tech products in the total value of high-tech products increased from 26,9% in 2010 to 78,3% in 2020. The construction industry grew rapidly, construction capacity and quality. The quantity of modern construction works has been gradually increased. The service industry is developing diversified and the quality is getting higher and higher. The tourism industry has developed and become a spearhead economic sector, the number of international visitors is increasing rapidly, by 2020 it will reach about 20 million. The proportion of employees in the agricultural sector has decreased sharply, from 73% in 1990 to about 47% in 2014 and 33,5% in 2020. The proportion of employees in the industry - construction and service industries increased continuously, in which the industrial sector. industry and construction increased from 11,2% in 1990 to 18,2% in 2005 and 20,8% in 2014; the service sector increased from 15,8% in 1990 to 24,7% in 2005

and 32,2% in 2014. The proportion of trained workers increased from less than 10% in 1990 to 40% in 2010 and 65% in 2020.

Along with economic growth, the unemployment rate of urban workers tends to decrease from 4,5% in 2010 to 3% in 2020. From 2006 - 2011, jobs have been created for over 8 million workers, the unemployment rate in urban areas decreased to less than 4,5%. The percentage of trained workers has improved significantly from 40% in 2010 to 65% in 2020.

Achievements in hunger eradication and poverty reduction are highly appreciated by the world. The rate of hungry and poor households has decreased continuously from 30% in 1992 to 8,3% in 2004. By 2000, chronic hunger has basically been eliminated. In the period of 2010 - 2020, the poverty rate decreased rapidly, from 14,2% in 2010 to 7% in 2015 (according to the poverty line for the period 2011 - 2015) and decreased from 9,2% in 2016 to less than 3% in 2020 (according to the multidimensional poverty line).

The lives of the vast majority of residents have changed for the better, including those in remote areas. From a poor and underdeveloped country, the income and living standards of many classes of people have improved both in terms of qualifications and quality. Vietnam has become a country with an average GDP, with the size of an economy ranked in the world and has the highest foreign exchange reserves in 2020 ever.

Vietnam is one of the countries with remarkable and continuous progress in human development index (HDI). The trend of the human development index being higher than the economic index has been maintained for the past 25 years and is continuing. In 2020, for the first time, Vietnam was ranked among 52 countries with a High Human Development Index (High Human Development Index: 0,700-0,800 – HDR 2020). Life expectancy is quite high, not inferior to countries with high HDI index and continues to increase. Over the past three decades, about 50 million people have been eradicated from poverty. Vietnam reached the finish line 10 years earlier than its commitment to the United Nations for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), which was welcomed by the international community²⁴.

According to the latest announcement (published in 2021, calculated on 2018 data), Vietnam's KOF globalization index is 65,55. In which, the component indexes: Economic globalization 61,06, Political globalization 73,76, Social globalization 61,55. The average KOF for 194 countries in 2018 was 62,02. In 1970, the KOF index of Vietnam was 23,14. During the period of 1970 - 2018, the average value of Vietnam's KOF was 38,32²⁵.

Other statistics also clearly reflect Vietnam's development level: As of now, Vietnam has diplomatic relations with 189 out of 193 United Nations member states, and is an active member

of over 70 international organizations. It has a Strategic Partnership with 16 countries, a Comprehensive Partnership with 11 countries, and more than 70 countries recognize Vietnam's economy as a market economy. Moreover, the Vietnamese population is a community of 72.53 million internet users, which is expected to rise to 82.25 million by 2025. Vietnam has 70 million Facebook users, 55 million YouTube users, and 50 million Zalo users. Google holds a market share of 95.27% for search engines. In January 2021, Vietnam had 154.4 million mobile connections, equivalent to 157.9% of the population. Vietnamese people rank 15th in the world in terms of online community size—an achievement regarded as “hopeful and enviable” by many communities worldwide, including several rich and developed countries²⁶.

7. Conclusion

The process of building socialism in Vietnam has been theoretically prepared by the Communist Party of Vietnam as early as 1930. With specific arguments/ideas about socialism and building socialism, as outlined in the presentations, these thoughts and theories reflect distinctive characteristics of Vietnam, shaped by the complex historical and social conditions of the country.

However, these thoughts and theories were not only influenced by domestic circumstances but were also tightly constrained by the complicated situations of the global communist

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movement and the international context of the early 20th century. In other words, the options available for decision-making were very limited..

Despite this, the creative application of socialist ideas in the practical construction of socialism in Vietnam allowed the country to find its own unique path to development. Thanks to *Doi Moi* (Renovation), rigid and dogmatic concepts of socialism have been revised or abandoned. Profound changes have occurred both in practice and in thought, in theory and in reality. Today, from ordinary citizens to the country's leaders, socialism is no longer understood in the same way as it was in the past.

In the history of building socialism in Vietnam, the most striking period for the global community has

been the emergence of a renewed socialist Vietnam—one that is open to integration and continuously developing in recent decades. From being a poor, underdeveloped country, Vietnam has transformed into a middle-income nation, with an economy ranked among the top 40 in the world, broad international relations, a high Human Development Index, and a large proportion of the population using the internet and social media. Over more than three decades since *Doi Moi* (Renovation), a long period of peace and stability in the country's history has created conditions for Vietnam to awaken its spirit of independence and self-reliance, while adapting to a dynamic, civilized, and developing world.

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