

DOCTORAL THESIS IN BRIEF

Đặng Thành Đạt: Research on Comparison of Chinese and Vietnamese minority policies in the modern times*Major: Ethnography**Code: 62 22 70 01*

The relationships between different minorities in each country always receive due attention because they are both a strategic and a politico-social issue. Each social regime and nation has a minority policy consistent with their views on how to solve minority problems and on the country's reality.

China and Vietnam are two neighboring socialist countries with a long relationship. Some minorities living on the border of the two countries have the same origin. The Party and the State of China and Vietnam built up their own minority policies with some similarities and differences. Therefore, it is necessary to compare the minority policies of the two countries to learn about how to solve national issues in order to develop the economic and social reality of minorities in each country. This is the main mission and purpose of research student Đặng Thành Đạt's PhD thesis.

Besides the introduction and conclusion, the thesis is divided into three chapters.

Chapter I deals with the situation and characteristics of Chinese and Vietnamese minorities (pp. 14-32). In this chapter, the author analyzes and compares the situation and characteristics of each country based on aspects of the population, the distribution of the population, residence, and economic, social, and cultural standards of each minority. The chapter further infers the similarities and differences of two countries' minorities and emphasizes that "the similarities of the situation and characteristics of Chinese and Vietnamese minorities are an objective factor used to measure similarities between minority policies in both countries." (p. 23).

Based on a lot of data, the author explains and proves theories about minorities' characteristics in China and Vietnam and the building up of minority policies in the two countries, particularly in regards to the role of minority policies, the different concepts of minority policies, etc. Then, it can be understood that the basic connotation of minority policies is to show the essence of the developing policies of the country in each historic phase.

Basing on the above-mentioned analysis, the researcher believes that: “The situation and minorities’ characteristics are objective factors that should be used to determine and carry out minority policies. Minority policies have to be suitable with the situation and minorities characteristics must have expected results and solve minorities’ issues.” (p.22)

Chapter II covers the basic arguments and the reality of developing minority policies in China and Vietnam (33-82). The researcher analyzed the effects of the minority theories of Marxism and Leninism as theoretical bases for the building up of minority policies in China and Vietnam. At the same time, he points out the reasons for similarities and differences in the making of minority policies in each country. In his opinion, the similarities are due to China and Vietnam both being socialist countries, leading to a flexible application of Marxism-Leninism minority theory. The author infers this from documents from the National Party Congress and from basic principles of national policies of China and Vietnam.

However, minority theory in each country has differences and the application of minority policies in each country has its particularities. For example, in China, there exist autonomous territories with their own laws, but in Vietnam, the once autonomous territories of Việt Bắc and

Thái Mèo were dissolved after the 1975 unification.

The existence of self-governing mechanisms among minority cultures – such as self-governing laws, specific minority policies and the legislation of these policies – are the reasons for the differences between the making and carrying out of minority policies in China and Vietnam (78). Another difference is that the China legislation system views minorities in three parts: first, it itemizes minorities and minority issues in the Constitution; second, laws on minority issues and on minorities in other laws; and third, rules and ordinances made to solve problems in ministries and local government, self-governing regulations, and autonomous territories. In Vietnam, minority policies are declared in the Constitution, main laws, ordinances, and rules of relevant branches (p.72-75).

Through analysis and comparison, the author claims that minority policies in China are legislated more completely. The author emphasizes, “Legislation is an important way to perform minority policies in China and Vietnam. Minority policies are shown in the Constitution and relevant laws. China has enforced and modified Laws of Autonomous Territories, while Vietnam has made Laws of Minorities. During the process of modernization and building jurisdiction in

government, it has become a trend for legislation address minority policies.

Chapter III addresses the performance of minority policies in China and Vietnam and compares the effectiveness of the policies in each of the two countries (83-188). Along with analyzing the performance of minority policies in each country, the author also compares different aspects of the implementation of these policies, focusing on the main issues of minority policies, like specifying national components, administrative systems (national managing systems), and the policies for socio-economical and cultural development.

The implementation of minority policies in modern China (from 1949-2005) is divided into five periods (1949-1957; 1957-1965; 1966-1976; 1976-1991; 1992-2005) that correlate with specific traits, mission and particular results in each period. The author also gives out documents and judgments about the effectiveness of minority policies in each period.

According to the researcher, China's minority policies have continuously changed and developed. From 1949 to 1965, minority policies mainly served the purpose of protecting the State and building socialism. Since 1978, China has focused on developing the socio-economic status of ethnic groups without debating racial issues. (p. 95)

The carrying out of minority policies in Vietnam is divided into 4 periods (1945-1954; 1954-1975; 1975-1986; 1986-2005) and can be generalized as follows: "...from 1945 to 1954, the main task of Vietnamese minority policies was to unite the ethnic groups to serve in two wars against the French and Americans. Ethnic groups played an important role in these two wars. In 1975, Vietnam was united. Minority policies were carried out throughout the whole country. From 1975 to 1986, Vietnam completed and corrected minority policies to contribute to the building of socialism. Since 1986, minority policies have been conducted during a period of innovation, and the socio-economic status of the ethnic groups has ceaselessly developed (pp. 119-120).

The author analyzes and compares the Programme *Hung bien phú dân* in China with Vietnamese Programme 135. These two programs aim at promoting the performance of minority policies effectively, really contributing to the socio-economical development of ethnic groups in China and Vietnam.

From the above arguments, analysis and comparison of minority policies in China and Vietnam, the researcher concludes:

- Minority policies of Vietnam and China in modern time have many similarities. Equality and unity among ethnic groups are the two main principles of minority policies of the

two countries. Both countries find it important to develop education in ethnic groups and train minority leaders. Narrowing the differences between socio-economic levels of ethnic group and the whole country and developing the socio-economic status of ethnic groups are considered the key methods of solving ethnic problems nowadays by both countries.

- The minority policies of China and Vietnam in modern times has certain differences. China still maintains an autonomous territories, but Vietnam, after its unification, abolished autonomous territories.

- The minority policies of China and Vietnam are the working reflections of

theories of ethnic problems by Marxism-Leninism. The achievements of minority policies in the two countries have proved that, providing that it is closely combined with the reality each country faces, the theory of Marxism-Leninism is an effective model in solving ethnic problems. (pp. 191-193)

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Introduced by
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