

# Ho Chi Minh's Ideology On Culture And Its Value To Vietnam Today

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**Abstract:** During the process of national construction, President Ho Chi Minh always upheld the position, role, and strength of culture. According to Ho Chi Minh's point of view, culture is the goal - in general - the right to life, the right to happiness, the right to freedom, and the right to pursue happiness; is the people's aspiration for the values of truth, goodness, and beauty. It is a democratic society - the people are the masters and the people are the masters - fair, civilized, everyone has food to eat, everyone can get an education; a society in which the material and spiritual life of the people is always concerned and constantly improved, and people have conditions for comprehensive development. Therefore, building a Vietnamese culture according to Ho Chi Minh's thought in the current period is one of the important requirements, creating a driving force for the sustainable development of Vietnamese culture in the new era. Today, culture plays a huge role in promoting the economic and political development of the country. The role of culture is essential to improve the moral, ideological, and cultural qualities of the entire nation, creating spiritual, intellectual, and ideological motivations for economic development and social progress festival. However, due to the negative impacts from the negative side of the market mechanism and international integration, the field of culture has also revealed certain limitations, having a significant impact on the traditional culture of the nation. Compared with other fields, the development investment and achievements in the field of culture are not commensurate and spread. That has made the cultural and spiritual life in many places still poor and monotonous, not commensurate with economic development. I think we need some solutions to build an advanced Vietnamese culture imbued with national identity according to Ho Chi Minh's thoughts in the current period.

**Keywords:** Ho Chi Minh's ideology, Vietnamese culture; the power of culture; The role of culture.

## Introduction

Culture is the spiritual foundation of a society, in Ho Chi Minh's thought, solid values and quintessence of the Vietnamese ethnic community have been molded over thousands of years of history. In human thought, culture is the totality of things that create matter and create the spirit of man, so culture is the creation of language, morality, lifestyle, education, and science. It can be seen that in Ho Chi Minh's thought culture is both the driving force and the goal of the revolutionary revolution. In the

resistance war, artists' pens were weapons, and songs and literary works had the same power as bombs. In the meeting of the country's architecture, culture cannot be left out, but must be in economics and politics. However, let's carry out negative activities from the left of the regime school and international integration, the cultural field has also revealed certain limitations, having a significant impact on the cultural communication system of the people.

## Results and Discussion

### **Ho Chi Minh's Ideology on culture**

Culture is built and nurtured throughout the history of each nation, it forms the spiritual foundation of a society, and plays an important role both as a goal and as a driving force for development. socio-economic development. In many speeches and articles, President Ho Chi Minh mentioned the need to preserve and promote national traditions and cultural identities. Those are sustainable values, the quintessence of the Vietnamese ethnic community that has been molded over thousands of years of history.

In the last part of the manuscript of the Prison Diary, he asserts: "For survival as well as the purpose of life, mankind created and invented language, writing, morality, law, science, and science. education, religion, literature, and art, tools for daily living in terms of clothing, food, shelter and methods of use. All those creations and inventions are culture. Culture is the synthesis of all modes of living and its expression that mankind has produced in order to adapt to the needs of life and the requirements of survival" (Minh, 2002, vol3, p. 431). With this statement, it can be seen in his concept that culture is the totality of man's material and spiritual creations, so culture is the creation of language, morality, lifestyle, education, science, law, religion, literature, and art.

It can be seen that in Ho Chi Minh's thought, culture is both the driving force and the goal of the revolutionary cause. Ho Chi Minh's heritage shows that the country's development dynamics include material and spiritual motivations: community and individual dynamics; internal and external forces. It all boils down to people and can all be viewed in terms of culture. Cultural education destroys ignorance, eliminates illiteracy, and helps people understand the development laws of society. With the mission of "planting people", the culture of education trains new people, new cadres, and high-quality human resources for the revolutionary cause. Ho Chi Minh concluded: "Thanks to the independent will and the desire for freedom rather than the strength

of the army, the South won" (Minh, 2002, vol 1, p. 98). In the Outline on Vietnamese culture issued by the Indochinese Communist Party not only correctly assessed the position and role of culture in the development of the nation but also affirmed that: "The relationship between culture and economy, politics: The economic foundation of one society and the economic regime built on that foundation determines the entire culture of the other society" (Communist Party of Vietnam: 2000, vol 7, p.316)

Seeing the importance of cultural strength, on September 13, 1945, only 11 days after reading the Declaration of Independence, giving birth to the new Vietnamese state, President Ho Chi Minh emphasized: culture and politics was suppressed in the past, so our culture could not arise. Now that our country is independent, the spirit is liberated, it is necessary to have a culture that is in harmony with science and also with the aspirations of the people" (Minh, 1997, p.10). He emphasized: "In the construction of the country, there are four issues to pay attention to; must give equal importance: Politics, economy, culture, society" (Minh, 1981, p.34); "Culture cannot be left out, but must be in economics and politics" (Minh, 2002, vol 6, p.367 – 369). The economy is the material foundation, culture is the spiritual foundation of society; Economic and cultural in Ho Chi Minh Thought ultimately serve the political task of building a society of rich people, a strong country, democracy, justice, morality, and civilization. The harmony between economic, political, cultural, and social development creates the basis for sustainable development. According to Ho Chi Minh, "Vietnamese culture influences each other of Eastern and Western cultures together... There is something good in the West or the East that we can learn to create a Vietnamese culture. That is, taking the good experience of past and present culture, cultivating Vietnamese culture with a pure Vietnamese spirit to match the spirit of democracy" (Minh 1997, p.350). In 1948, in the report Marxism and Vietnamese culture at the Second National Cultural Conference,

applying the Marxist perspective, Comrade Truong Chinh analyzed the dialectical relationship between culture and economy. and politics as follows: "People are born, eat, wear, live first, then sing, dance, draw, write, and discuss philosophy later. The economy is the foundation of a society, the infrastructure. Politics, law, and culture are the ones built on that basis, the superstructure of society" (Chinh, 1974, p.5).

In addition, in Ho Chi Minh's thought, culture serves the masses of the people, reflecting the people's aspiration for happiness. His cultural thought is also for the people to eat and then the people, to serve the people. According to him, all cultural activities must return to the real life of the masses, reflecting the thoughts and aspirations of the masses. Ho Chi Minh's point of view on building a new culture: The period before the August Revolution 1945: August 1943, along with the concept of meaning, Ho Chi Minh was interested in building a foundation. national culture with five contents: building psychology (the spirit of independence and self-reliance); moral building (knowing to sacrifice oneself, benefiting the masses); social construction (All causes related to people's welfare); political construction (civil rights); economic construction.

After the successful August Revolution in 1945, at the first meeting of the Government Council (September 3, 1945), President Ho Chi Minh raised six urgent tasks for the Democratic State of Vietnam. Republic, in which there are 3 urgent cultural tasks: First, together with the eradication of hunger, we must destroy the enemy of ignorance; second, to educate the people spiritually; Third, to exercise freedom of belief and religion.

Appreciating the great power of culture in the cause of Vietnam's revolution, as early as 1946. At the National Cultural Conference in November 1946, Uncle Ho pointed out: "Culture must guide the nation in implementation independence, self-reliance and self-control";

"Culture lights the way for the nation to go". It is the source of traditional cultural and ideological values, independent will, and aspiration for freedom that have become the spiritual cultural foundation, the great driving force of the longevity and development of the Vietnamese nation. Culture is a driving force for people to unite and understand each other. Cultural values, especially traditional culture: passionate patriotism, indomitable spirit, independent will and national resilience; Love, generosity, meaningful life with people; The spirit of diligence, creativity, thrift in labor production Tradition of studiousness and respect for teachers is an important factor for the success of the longevity of the Vietnamese nation. Culture creates strength to defeat foreign invaders in the spirit of "Bringing great justice to conquer cruelty / Using humanity to replace violence". At the first National Cultural Conference, on November 22, 1944, Uncle Ho advised: "...Another issue that must be clarified is who does culture serve? Of course, we must say serving the workers and soldiers, that is, serving the majority of the people. A few years ago, that wasn't definitively understood, was it? Comrades doing cultural work need to say so emphatically, not saying art for the sake of art, but need to clearly state that culture serves workers and peasants" (Tho, 2000, p. 218).

In his letter to the Second Cultural Conference (taken from July 16 to 20, 1948) President Ho Chi Minh stated: "...The task of culture is not only to promote the spirit and the resistance forces. national construction of the nation, but also to clearly state our great achievements in the resistance war for national construction to the world. Our culturalists must have worthy works, not only to celebrate the present nationalist resistance war but also to pass on the glorious history of the resistance war for posterity..." (Minh, 1995, vol 5, p. 464) In his speech at the conference of delegates who are active in the mass culture movement, Uncle Ho commented: "...If you want to advance to socialism, you must develop economy and

culture. Why not say cultural and economic development. There is a proverb that we have a sentence: Only the truth can be gained; So the economy has to go first. But development for what? Develop economy and culture to improve the material and cultural life of our people. The aunts and uncles are both productive and active in cultural activities” (Tho, 2000, p. 218).

However, President Ho Chi Minh reminded that the backward, anti-cultural factor, although existed for a long time in feudal society, should also be eliminated: "Outdated habits and traditions are also big enemies; it implicitly hinders the progressive revolution" (Minh, 2011, vol. 9, p. 287) elements of "three obediences, four virtues" in the ideology of the ancient feudal society, there are modern elements. Outdated and outdated also need to be removed. Over the years, under the leadership of the Party, management, and administration of the State, promoted the synergy of the political system, building an advanced Vietnamese culture imbued with national identity. The tribe has been continuously consolidated and developed. Associate the task of building culture with the task of building and developing the country.

Ho Chi Minh said: "An ignorant nation is a weak nation". affirming: "Enhancing the cultural level of the people will help us accelerate the economic recovery and democratic development... necessary to build our country into a peaceful, unified, and independent country establishment, democracy and prosperity" (Minh, 2011, vol. 8, p. 281-282). Thus, it must be seen that culture stands in the economic and political sphere also means economy and politics. must be cultural, he also pointed out: "Every Vietnamese must understand their rights... must have new knowledge to be able to participate in the construction of the country, and first of all must know how to read, know how to write the national language" (Minh, 2011, vol. 4, p. 36). At the Second National Congress of the Party, Ho Chi Minh pointed out: "Building a Vietnamese culture that has nationalism, science and the masses"

(Minh, 2011, vol. 6, p. 173) According to Ho Chi Minh Minh, those three properties are closely related. It is a culture that must make every Vietnamese person understand the historical roots of national development; know how to preserve and promote the fine traditional values of the national culture in nation-building and defense. The new culture must reflect the real life of the struggle for national liberation by objective laws, ensuring authenticity; absorbing human culture to enrich the national culture, bringing Vietnamese culture, and increasingly reaching the pinnacle of human culture. The new culture must take the service of the masses.

As part of the superstructure, culture is inseparable from political, economic, and social factors, etc., on the contrary, there is a dialectical interaction between those factors. When the country was still enslaved, the culture also shared the fate of slavery, the vast majority of the people were persecuted in darkness and ignorance. Therefore, Ho Chi Minh outlined a new line: the political revolution must be carried out first, specifically the national liberation revolution to gain power and the people to master the country, to liberate the country political, and social liberation, thereby liberating culture, and paving the way for culture to develop. In a Letter to Artists on the occasion of the 1951 Painting Exhibition, President Ho Chi Minh affirmed: "Culture, art, like all other activities, cannot be left out, but must be in economy and politics" (Minh, 2011, vol. 7, p. 246). This is the dialectical relationship between the forms of social consciousness with each other. He affirmed: "culture, art, like all other activities, cannot be left out, but must be in the economy and politics" (Minh, 2011, vol. 7, p. 246).

The pen of writers and artists is also a weapon, and songs and literary works have the same destructive power as bombs. The polemical works also have the power to shake the will of the enemy. Therefore, culture is not outside politics but in politics, closely linked with politics, "With politics, there is culture, in the past politics was

suppressed, so our culture did not flourish." can give birth" (Minh, 1997, p.10). The poet's mission in the resistance war is also expressed in Uncle Ho's poem No. 132 "Jung Trung Diary". The writer: "Now in poetry, there is steel / Poets must also know how to volunteer". Poetry needs to be combative, poetry as a weapon, the poet of the era must be a true soldier on the artistic and cultural front: "Poets must also know how to volunteer". To fulfill their duties, an artistic soldier must have a firm ideological stance; The pen is a sharp weapon in the cause of "pro-opposite exorcism". Must stick to real life, go deep into the masses, severely criticize bad habits such as embezzlement, laziness, wastefulness, and bureaucracy, and honestly praise good people and good deeds to set an example for others. us today and educate our children and grandchildren in the future.

### **Values of Ho Chi Minh's ideology and culture in the current period**

President Ho Chi Minh said that culture must go deep into the national psyche and into a new life; culture must amend corruption, laziness, and luxury; The culture must be so that all Vietnamese people, from young to old, both men and women, understand their duties and know how to enjoy the happiness that they should enjoy. According to him: "My people must know our history. For the original wall and ceiling of the country of Vietnam" (Minh, 2011, vol 3, p.255). Taking care of the nation's core, at the same time, it is necessary to thoroughly eliminate all colonial remnants and enslaving influences of imperial culture, and respect the customs and culture of ethnic minorities.

Remember his advice in his will, because his will is the crystallization of moral thought and the noble soul of a hero of national liberation, an outstanding culturalist. President Ho Chi Minh has also turned culture into a lighthouse for the development of the country, and at the same time, he is also a cultural activist in the fields of journalism, poetry, and literature. It can be affirmed: culture is the soul of the nation, while

culture remains the nation. The characteristic of Ho Chi Minh's thought is the unity between theory and practice, morality and style; are the viewpoint and exemplary model of a communist soldier who is loyal and steadfast in his revolutionary ideals, and who always put the interests of the Party, the nation and the people first, is always loyal to the country, and devoted to the people; always need, thrift, integrity, impartiality; is an independent, self-directed, creative thinking style, a democratic and scientific working style; cultural behavior, humanity, respect for love, words and deeds, simple living, harmony with nature, etc., set an example of revolutionary morality, vividly expressed.

Ho Chi Minh Thought is the theoretical foundation and orientation for the Communist Party of Vietnam to build the right revolutionary line, organize forces and lead the Vietnamese people to victory in the August Revolution of 1945, founded the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, in the resistance wars against the French colonialists and the American imperialists, in the wars to protect the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the Fatherland, and the achievements important in all aspects for more than 30 years of innovation and international integration. Ho Chi Minh's thought is a great and valuable spiritual asset of our Party and nation, forever paving the way for our people's revolutionary cause on the steadfast journey to the goal of national independence and socialism.

Ho Chi Minh thought illuminates the development path of the Vietnamese nation, especially in the context of globalization and international integration. The historical significance and theoretical and practical value of thought have transcended national borders and become a valuable part of human culture. Vietnam is promoting comprehensively the cause of innovation and international integration in the context of intertwined advantages and challenges, especially when the world, regional and domestic situation is unpredictable and difficult complexity

in social life. Our Party has launched the campaign "Study and follows Ho Chi Minh's ideology, morality and style" in the Party and the whole society. This is a great cultural activity to help people, first of all, cadres and party members to follow Uncle Ho's moral example, and improve revolutionary morality, need, thrift, integrity, righteousness, and justice investment, pushing back the degradation of political ideology, morality, lifestyle, and social evils, and directing people to truth, goodness, and beauty. The content of the campaign has a very high cultural identity, and the nature of the campaign is both a political activity and a rich cultural activity. Therefore, this is also a practical activity of our Party, contributing to bringing Ho Chi Minh's cultural thought to life. Besides, all levels of Party committees, authorities, departments, and functional branches need to take care of building culture in the Party and political system associated with building a new Vietnamese people and human value system; to associate cultural construction with economic construction and build and correct a clean and strong Party. At the same time, focus on building a healthy cultural environment, developing literature and art, and preserving and promoting national cultural heritages in association with strengthening international cooperation on culture in sync with the development of national culture rapid and sustainable development of the economy - society; promote the positive side, limit the negative side of objective and subjective factors, and internal and external conditions, to develop the economy, culture, and society in harmony and balance.

In November 2021, the National Cultural Conference will take place, with the meaning of arousing the aspirations of the whole nation to enter a new era, focusing on rapid and sustainable development of the country\ declare the Party's guidelines, policies, resolutions, directives, and conclusions on cultural and artistic work over the past time; the results of building Vietnamese culture and people after 35 years of implementing

the country's renovation work, etc., continue to deeply grasp and implement viewpoints and policies on building and developing culture and people. Vietnam in the Resolution of the 13th National Congress of the Party. The National Cultural Conference is the continuation of Uncle Ho's thought, attaching great importance to the good cultural traditions of his ancestors and requires us to know how to preserve the precious cultural capital of the nation, and restore the positive elements in the national cultural treasure.

However, due to the negative impacts from the negative side of the market mechanism and international integration, the field of culture has also revealed certain limitations, having a significant impact on the traditional culture of the nation. In the cultural environment, there are still unhealthy and alien expressions that are contrary to fine customs and traditions; Social evils and some types of crimes tend to increase. The conservation and promotion of cultural heritage values have not been effective. The development of the mass information system lacks scientific planning, wastes resources, and the management cannot keep up with the development. Some media agencies show signs of commercialization, away from the principles and purposes" (Minh, 2011, vol 3, p.125). Studying and following Ho Chi Minh's moral example according to the annual study theme in some places still takes place formally. The Resolution of the Fourth Plenum of the 12th Central Committee pointed out 27 signs of deterioration in political ideology, morality, lifestyle, and "self-evolution" and "self-transformation" expressions of cadres and party members pellets. Resolution No. 26-NQ/TW, dated May 19, 2018, of the Party Central Committee (term XII) on focusing on building a contingent of cadres at all levels, especially at the strategic level, with sufficient quality and capacity and prestige, up to the task. Regulations on ethical standards and lifestyles of Party members, leaders, managers, employees, and workers in the Central Enterprise Block by Ho

Chi Minh's ideology, moral example, and style have not been implemented thoroughly present.

The 11th National Party Congress pointed out: Cultural development has not been commensurate with economic growth. Management of culture, arts, press, and publishing is still lacking. The cultural environment is infringed, mixed, unhealthy, contrary to fine traditions and customs, social evils, crime, and the penetration of harmful products and services that degrade morality, very worrying. These are potential risks of eroding the nation's fine traditional cultural and ethical values, causing social disorder and security, and hindering the country's sustainable development. To build an advanced Vietnamese culture imbued with national identity, making culture closely linked and permeated into the entire social life, becoming a solid spiritual foundation, strength important endogenous of the cause of promoting industrialization and modernization of the country.

The 12th National Congress, Political Report of the XI Central Committee assessed: "Initially forming new values about human beings with the qualities of social responsibility, civic consciousness, democracy, and democracy. Dynamic, creative, aspiration to rise. The institutional system and cultural institutions have been gradually strengthened... The cultural life of the people has been improved. "However, compared with the achievements in the fields of politics, economy, national defense, security, and foreign affairs, the achievements in the field of culture are not commensurate; not enough scale to effectively influence building healthy people and cultural environment. Morals and lifestyles are worrisomely degraded. Cultural and spiritual life in many places is still poor and monotonous; the cultural enjoyment gap between mountainous, remote, and urban areas and among people of all strata has been slowly shortened. In the cultural environment, there are still unhealthy and alien expressions that are contrary to fine customs and traditions; social evils and some types of crime

tend to increase..." (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2016, p.124)

The limitations in realizing the goal of building Vietnamese culture and people are topical issues before the 13th National Congress. One of the main causes of limitations in building a culture is that the policies and implementation of the system of management agencies in the state management system are not suitable for real life and the nature of culture, does not correspond to the political determination of the Party. The political report at the 12th National Congress identified the causes of limitations and weaknesses mainly because many Party committees and authorities did not properly perceive the importance and did not pay enough attention to this field; leadership and direction are not very drastic. The concretization and institutionalization of the Party's resolutions are slow and inconsistent. The state management of culture has been slowly reformed, and at times it has been overlooked or even relaxed. Investment in the field of culture is not adequate and spread.

### **Some solutions to build an advanced Vietnamese culture imbued with national identity according to Ho Chi Minh's ideology**

To improve the quality and effectiveness of cultural construction and development, Vietnamese people meet the requirements of sustainable development in the country. 13th National Congress of the Party and Conclusion No. 76-KL/TW dated 4-6-2020 of the 12th Politburo on continuing to implement Resolution No. 33-NQ/TW of the Central Committee Party term XI on building and developing Vietnamese culture and people to meet the requirements of sustainable development of the country. At the same time, it is necessary to focus on implementing the following solutions:

First of all, improve the Party's leadership capacity in building and developing Vietnamese culture and people in the period of industrialization and modernization of the

country. Strengthen the coordination of socio-political organizations and socio-professional organizations in propagating and raising awareness of the whole society about the position and role of building and developing culture and people. Vietnam meets the requirements of sustainable development of country, in mobilizing resources to participate in the development of cultural causes. Our Party's XIII Congress pointed out: Building a comprehensively developed Vietnamese culture, aiming for truth - goodness - beauty, imbued with the national spirit, humanity, democracy, and science; making culture become a solid spiritual foundation of society, an important endogenous force, ensuring sustainable development and firmly defending the Fatherland, for the sake of a rich people and a strong country democracy, justice, and civilization.

Second, "Vietnamese culture must be placed in a dialectical relationship with all aspects of social life, especially with economic development. If only interested in economic development alone will form a pragmatic lifestyle of the consumer society; on the contrary, if only paying attention to cultural values, society will be poor, material life will be difficult, and spiritual life will be lacking. Therefore, it is necessary to regularly pay attention to building a culture in the economy, business culture, corporate culture, entrepreneurs with standards of honesty, respect for credibility, responsibility" (Tri, 2022). The improvement of the people's cultural level will help us accelerate the construction of socialism. Raising the people's cultural level is also a necessary job to build our country into a peaceful, unified, independent, democratic and prosperous country. Focus on research, identification, and implementation of building a national value system, cultural value system, and human standards in association with preserving and developing the Vietnamese family value system in the new period. Paying attention to the education, training, and protection of children, teenagers, and children. Strengthen education on patriotism, national pride, tradition,

and national history, and a sense of social responsibility for all classes of people, especially young people. Implement breakthrough solutions to effectively prevent the degradation of morality and lifestyle, and repel social negativity and social evils. Protect and promote good and sustainable values in Vietnamese cultural traditions. Step by step rise to overcome the limitations of Vietnamese people; building Vietnamese people in the new era, closely and harmoniously connecting traditional values and modern values according to Ho Chi Minh's thought.

Third, strengthen propaganda and create an understanding of the society about promoting national culture. Organize practical and effective cultural, economic, and sports exchanges, associated with the actual conditions of the country. Regularly organize traditional educational activities, unique material, and spiritual values of the country, giving people the opportunity to introduce those values to friends around the world. Through festival activities, further promote patriotism, revolutionary heroism, solidarity, pride, and the will of the nation, strengthen and strengthen the people's belief in the leadership of the Party; thereby, creating a strong change in deep understanding, pride, and honoring the history and culture of the nation.

Fourth, Implement learning content and follow Ho Chi Minh's moral thought and style, regularly update and add new content in the above directives, plans, and instructions on promoting learning practice and follow Ho Chi Minh's ideology, morality, style, campaigns, and Resolution 4 into people's lives as well as the entire political system. In addition to propagating scientific content on Ho Chi Minh's ideology, morality, and style, it is necessary to focus on contacting and applying them to each field of activity and specific objects; focus on setting an advanced example, replicating the advanced example in studying and following Ho Chi Minh's moral thought and style.



## Conclusion

Throughout his life, President Ho Chi Minh always upheld the position, role, and power of culture. According to Ho Chi Minh's point of view, culture is both the goal and the driving force of the revolutionary cause. Culture lights the way for the nation, therefore, President Ho Chi Minh mentioned the need to preserve and promote national traditions and cultural identities. Ho Chi Minh's heritage shows that the country's development dynamics include material and spiritual motivations: community and individual dynamics; internal and external forces. Culture plays a huge role in promoting the economic and political development of the country. The purpose of culture is to improve the moral, ideological and cultural qualities of the entire nation, creating spiritual, intellectual and ideological motivations for economic development and social progress. Culture remains, the nation remains, so we need to preserve and promote cultural values, especially cultural values according to President Ho Chi Minh's Ideology in the current period.

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