

HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS

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**APPLYING HO CHI MINH'S CITIZEN-CENTERED
IDEOLOGY TO PROMOTE THE STRENGTH OF THE
PEOPLE IN VIETNAM**

SUMMARY OF THE DOCTORAL THESIS

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INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale of the research

Social history is created by the people, and the people are also the driving force that pushes history forward. The prosperity or decline of a nation depends on its people. The history of the Vietnamese nation shows that the strength of the people plays a decisive role in the glorious victories of our nation. The “Citizen-Centered” ideology is a consistent and central thought throughout the revolutionary life of President Ho Chi Minh. In the preface of his Testament, Ho Chi Minh affirmed: “Throughout my life, I have wholeheartedly served the homeland, the revolution, and the people. Now, even though I must say goodbye to this world, I have no regrets, only the regret that I could not serve longer and more” [94, p.615]. Ho Chi Minh also pointed out the importance of harnessing the people's strength in the national revolutionary process: “Revolution is the cause of the masses, not the cause of a heroic individual. The success of our Party is due to the Party’s ability to organize and promote the endless revolutionary power of the people” [91, p.672]. Throughout the leadership of the Vietnamese revolution, Ho Chi Minh always focused on awakening the role and strength of the people.

Starting from the recognition of the important role of the people, the “Citizen-centered” ideology, which values and is close to the people, has been formed early in the history of Vietnamese thought. From the establishment of the country, this awareness was particularly emphasized by the dynasties, which mobilized the strength of the nation to achieve glorious victories in the wars against foreign invaders to protect national independence. Deeply inheriting the nation's traditional culture and the spirit of the times, Ho Chi Minh soon realized the great role of the people. The patriotism, respect for the people, and “Citizen-centered” ideology in Ho Chi Minh's thought were elevated to a new height through the application and creative development of Marxism-Leninism regarding the role of the people, linked to the realities of Vietnam.

With the guiding light of Marxism-Leninism, the Communist Party of Vietnam and President Ho Chi Minh always emphasized that the revolution is the cause of the people, by the people, and for the people. The people are the subject and driving force of the revolution, and the freedom and happiness of the people are the goals of the Vietnamese revolution. The most valuable experience that our Party has drawn from practice is that we must rely on the strength of the people, mobilize, and unite the power of the people from all walks of life to achieve the glorious victories of the revolution. With this profound meaning, the Resolution of the 13th National Party Congress affirmed: “We must always deeply grasp the viewpoint 'the people are the root'... The people are the center, the subject of the renovation, construction, and protection of the Fatherland” [32, p.27-28].

In the new era, “the era of the nation's rise”, with the strong development of science and technology globally, the issue of harnessing the power of the people has become increasingly urgent. This is not only a practical need but also a profound philosophical issue, relating to the nature of social development, ethics, and justice. Throughout the revolutionary process and the renewal efforts, our Party and State have consistently implemented and creatively applied Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” ideology. The people's right to ownership has been increasingly promoted, the living standards of the people have been noticeably improved, and the people's trust in the Party, State, and the regime has been strengthened... However, bureaucratism, commandism, authoritarianism, and a lack of democracy have not been fully eradicated. A section of officials and party members has shown signs of moral decline, becoming distant from the people and indifferent; some phenomena of corruption, privilege, and special interests within the Party and state agencies have not been dealt with decisively and justly in a timely manner, which weakens the people's trust in the Party and State. Hostile forces have exploited this situation to incite, divide, and destroy the unity between the Party, State, and the people. Challenges such as climate change, economic crises, inequality, and issues of peace and security require proactive and strong participation from the people. It can be asserted that

sustainable development cannot be achieved without the participation of the people in every social process. Only with the strength of the masses can we build a fair economy, protect the environment, promote the development of culture, education, and science... Each individual, each social group can contribute to building a strong society. Only when the power of the people is fully harnessed can the nation rise, overcome challenges, and create a bright future. Therefore, studying and applying Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” ideology to harness the power of the Vietnamese people in the cause of building and defending the Fatherland is necessary.

Based on this theoretical and practical foundation, the doctoral candidate has chosen the topic *Applying Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” ideology to harness the power of the people in present-day Vietnam* as the subject of their doctoral dissertation in philosophy.

2. Research objectives and tasks

2.1. Research objectives

Based on the study of Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” ideology and the analysis of the current application of this ideology to harness the power of the people in Vietnam, the dissertation proposes several solutions to enhance the effectiveness of applying Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” ideology in promoting the power of the people in Vietnam in the coming years.

2.2. Research tasks

To achieve the above goal, the dissertation includes the following specific tasks:

First, to provide an overview of the issues related to the dissertation topic; the main results achieved by previous authors, and to identify the aspects that the dissertation will continue to research.

Second, to systematize and clarify Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” ideology; the essence of applying Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” ideology to harness the power of the people in present-day Vietnam and the factors influencing this process.

Third, to analyze and evaluate the current state of applying Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” ideology to harness the power of the people in present-day Vietnam and the causes of this situation.

Fourth, to propose several solutions to enhance the effectiveness of applying Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” ideology to harness the power of the people in Vietnam in the coming years.

3. Research subject and research scope

3.1. Research subjects

Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” ideology and the application of this ideology to harness the power of the people in present-day Vietnam

3.2. Research scopes

Ho Chi Minh's ideology is a rich system that covers many areas. The dissertation focuses on studying the key aspects of Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” ideology from several fundamental perspectives. Based on this, the dissertation will delve into analyzing and evaluating the theoretical contents, the current state, and the solutions related to applying Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” ideology to harness the power of the people in Vietnam from the period of renovation (1986) to the present.

4. Theoretical basis and research methods

4.1. Theoretical basis

The theoretical basis of the dissertation is dialectical materialism and historical materialism; the viewpoints and ideologies of Ho Chi Minh and our Party and State regarding the role of the people, as well as the relationship between the Party, State, and the people in the revolutionary process of Vietnam.

4.2. Research methodology

The dissertation applies the methodological principles of dialectical materialism and historical materialism, while also integrating specific research methods, such as the logical and historical methods, the methods of analysis, synthesis, comparison, and other methods relevant to each aspect of the dissertation.

5. Contribution of the thesis

First, the dissertation contributes to systematizing Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” ideology, clarifying its essence and the factors influencing

the application of this ideology to harness the power of the people in Vietnam.

Second, it analyzes and evaluates the current state of applying Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” ideology to harness the power of the people in Vietnam, highlighting the achievements, limitations, and the reasons behind these achievements and limitations.

Third, the dissertation proposes key solutions to enhance the effectiveness of applying Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” ideology to harness the power of the people in Vietnam in the present period.

6. Theoretical and practical significance of the thesis

First, the research findings of the dissertation contribute to systematizing and deepening Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” ideology and its application to harness the power of the people in present-day Vietnam from the perspective of the philosophy discipline. The dissertation provides theoretical grounds for studying, applying, and creatively developing Ho Chi Minh's thought in the ongoing renovation process in our country.

Second, the research results can serve as a reference for research, teaching, propaganda, and education on Ho Chi Minh's thought in general, and the application of his "Citizen-Centered" ideology to harness the power of the people in Vietnam today. Through this, the dissertation contributes to realizing his ideology in the cause of building the country and defending the Fatherland in the new era of the nation

7. Structure of the thesis

In accordance with the purposes and tasks mentioned above, in addition to the introduction and conclusion, a list of scientific works of doctoral students related to the thesis, a list of references and appendices, and the thesis has a structure of 4 chapters.

Chapter 1

OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH WORKS RELATED TO THE THESIS

1.1. RESEARCH WORKS RELATED TO THE THEORETICAL ISSUES OF THE THESIS TOPIC

The dissertation provides an overview of research groups both domestically and internationally related to the theoretical issues of Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” ideology. These research works include scientific topics, specialized and reference books, doctoral dissertations, and scientific papers that contribute significantly to the scientific field.

1.2. WORKS REFERRING TO TOURISM AND THE SITUATION OF CULTURAL SOFT POWER IN TOURISM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The dissertation provides an overview of research groups both domestically and internationally related to the current application of Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” ideology. These research works include scientific topics, specialized and reference books, doctoral dissertations, and scientific papers that contribute significantly to the scientific field.

1.3. RESEARCH RELATED TO SOLUTIONS TO PROMOTE CULTURAL SOFT POWER IN TOURISM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The dissertation provides an overview of research groups both domestically and internationally related to solutions for applying Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” ideology. These research works include scientific topics, specialized and reference books, doctoral dissertations, and scientific papers that contribute significantly to the scientific field.

1.4. OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH REVIEWED AND ISSUES THAT NEED CONTINUE STUDY

1.4.1. Overview of scientific research related to the reviewed thesis

The research contents and value of the reviewed scientific studies can be summarized in the following basic aspects:

First, the studies have addressed Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” ideology from various perspectives, such as his concept of the people, the role of the people, and the view of putting the people at the core. These are

topics that the researcher can refer to in order to define Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” ideology more clearly.

Second, some studies have contributed to clarifying the achievements in applying Ho Chi Minh's ideology in specific areas, such as achievements in democratic practices, building the relationship between the Party and the people, and mobilizing people's resources for national development. At the same time, the reviewed studies also highlight some limitations in the process of applying Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” ideology to enhance the strength of the people in Vietnam today, such as: The state's management and organization of utilizing people's resources have not been truly effective in practice and specific environments; The Vietnam Fatherland Front and political-social organizations have sometimes failed to properly perform their function of representing and protecting the legitimate rights and interests of the people; The construction and implementation of democratic practices in society have not yet created a truly democratic and free environment, which is conducive to mobilizing the resources and creativity of all people.

Third, the reviewed studies have proposed several solutions related to the application of Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” ideology to enhance the strength of the people in Vietnam today in certain aspects, such as: Promoting the strength of national unity; Promoting socialist democracy; Strengthening judicial reform to ensure the people's right to ownership and supervision; Continuing to strengthen the people's trust in the Party, the State, and the nation's development path; Focusing on the material and spiritual well-being of the people; Using the people's happiness and prosperity as the goal of all Party and State activities.

An overview of the research related to the dissertation topic above shows that the study of Ho Chi Minh's ideology and the application of his ideology to harness the strength of the people is very rich, covering many perspectives and aspects. However, the study of Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” ideology and its application to harness the strength of the people in Vietnam from a philosophical perspective has hardly been presented in

independent, in-depth, and systematically organized works. This is the topic that the dissertation will continue to explore and clarify further.

1.4.2. The issues raised that the thesis needs to continue to research

Building upon selectively inherited previous studies, the dissertation will continue to research and clarify the following main issues:

First, clarify the basis of formation and content of Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” ideology, and the content of mobilizing the strength of the people in Vietnam today, including: Exploiting and utilizing material resources from the people; Harnessing the spiritual strength of the people; Promoting the strength of the great national unity bloc; The key factors influencing the application of Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” ideology to harness the strength of the people in Vietnam today.

Second, analyze the current state of applying Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” ideology to harness the strength of the people in Vietnam over nearly 40 years of reform, pointing out the main achievements, limitations, and their causes.

Third, propose several solutions to improve the effectiveness of applying Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” ideology to enhance the strength of the people in Vietnam in the near future.

Conclusion of Chapter 1

Chapter 1 of the dissertation has provided an overview of the research situation related to the topic by surveying, analyzing, and evaluating research works (books, articles in scientific journals) both domestically and internationally, categorized into three research groups: (1) Research related to Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” ideology; (2) Research related to the current state of applying Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” ideology to harness the strength of the people in Vietnam today; (3) Research related to solutions for applying Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” ideology to enhance the strength of the people in Vietnam today. The researcher recognizes that this is an issue with both urgent theoretical and practical significance, and it continues to receive attention from many scholars. The content of the studies related to the dissertation topic is quite comprehensive; several theoretical

and practical issues have been addressed. However, the application of Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” ideology needs to be studied in a more specialized, scientific manner to deepen the content and enhance the strength of the people in Vietnam today. This includes evaluations of the current situation and some solutions for applying Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” ideology to mobilize the strength of the people in Vietnam today. These are valuable references that the author has consulted in the process of writing the dissertation, in terms of content inheritance, reference materials, and identifying scientific gaps for further investigation.

Chapter 2

APPLYING HO CHI MINH'S “CITIZEN-CENTERED” IDEOLOGY TO PROMOTE THE STRENGTH OF THE PEOPLE IN VIETNAM - SOME THEORETICAL ISSUES

2.1. HO CHI MINH “CITIZEN-CENTERED” THOUGHT

2.1.1. The Foundation of Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” Thought

2.1.1.1. The Tradition of "Citizen-Centered" in Vietnamese History

In the history of Vietnam's formation, existence, and development, due to the need for nation-building and defense, previous generations quickly recognized the position and role of the people, which led to the formation of the thought of "Citizen-Centered" in the intellectual history of the nation through various periods.

The thought of respecting, trusting, and relying on the people by earlier generations is a precious tradition of the nation, which Ho Chi Minh absorbed and inherited, contributing significantly to the formation of his own "citizen-centered" thought.

2.1.1.2. Selective Inheritance of Values in the "Citizen-Centered" Thought of Humanity

First, inheriting values from the Eastern "citizen-centered" thought.

Ho Chi Minh was born into a patriotic Confucian family, and he had early opportunities to absorb Eastern cultural ideas, particularly Confucianism and Buddhism.

Second, inheriting values from the Western "Citizen-centered" thought.

In Western culture, Ho Chi Minh selectively absorbed the humanistic ideas within bourgeois ideology, such as "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity," which were used by the rising bourgeois class to unite forces in overthrowing the feudal regime. Therefore, when searching for a way to save his country, Ho Chi Minh actively sought to understand the progressive ideas expressed in the American Declaration of Independence (1776) and the French Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen (1789). Ho Chi Minh was particularly interested in works discussing human rights, democracy, and humanitarianism, such as *The Spirit of the Laws* (Montesquieu) and *The Social Contract* (Jean-Jacques Rousseau). His lived experiences, activities, and struggles in various countries across Asia, Africa, and Latin America provided Nguyễn Ái Quốc with the understanding that wherever he worked, laborers suffered under colonial imperialism, enduring humiliation, poverty, and brutal exploitation, all sharing a common desire for liberation. His empathy for the oppressed and hatred for capitalists, imperialists, and colonizers played a significant role in developing Ho Chi Minh's class consciousness and international solidarity, forming a very important foundation for his adoption of revolutionary, scientific doctrines, and contributing to the formation of his "citizen-centered" thought.

2.1.1.3. The Thought on the People of the Classical Marxist-Leninist Theorists

Ho Chi Minh "Citizen-centered" thought was formed during his process of searching for a path to save his country. It was the result of Ho Chi Minh observing, analyzing, summarizing practical experience, and absorbing Marxism-Leninism, creatively applying its doctrine to the conditions of Vietnam. The viewpoints of Marxism-Leninism regarding the role and power of the people truly constitute a scientific worldview, a methodological foundation, and the formation of Ho Chi Minh "Citizen-centered" thought.

2.1.1.4. Family Tradition, Homeland, and the Contemporary Historical Reality of Vietnam

The family had a profound influence on Ho Chi Minh during his childhood, contributing greatly to the formation of his motivation, patriotic thoughts, love for the people, and his character.

Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” thought is derived from the special qualities of the Vietnamese people, qualities that have existed throughout the long history of the nation. These qualities include not only deep patriotism but also a spirit of unity, strength to overcome difficulties, and self-sacrifice for the community. This is the foundation that led Ho Chi Minh to affirm that the revolution cannot succeed without the participation and solidarity of the people.

2.1.2. Content of Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” Thought

2.1.2.1. Ho Chi Minh’s Views on the People and Their Role in Our Revolution

First, Ho Chi Minh’s views on the people.

Second, Ho Chi Minh’s views on the role of the people in our revolution.

2.1.2.2. The Content of Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” Thought

First, the concept of "citizen-centered" in Ho Chi Minh’s thought.

In Ho Chi Minh’s view, the people hold the highest position, encompassing everything. His attitude toward the people was one of respect, reverence, trust, and a commitment to serving them. The "citizen-centered" thought in Ho Chi Minh’s ideology transcended both feudal and bourgeois ideologies, standing from the standpoint and viewpoint of the working class, deeply embedded with the scientific and revolutionary nature of Marxism-Leninism and the spirit of the era. Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” thought developed into a democratic ideology; living for and serving the people was the highest purpose. This is a distinctive feature of Ho Chi Minh’s thought.

Second, Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” viewpoint includes the following main elements:

(1) Placing the people as the foundation, respecting their will, and understanding their feelings.

(2) Ensuring the well-being of the people and continually improving their living standards with the spirit of "Using the talents and strength of the people to benefit the people," and "Placing the interests of the people above all else."

(3) Focusing on raising public awareness, training human resources, and nurturing talents. Ho Chi Minh’s outstanding contribution was not only as an exceptional organizer and brilliant thinker but also as a great educator.

(4) Implementing "people's rights," ensuring that all power belongs to the people.

2.2. APPLICATION OF HO CHI MINH'S "CITIZEN-CENTERED" THOUGHT TO UNLEASH THE STRENGTH OF THE PEOPLE IN PRESENT-DAY VIETNAM - ESSENCE AND INFLUENCING FACTORS

2.2.1. The Essence of Applying Ho Chi Minh "Citizen-centered" Thought to Unleash the Strength of the People in Present-Day Vietnam

2.2.1.1. Unleashing the Strength of the Vietnamese People

First, the concept of strength and the strength of the people.

Strength is the combination of internal forces, including both physical and mental aspects, representing the ability of an individual or group to utilize and maximize existing capabilities, having a powerful impact on others and on objects, creating high-level effects.

The people are the entire nation, regardless of class, social status, ethnicity, religion, or belief, all of whom participate in the cause of building and defending the homeland under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

The strength of the people is understood as the collective internal forces of the entire nation, with no distinction of class, social status, ethnicity, religion, or belief, all participating in the cause of national construction and defense under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

The strength of the Vietnamese people is evident in the way the people, with all their spirit and forces, have directly or indirectly impacted factors that are essential for the emergence, maintenance, and development of the revolutionary cause. Specifically:

First, the needs and aspirations of the people are the driving force behind Vietnam's revolutionary cause.

Second, the people contribute their intellect, which plays a decisive role in formulating and ensuring the correctness of the revolutionary guidelines.

Third, the people provide financial and material resources that guarantee the success of the revolutionary cause.

Fourth, the people, as a large and powerful force, play a primary role in implementing the revolutionary guidelines and protecting the achievements of the revolution.

Second, the concept of unleashing strength and unleashing the strength of the Vietnamese people.

Unleashing the strength of the Vietnamese people is understood as the process of continuously improving the strength of the people, increasing their role in advancing the historical development process, and contributing to achieving the country's socio-economic development goals.

2.2.1.2. The Content of Applying Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” Thought to Unleash the Strength of the People in Present-Day Vietnam

First, applying Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” Thought to Unleash the Material Resources of the People.

Specific material resources of the "people's strength" and "people's wealth" include resources such as wealth, finances, and labor force.

Second, applying Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” Thought to Unleash the Spiritual Strength of the People.

Applying Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” Thought to unleash the spiritual strength of the people includes the following main aspects:

- Promoting the intellectual resources of the people.
- Building and reinforcing trust, establishing strong relationships between the Party, the State, and the people.
- Promoting patriotism, self-reliance, self-strengthening, and the aspiration to build an independent and prosperous nation.

Third, applying Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” Thought to Unleash the Strength of the Great Unity of the Entire Nation.

2.2.2. Key Factors Affecting the Application of Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” Thought to Unleash the Strength of the People in Present-Day Vietnam

(1) The requirements of the renewal process and national development in the context of a world full of complex and unpredictable changes.

First, globalization and international integration have strongly impacted the economies of countries, including Vietnam.

Second, the rapid development of information and communication technologies in the present day has transformed the way society is organized and operated.

Third, the requirements and tasks of building and defending the homeland in the new era of the nation.

(2) The positivity of the actors.

The main actors influencing the application of Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” Thought to unleash the strength of the people in present-day Vietnam include: The Communist Party of Vietnam; The State; political and social organizations; the cadre and party members in the entire political system, and the people themselves.

(3) The methods and actions of the actors:

- Through the formulation, issuance, and implementation of the Party and State's policies and guidelines.
- Through the educational system.
- Through the information and propaganda system.
- Through combating and refuting erroneous, hostile viewpoints.
- Through setting an example by the cadres and party members, especially the leaders of organizations, units, and localities.

Conclusion of Chapter 2

The essence of Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” Thought is to be close to the people, care for their happiness, trust in their abilities and creativity, and free the people from oppression to achieve the historical goal of making the people the true masters of society and building a better life. Chapter 2 of the dissertation presents the following three main contents:

First, it summarizes the foundations for the formation of Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” Thought; his views on the people and the role of the people in our revolutionary cause; and analyzes the basic contents of Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” Thought.

Second, it clarifies the concepts related to the strength and power of the Vietnamese people, how to promote and unleash the strength of the Vietnamese people today; based on this, it analyzes and clarifies the content of applying Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” Thought to unleash the strength of the people in present-day Vietnam in several key aspects.

Third, it identifies the key factors affecting the application of Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” Thought to unleash the strength of the people in present-day Vietnam.

The contents analyzed in Chapter 2 will serve as the theoretical framework and important basis for the researcher to analyze the practical application of Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” Thought to unleash the strength of the people in present-day Vietnam.

Chapter 3

APPLYING HO CHI MINH'S “CITIZEN-CENTERED” IDEOLOGY TO PROMOTE THE STRENGTH OF THE PEOPLE IN VIETNAM - CURRENT SITUATION AND CAUSES

3.1. APPLYING HO CHI MINH “CITIZEN-CENTERED” THOUGHT TO UNLEASH THE STRENGTH OF THE PEOPLE IN PRESENT-DAY VIETNAM - ACHIEVEMENTS AND CAUSES

3.1.1. Achievements in applying Ho Chi Minh’s “Citizen-centered” thought to unleash the strength of the people in present-day Vietnam

3.1.1.1. Achievements in applying Ho Chi Minh’s “Citizen-centered” thought to unleash the material resources of the people

First, regarding the promotion of the wealth and financial resources of the people.

Second, regarding the promotion of the labor force resources.

3.1.1.2. Achievements in applying Ho Chi Minh’s “Citizen-centered” thought to unleash the spiritual strength of the people

The achievements in applying Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” Thought to unleash the spiritual strength of the people in our country today are reflected in the following specific points:

First, regarding the promotion of the intellectual resources of the people.

Second, achievements in applying Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” Thought to establish and reinforce trust, and build strong relationships between the Party, the State, and the people.

Third, achievements in applying Ho Chi Minh “Citizen-centered” Thought to promote patriotism, self-reliance, self-strengthening, creativity, and the aspiration of the people to build an independent and prosperous nation.

3.1.1.3. Achievements in applying Ho Chi Minh's "Citizen-centered" thought to unleash the strength of the great national unity block

The great national unity is a strategic guideline, an internal resource, and a powerful force for building and defending the Fatherland under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam. The strength of the great national unity block over the past 90 years has vividly demonstrated the building and implementation of the national unity thought of President Ho Chi Minh. Currently, in light of new developments in both the world and within the country, the Party must continue to promote the strength of the great national unity block to create unity and solidarity, while also forming a great force to build a stronger, more prosperous Fatherland, ensuring that the people become happier, and the country continues to develop and thrive.

3.1.2. Causes of the Achievements

Firstly, our Party has increasingly recognized the position, role, and importance of applying Ho Chi Minh "Citizen-centered" Thought in unleashing the strength of the people.

Secondly, the achievements in applying Ho Chi Minh "Citizen-centered" Thought to unleash the strength of the people also stem from promoting socialist democracy. The Party and the State have issued many correct guidelines and policies that have leveraged the intellectual contributions of the people and are suitable to practical realities.

Thirdly, the human factor is placed at the center of development, both as the driving force and the goal of that development.

3.2. APPLYING HO CHI MINH'S "CITIZEN-CENTERED" THOUGHT TO UNLEASH THE STRENGTH OF THE PEOPLE IN VIETNAM TODAY - LIMITATIONS AND CAUSES

3.2.1. Limitations in applying Ho Chi Minh's "Citizen-centered" thought to unleash the strength of the people

3.2.1.1. Limitations in applying Ho Chi Minh's "Citizen-centered" thought to unleash the material resources of the people

First, regarding the unleashing of the wealth and financial resources within the people.

Second, regarding the unleashing of labor resources.

3.2.1.2. Limitations in applying Ho Chi Minh's "Citizen-centered" thought to unleash the spiritual strength of the people

First, regarding the unleashing of the intellectual resources of the people.

Second, limitations in applying Ho Chi Minh "Citizen-centered" Thought to build and strengthen trust, as well as to create a closer relationship between the Party, the State, and the people.

Third, limitations in applying Ho Chi Minh "Citizen-centered" Thought to promote patriotism, self-reliance, resilience, creativity, and the aspiration to build a prosperous, independent country.

3.2.1.3. Limitations in applying Ho Chi Minh's "Citizen-centered" thought to unleash the strength of the great national unity block

In recent years, applying Ho Chi Minh "Citizen-centered" Thought to unleash the strength of the great national unity block has yielded certain results. However, we can observe that the strength of the great national unity still has some limitations and has not been fully developed. At times and in certain places, the role and power of the people, and the actual strength of national unity, have not been fully realized.

3.2.2. Causes of the Limitations

**** Objective Causes***

First, the complex impacts of the transition to a market-oriented economy and the reform of the development model.

Second, the influence of globalization and emerging challenges from the international environment.

Third, technological advancements and the bidirectional effects of mass media and social networks.

Fourth, cultural-social legacies and remnants of outdated psychological mindsets.

Fifth, sabotage activities by hostile forces and the strategy of "peaceful evolution".

**** Subjective Causes***

First, the awareness of the people's role has, at times, been incomplete and insufficient, leading to ineffective utilization of resources and underperformance in mobilizing the collective strength of society.

Second, some cadres and Party members still lack a comprehensive and profound understanding of the position and role of the people in the revolutionary cause.

Third, while the fight against bureaucracy, corruption, negative phenomena, and social evils has seen positive developments, it has not yet met expectations.

Fourth, although the Party's mass mobilization efforts have achieved some positive results in strengthening the bond between the people and the government as well as socio-political organizations, there remain considerable limitations that undermine the effectiveness of national construction and development efforts.

Conclusion of Chapter 3

In the current context, as the country is undergoing a process of strong integration and development, Ho Chi Minh "Citizen-centered" thought still holds profound and broad relevance. However, in practice, applying this thought to the work of building the government and unleashing the power of the people still faces many challenges.

Chapter 3 of the thesis has analyzed the current state of applying Ho Chi Minh "Citizen-centered" thought to unleash the strength of the people in Vietnam today, including both achievements and limitations, across three main aspects: applying Ho Chi Minh "Citizen-centered" thought to unleash the material resources of the people; applying Ho Chi Minh "Citizen-centered" thought to unleash the spiritual strength of the people; and applying Ho Chi Minh "Citizen-centered" thought to unleash the strength of the great national unity block. This analysis also clarifies the causes behind the current situation. These points serve as a crucial basis for proposing solutions to enhance the effectiveness of applying Ho Chi Minh "Citizen-centered" thought to unleash the strength of the people in Vietnam today.

Chapter 4

SOLUTIONS TO ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF APPLYING HO CHI MINH “CITIZEN-CENTERED” THOUGHT TO UNLEASH THE STRENGTH OF THE PEOPLE IN VIETNAM

4.1. CONTINUING TO PROMOTE THE POSITIVE AND CREATIVE ROLE OF STAKEHOLDERS IN APPLYING HO CHI MINH’S “CITIZEN-CENTERED” THOUGHT TO HARNESS THE STRENGTH OF THE MASSES IN CONTEMPORARY VIETNAM

First, promote the positive and creative role of leadership and management entities.

Second, promote the role of political-social organizations and mass associations.

Third, promote the active, creative, and exemplary role of officials and Party members.

Fourth, promote the positive and creative role of each individual citizen.

4.2. DIVERSIFYING THE METHODS OF APPLYING HO CHI MINH “CITIZEN-CENTERED” THOUGHT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SPECIFIC PRACTICAL CONDITIONS

4.2.1. Applying the citizen-centered thought in mobilizing the strength of the masses in Vietnam on the basis of steadfast adherence to Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh’s thought, in alignment with the country’s specific realities.

First, placing the people at the center and prioritizing their interests above all.

Second, ensuring that the people are the masters and truly exercise their mastery.

Third, emphasizing the cultivation of close ties between the Party, the State, and the people.

4.2.2. Promoting the role of political-social organizations and communities in mobilizing and organizing the people.

First, democratization at the grassroots level - the foundation for meaningful participation.

Second, developing spaces for social dialogue.

Third, renewing mass mobilization work toward a more professional and flexible approach.

Fourth, developing self-governing and self-developing community models.

4.2.3. Administrative reform and improving the quality of the public servant workforce.

Administrative reform - the institutional foundation for the “citizen-centered” thought.

Improving the quality of cadres - the key to realizing the ideal of “for the people, close to the people”.

4.2.4. Promoting the study, understanding, and practical application of Ho Chi Minh’s “citizen-centered” thought.

First, raising awareness of the “citizen-centered” thought within Party and State agencies and among the general public is a crucial task.

Second, the thorough and serious implementation of the Politburo’s Conclusion No. 01-KL/TW (13th Tenure) on continuing to implement Directive No. 05-CT/TW is essential.

Third, establishing mechanisms for citizen participation in policy-making and oversight.

Fourth, paying close attention to the education and training of cadres and Party members, and promoting role models of good people and good deeds.

Fifth, developing mechanisms to encourage and unleash the creativity of the people.

4.2.5. Promoting the role of the press and media in disseminating Ho Chi Minh’s “citizen-centered” thought and countering false and hostile views

Clearly defining the key role of the press and media in conveying the core messages and profound values of Ho Chi Minh’s “citizen-centered” thought to all segments of the population.

Strongly promoting the educational and awareness-shaping role of the media for the younger generation - a group particularly vulnerable to distorted information in cyberspace.

Strengthening collaboration and effective coordination among media agencies, state management bodies, and political-social organizations in organizing large-scale, focused communication campaigns, while maintaining regular columns and segments dedicated to propagating Ho Chi Minh's thought, especially the principles of "placing the people at the root," and "the people are the masters and must be the masters".

4.3. STRENGTHENING THE PRACTICE OF DEMOCRACY AND ENSURING THE PEOPLE'S MASTERY IN ALL FIELDS TO ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF APPLYING HO CHI MINH'S "CITIZEN-CENTERED" THOUGHT IN MOBILIZING THE STRENGTH OF THE MASSES IN CONTEMPORARY VIETNAM

4.3.1. Improving democratic institutions - the legal foundation for the people's mastery

It is necessary to perfect both forms of democracy: representative democracy and direct democracy.

Strengthening socialist rule of law is of special importance.

Improving democratic institutions is a prerequisite for ensuring the people's right to mastery.

4.3.2. Democracy in the economic sphere - realizing the people's mastery through ownership and distribution

To implement democracy in the economic domain, it is essential to respect and protect the legitimate interests of workers through economic and social policies for all sectors in the multi-sector economy, based on equality and transparency.

Socio-economic conditions must be created to ensure equal opportunities for all workers to exercise their economic rights and obligations.

It is necessary to legally institutionalize the fundamental civil rights in the economic field.

4.3.3. Democracy in the political sphere

Promoting democracy and ensuring the people's mastery must go hand in hand with maintaining discipline and order; strengthening the rule of law, and ensuring that rights come with responsibilities.

Democracy cannot exist without laws and regulations.

The nature of socialist democracy requires clearly defining the framework and scope of democratic rights and voluntarily acting within that framework - which is the law.

4.3.4. Democracy in the cultural and social spheres - enhancing citizens' agency

First, create an environment of freedom of thought, academic inquiry, and expression within the framework of the law.

Second, universalize and improve the quality of comprehensive education.

Education is not only a path to intellectual advancement but also a process of liberating individuals spiritually, ethically, and in practical capacities.

Third, increase access to information, technology, and global knowledge.

Fourth, develop public cultural spaces and encourage active public participation.

Fifth, improve the legal framework to protect democratic rights in the cultural and social spheres.

Conclusion of Chapter 4

Based on the theoretical foundations and the current situation clarified in Chapters 2 and 3, Chapter 4 focuses on proposing practical solutions for effectively applying Ho Chi Minh's "citizen-centered" thought to mobilize the strength of the masses in contemporary Vietnam. The dissertation has analyzed and proposed several key solutions, including:

(1) Continuing to promote the active and creative roles of relevant stakeholders in applying Ho Chi Minh's "citizen-centered" thought to unleash the power of the people in today's Vietnam;

(2) Diversifying the methods of applying Ho Chi Minh's "citizen-centered" thought in accordance with specific practical conditions. The flexible and creative application of this thought will help address the particular issues of each region and meet the needs and aspirations of the people during different stages of national development;

(3) Strengthening the practice of democracy and ensuring the people's right to mastery in all areas, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of applying Ho Chi Minh's "citizen-centered" thought to mobilize the strength of the masses in the current period.

CONCLUSION

Over nearly four decades of implementing the Doi Moi (Renovation) process, the achievements and developmental realities of the country affirm the correctness of the renovation path initiated and led by our Party. An important factor accompanying this journey of renewal is the valuable legacy of Ho Chi Minh's "citizen-centered" thought. The application of this thought to mobilize the strength of the people in Vietnam today holds profound practical significance, as it provides the ideological foundation and guiding principles for the entire Party, people, and armed forces in promoting, uniting, and harnessing the material and spiritual strength of the masses and the great national unity bloc to successfully implement the Party's guidelines and policies in the current era.

Ho Chi Minh's "citizen-centered" thought is an essential component of his ideological system. It is the result of selective inheritance of the traditional Vietnamese values of "trusting the people," "respecting the people," and "relying on the people," combined with the humanistic values of humanity and the Marxist-Leninist theory on the role of the masses—creatively applied to the Vietnamese context. From the perspective of this dissertation, the application of Ho Chi Minh's "citizen-centered" thought to mobilize the power of the people in present-day Vietnam is reflected in three main aspects: First, applying this thought to mobilize material resources from the people; Second, applying it to promote the spiritual strength of the people; Third, applying it to enhance the power of the great national unity bloc. Amidst the profound impacts of the ongoing national renovation and the complex changes of the current era, the proactivity and method of application by the stakeholders have been and will continue to be decisive factors in the effectiveness of applying Ho Chi Minh's "citizen-centered" thought to mobilize the strength of the masses in today's Vietnam.

The current application of Ho Chi Minh's "citizen-centered" thought to promote the people's strength in Vietnam is demonstrated through three

fundamental aspects: First, the application in mobilizing material resources from the people; Second, the application in promoting the spiritual strength of the people; Third, the application in consolidating and developing the great national unity bloc. Nearly 40 years of renovation under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam have brought about numerous and significant achievements. However, alongside these successes, certain limitations remain.

Facing new national development requirements, the effective application of Ho Chi Minh's "citizen-centered" thought to mobilize the strength of the people in Vietnam today necessitates the implementation of a set of comprehensive and coordinated solutions: Continuing to promote the active and creative roles of stakeholders in applying the thought; Diversifying the application methods according to the specific conditions of each locality and sector; And strengthening democratic practice and ensuring the people's right to mastery in all areas to enhance the overall effectiveness of the application of Ho Chi Minh's thought.

In the present context, the ultimate goal of the country's renovation is none other than the happiness of the people. More than ever, Ho Chi Minh's "citizen-centered" thought must be further studied and creatively applied to fully unlock the people's strength in the cause of national development and defense in the new era.

LIST OF AUTHORIZED WORKS PUBLISHED RELATED TO THE THESIS

1. Cao Thanh Tuan (2024), *Applying the “Citizen-centered” ideology of president Ho Chi Minh to harness the strength of the people in building and developing the country*, Communist online Magazine, <https://tapchicongsan.org.vn/>.
2. Cao Thanh Tuan (2024), *Citizen-centered ideology in Vietnam political culture*, Proceedings of the international scientific conference “Culture, Education, and Tourism with Economic Development,” Information and communications publishing house, Đà Lat, ISBN 978-604-80-5756-5.
3. Cao Thanh Tuan (2021), *Practice democracy in Vietnamese universities today according to Ho Chi Minh thought*, Hanoi National University Publishing House, ISBN 9786043422801.