

HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS

NGUYEN VAN PHUONG

**PREVENTING AND COMBATING
CORRUPTION IN THE SOUTHEASTERN
PROVINCES TODAY IN ACCORDANCE WITH
HO CHI MINH'S IDEOLOGY**

SUMMARY OF THE DOCTORAL THESIS

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Supervisors: 1. Assoc. Prof., Dr. Do Xuan Tuat



2. Dr. Le Thi Hang



Reviewer 1:
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Reviewer 2:
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Reviewer 3:
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INTRODUCTION

1. The urgency of the theme

Corruption is a negative phenomenon inherent in class-based societies, closely associated with the emergence, development, and exercise of state power. It exists in all countries regardless of political regime, whether under single-party or multi-party leadership. Corruption exerts detrimental impacts across economic, political, social, cultural, and ethical spheres.

During his lifetime, President Ho Chi Minh recognized early the dangers and profound harm posed by corruption. He characterized it as an “internal enemy,” as it not only causes significant economic losses but also weakens the Party’s leadership capacity and undermines the integrity and strength of the political system; ultimately threatening the survival of the Party and the regime. Throughout the revolutionary process, Ho Chi Minh devoted considerable effort and intellect to eliminating this “national scourge.” In tandem with the evolution of the Vietnamese revolution, his thoughts on anti-corruption have been continuously supplemented, developed, and refined. It constitutes an invaluable spiritual legacy and a scientific, revolutionary theoretical foundation enabling the Communist Party of Vietnam to formulate sound guidelines and orientations for anti-corruption efforts in the past as well as in the current period. At the same time, it not only contributes directly to building a clean and strong political system but also supports the Party in cultivating a contingent of virtuous and competent cadres and Party members capable of meeting the demands of revolutionary tasks.

The Southeastern provinces - Ho Chi Minh City, Dong Nai, and Tay Ninh - hold a strategically significant position in national politics, economics, culture, society, defense, security, and foreign affairs. In recent years, under the Party’s leadership and through the unity, dynamism, and creativity of local Party committees, authorities, and the population, the region has achieved remarkable and commendable accomplishments across various sectors. It continues to maintain its role as a vital economic engine of the country, contributing approximately 45% of the national GDP and about 50% of total industrial output, export value, and state budget revenues.

Adhering to the Party’s viewpoint of “resolutely and persistently fighting, preventing, and pushing back corruption and negative practices with higher political determination, stronger actions, and greater effectiveness”, and fully recognizing the dangers and consequences of corruption, the Party committees and authorities of the Southeastern provinces have consistently treated anti-corruption as a top political task in building the Party and the political system. Under the leadership of the Provincial Party Committees and People’s Committees, anti-corruption efforts in the Southeastern provinces have achieved positive results. Numerous major corruption cases have been detected and handled in accordance with the law. Cadres, Party members, and public servants involved in corruption - or who covered up or facilitated corrupt activities, including local leaders - have been strictly disciplined, reflecting the stance of being “resolute, persistent, uncompromising, leaving no offenders unpunished; while avoiding wrongful accusations; strict yet humane, reasonable, and compassionate.”

Despite these achievements, anti-corruption work in the Southeastern provinces still faces certain limitations. Corruption remains highly complex and unpredictable, occurring at multiple levels (provincial to communal), across various sectors and fields, particularly in land management, public investment, finance, and banking. Some recently uncovered serious corruption cases demonstrate sophisticated, organized operations, sometimes involving “interest groups” and collusion between officials, Party members, and enterprises.

Many cases involve severe violations, including “major corruption scandals” in the region. Notably, a significant portion of cadres and Party members, including heads of local Party committees and authorities, have shown political, ethical, and lifestyle degradation, leading to corruption and negative practices. This not only undermines leadership and administrative capacity and diminishes the integrity and strength of local authorities, but also causes serious economic losses and generates apprehension and lack of trust among businesses and international partners considering investment in the Southeastern provinces.

The aforementioned limitations and weaknesses stem from multiple causes, both objective and subjective. In particular, the Party committees, authorities, and political system of the Southeastern provinces have not thoroughly studied or fully internalized the content and values of Ho Chi Minh’s ideology on anti-corruption. Consequently, they have not recognized the necessity of thoroughly applying his thought to local anti-corruption efforts, nor have they creatively developed his ideas to address corruption-related issues in the region. Although some studies, including research projects, monographs, and articles, have examined Ho Chi Minh’s ideology on preventing and combating corruption and its application in Vietnam in general or in specific localities, sectors, and fields, no research has focused specifically on anti-corruption in the Southeastern provinces from the perspective of Ho Chi Minh’s ideology. This absence represents a gap in scientific research and underscores the urgent need for a study that deeply examines Ho Chi Minh’s ideology on anti-corruption. Such a study would provide a theoretical basis for evaluating the current situation and proposing perspectives and solutions for anti-corruption guided by Ho Chi Minh’s principles. In turn, this contributes to the theoretical development of anti-corruption in line with his thought and equips local Party committees and authorities with a scientific foundation to formulate policies, measures, and organizational approaches for more effective anti-corruption in the future.

Looking ahead, given their considerable potential, advantages, and strategic importance, the Southeastern provinces will continue to receive special attention from the Party and the State. Consequently, numerous major national projects with substantial funding will be implemented locally, increasing the risk of corruption among cadres, Party members, and public servants. Moreover, the region, together with the country, is implementing a “revolution” in reforming and reorganizing the political system, including restructuring cadres and Party members following the merger of provincial and communal administrative units and the removal of the district level. These changes create conditions conducive to corruption and negative practices in budget management, public asset use, and personnel work. Therefore, preventing and combating corruption and negative practices among cadres, Party members, and public servants requires strong political determination from all relevant actors in the Southeastern provinces, alongside the implementation of measures that are both fundamental and sustainable as well as innovative and breakthrough. In this context, the continued study and creative application of Ho Chi Minh’s ideology on anti-corruption represents a particularly important solution.

Based on these considerations, the doctoral candidate has chosen the topic: ***“Preventing and Combating Corruption in the Southeastern Provinces Today in Accordance with Ho Chi Minh’s Ideology”*** as the subject of the PhD dissertation in Ho Chi Minh Studies.

2. Research Objectives and Tasks

2.1. Research Objectives

The study aims to clarify the content of Ho Chi Minh’s ideology on preventing and combating corruption, to examine the current state of preventing and combating corruption in the Southeastern provinces from this perspective, and to identify emerging issues. Based

on these findings, the study proposes viewpoints and solutions for preventing and combating corruption in the Southeastern provinces in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's ideology for the upcoming period.

2.2. Research Tasks

To achieve the above objectives, the dissertation undertakes the following research tasks:

First, reviewing the current state of research related to the dissertation topic, summarizing existing findings, and identifying areas that require further study.

Second, systematizing, analyzing, and clarifying key concepts related to the topic and the content of Ho Chi Minh's ideology on preventing and combating corruption.

Third, conducting research to assess the current state of preventing and combating corruption in the Southeastern provinces from 2013 to the present in light of Ho Chi Minh's ideology, highlighting key issues.

Fourth, forecasting influencing factors, determining viewpoints, and proposing solutions for preventing and combating corruption in the Southeastern provinces in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's ideology for the upcoming period.

3. Research Subjects and Scope

3.1. Research Subject

Ho Chi Minh's ideology on preventing and combating corruption and the current state of preventing and combating corruption in the Southeastern provinces in accordance with his thought.

3.2. Research Scope

- *Content scope*: Clarifying the content of Ho Chi Minh's thought on preventing and combating corruption and its application in anti-corruption efforts in the Southeastern provinces today.

- *Spatial scope*: Studying preventing and combating corruption in the Southeastern provinces (with a primary focus on the public sector).

- *Temporal scope*: From 2013 to the present (2013 marks the issuance of Politburo Decision No. 162-QD/TW establishing the Central Steering Committee for preventing and combating corruption, chaired by the General Secretary); proposed viewpoints and solutions for preventing and combating corruption in the Southeastern provinces are expected to remain relevant through 2030, with a vision toward 2045.

4. Theoretical, Practical Foundations and Research Methods

4.1. Theoretical and Practical Foundations

4.1.1. Theoretical Foundation

The dissertation is grounded in the theoretical framework of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thought, as well as the policies, viewpoints, directives, resolutions, and reports of the Communist Party of Vietnam on preventing and combating corruption.

4.1.2. Practical Foundation

The dissertation is based on the practice of anti-corruption under the leadership and direction of the Provincial Party Committees and People's Committees of the Southeastern provinces, following Ho Chi Minh's thought from 2013 to the present

4.2. Phương pháp luận và phương pháp nghiên cứu

4.2.1. Phương pháp luận

The study is based on the principles of dialectical materialism and historical materialism.

4.2.2. Research Methods

Based on the methodological framework of Marxism-Leninism, the dissertation employs the following specific research methods:

Generalization, logical, historical, statistical, and comparative methods are primarily applied in the literature review chapter to examine and evaluate existing studies. This allows

the dissertation to summarize research findings, identify resolved issues, and highlight those that require further investigation.

Analytical, synthetic, comparative, inductive-deductive, and deductive-inductive methods are used to clarify relevant concepts and to construct the central concept of the dissertation.

Logical and historical methods are applied to systematize and elucidate the core content of Ho Chi Minh's thought on preventing and combating corruption.

Statistical, comparative, analytical, synthetic, systematization, and generalization methods are employed to organize and interpret data.

Sociological survey method: This is used to collect information via questionnaires from cadres, Party members, public servants, and citizens in the Southeastern provinces regarding key issues related to preventing and combating corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's thought.

5. New Contributions of the Thesis

First, the dissertation supplements, systematizes, and clarifies key concepts related to the topic, including: corruption; preventing and combating corruption; preventing and combating corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's thought; and preventing and combating corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's thought in the Southeastern provinces.

Second, it contributes to a deeper analysis of the core content of Ho Chi Minh's thought on preventing and combating corruption, thereby affirming the theoretical value and practical significance of this thought in the current period.

Third, the dissertation conducts a relatively comprehensive and objective survey, analysis, and assessment of the current state of preventing and combating corruption in the Southeastern provinces from 2013 to the present from the perspective of Ho Chi Minh's thought, highlighting achievements, limitations, and underlying causes.

Fourth, based on theoretical and practical issues, the dissertation identifies and forecasts factors influencing preventing and combating corruption according to Ho Chi Minh's thought in the Southeastern provinces in the coming period; it also proposes feasible and contextually appropriate viewpoints and solutions to enhance the effectiveness of preventing and combating corruption in these provinces.

6. Theoretical and Practical Significance

6.1. Theoretical Significance

The research findings of the dissertation contribute to providing scientific grounds for enhancing the understanding of the content and value of Ho Chi Minh's ideology on preventing and combating corruption. They also offer theoretical and practical insights into preventing and combating corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's ideology in the Southeastern provinces.

6.2. Practical Significance

The findings can serve as a reference for studying and applying Ho Chi Minh's ideology on preventing and combating corruption in the Southeastern provinces, specifically, and in Vietnam generally, in the coming period. They may also be used as reference materials for teaching, learning, and researching, preventing and combating corruption-related content at academies, schools, and educational institutions nationwide. Furthermore, the results can inform practical solutions for the Steering Committees for preventing and combating corruption, wastefulness, and negative practices in the Southeastern provinces to enhance the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts in the future.

7. Structure of the Thesis

Apart from the introduction, conclusion, list of references, and appendices, the thesis is structured into 4 chapters with a total of 10 sections.

Chapter 1

OVERVIEW OF THE RESEARCH RELATED TO THE THESIS

1.1. RESEARCH SITUATION RELATED TO THE TOPIC

Research on Preventing and Combating Corruption

Numerous domestic studies have focused on analyzing the state of corruption and proposing solutions for preventing and combating corruption, wastefulness, and negative practices. Notable authors include Truong Giang Long, Trinh Thi Xuyen, Nguyen Tuan Khanh, Phan Xuan Son, Pham The Luc, Nguyen Xuan Truong, Nguyen Phu Trong, Nguyen Quoc Suu, To Quang Thu, Pham Thi Thanh Tra, and Tran Van Tinh. These studies approach the issue from multiple perspectives: identifying the nature, causes, and increasingly sophisticated and complex manifestations of corruption in Vietnam; and explaining the necessity and urgency of anti-corruption efforts in the context of building a socialist rule-of-law state and international integration. Furthermore, the authors propose comprehensive solutions, including institutional reform, Party building and rectification, enhancing state management efficiency and effectiveness, promoting the roles of the people, press, and civil society, and strengthening inspection, supervision, and strict handling of violations. Collectively, these studies provide an important theoretical and practical foundation, guiding the formulation and implementation of policies on preventing and combating corruption, wastefulness, and negative practices in Vietnam.

Research on Ho Chi Minh's Ideology on Preventing and Combating Corruption

Studies by domestic and international scholars on corruption and preventing and combating corruption have highlighted common challenges regarding corruption in Vietnam and globally. These studies adopt diverse approaches (considering the roles of the state, citizens, businesses, and socio-political organizations), disciplines (Law, Political Science, Party Building, Philosophy, Sociology, Economics), and political perspectives (socialist and capitalist). As a result, they contribute both theoretically and practically to understanding, preventing, and combating corruption.

Among these works, several directly address Ho Chi Minh's ideology on PCC, notably authors such as Bui Manh Cuong, Ngo Van Ha, Bui Manh Cuong and Do Thi Quyen, Chu Thai Thanh, Lai Quoc Khanh and Nguyen Ngoc Anh, Mach Quang Thang, and Tran Minh Truong, among others. In general, these studies are conducted rigorously and seriously, highlighting the revolutionary and scientific character of Ho Chi Minh's ideology on preventing and combating corruption. The authors focus on analyzing Ho Chi Minh's speeches and writings on preventing and combating corruption, as well as the key content of his thought, including the necessity of preventing and combating corruption, the causes of corruption, key actors, forces, and measures for anti-corruption. According to these studies, this body of thought not only provides a theoretical foundation for determining policies and orientations but also offers valuable lessons and experiences for current anti-corruption efforts in Vietnam. These works constitute highly useful references for the doctoral candidate in achieving the objectives and tasks of the dissertation.

Studies on the Application of Ho Chi Minh's Ideology in Preventing and Combating Corruption

The application of Ho Chi Minh's ideology on preventing and combating corruption has attracted significant scholarly and practical interest from Party and State leaders as well as numerous researchers. Notable contributors include Pham Thi Hai Chuyen, Tran Quang Dai, and Pham Anh Tuan; Doan Thi Chin; Nguyen Dang Dung; Nghiem Si Liem; and Trinh Quoc Viet. Particularly, this research field also features contributions from senior

Party leadership, including General Secretary To Lam. These studies consistently affirm that examining Ho Chi Minh's ideology on preventing and combating corruption and applying it to contemporary practice is of paramount importance, contributing to Party building and the development of a clean, strong contingent of cadres and Party members. However, the application of Ho Chi Minh's ideology in preventing and combating corruption within specific local contexts - especially in the Southeastern provinces - has not yet been addressed in existing research.

1.2. OVERVIEW OF EXISTING RESEARCH RESULTS AND ISSUES REQUIRING FURTHER STUDY

1.2.1. General Assessment of Existing Research

A review of studies on preventing and combating corruption, Ho Chi Minh's ideology on preventing and combating corruption, and the application of his thought in practice shows that numerous scholars and researchers, both domestic and international, have examined the topic, including several monographic studies. Overall, these works focus on clarifying key issues such as the nature and harms of corruption, the necessity and role of preventing and combating corruption, the current state of preventing and combating corruption in Vietnam, and, on that basis, propose solutions for preventing and combating corruption in general and for preventing and combating corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's ideology in particular.

1.2.2. Issues Requiring Further Study

Based on the synthesis and evaluation of existing research, no study has approached the topic from the specific perspective adopted by this dissertation. Therefore, the dissertation's research direction is entirely new. The literature review serves as a theoretical foundation for the author to inherit and further develop relevant issues, thereby identifying solutions for preventing and combating corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's ideology in the Southeastern provinces in the coming period. In particular, the dissertation focuses on clarifying the following issues:

First, defining and elucidating the connotations of key concepts such as corruption, preventing and combating corruption, and preventing and combating corruption in the Southeastern provinces, and preventing and combating corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's ideology in the current context; and clarifying Ho Chi Minh's views on preventing and combating corruption, including its necessity, causes, actors, and measures.

Second, based on the clarified theoretical issues, the dissertation examines and evaluates the state of preventing and combating corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's ideology in the Southeastern provinces from 2013 to the present, thereby identifying the underlying causes of both achievements and limitations.

Third, the dissertation provides an in-depth analysis of the socio-economic, political, and cultural characteristics of the Southeastern provinces, identifying factors likely to influence the prevention and combating corruption efforts in the coming period.

Fourth, the dissertation proposes viewpoints and solutions for preventing and combating corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's ideology in the Southeastern provinces toward 2030, with a vision to 2045.

Summary of chapter 1

Research on preventing and combating corruption has long been an area of significant interest to numerous scholars and policymakers both inside and outside Vietnam, including the direct participation and guidance of senior Party and State leaders. These studies, conducted from diverse approaches, scopes, and target groups, have initially clarified the concepts, origins, causes, and harms of corruption, while affirming the necessity of

strengthening prevention and combating corruption efforts in the coming period. On this basis, various goals, orientations, and solutions have been proposed, providing valuable resources that offer the doctoral researcher a multidimensional and comprehensive foundation for examining Ho Chi Minh's ideology on preventing and combating corruption, particularly in addressing the objectives and research tasks of the dissertation.

However, the overview of existing studies reveals substantial gaps. No research to date has systematically, comprehensively, and specifically addressed preventing and combating corruption in the Southeastern provinces. Existing works remain confined to the national level or focus on selected sectors and fields, lacking a connection to the socio-political, economic, and cultural specificities of the Southeastern region. Notably, there is still no study directly analyzing or interpreting preventing and combating corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's ideology in this area. This gap reflects not only an academic shortcoming but also underscores the urgent need for in-depth research to meet both theoretical and practical requirements in the leadership and direction of preventing and combating corruption efforts by provincial Party committees and local authorities.

From these identified gaps, the doctoral researcher defines the task of inheritance and development. On the one hand, the study selectively builds upon previous research on anti-corruption, particularly works that analyze Ho Chi Minh's ideology and the Party's viewpoints and guidelines on combating corruption. On the other hand, it advances and supplements existing scholarship by delving into the specific characteristics and contextual conditions of the Southeastern provinces, clarifying the determining factors and underlying causes of corruption at the local level, and elucidating how Ho Chi Minh's ideology can be creatively applied to enhance the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts in the current period. This approach enables the dissertation both to inherit a shared theoretical and practical foundation and to ensure novelty and regional specificity, thereby contributing to a deeper understanding of the enduring value and contemporary relevance of Ho Chi Minh's ideology in the struggle against corruption in one of the country's most strategically significant regions.

Chapter 2

PREVENTING AND COMBATING CORRUPTION IN LIGHT OF HO CHI MINH'S IDEOLOGY - THEORETICAL ISSUES

2.1. KEY CONCEPTS

2.1.1. Concept of Corruption

Corruption refers to acts of abusing one's position and authority for personal gain, occurring not only within the public sector but also across non-state domains.

2.1.2. Concept of Preventing and Combating Corruption

Preventing and combating corruption encompasses the system of methods and measures undertaken by various actors and forces (the Party, the State, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, socio-political organizations, and the people) aimed at preventing, deterring, and eliminating the causes and conditions that give rise to corruption; detecting and promptly applying legal sanctions to corrupt acts; and recovering corrupt assets in accordance with the law.

2.1.3. Ho Chi Minh's Ideology on Preventing and Combating Corruption

Ho Chi Minh's ideology on Preventing and Combating Corruption constitutes a systematic set of views regarding the necessity of combating corruption, its underlying causes, and the forces and measures required for anti-corruption efforts. His thought serves

as a foundational and guiding framework for the Party and the State in formulating perspectives and policies on anti-corruption, contributing to Party building, the strengthening of the political system, the integrity and capacity of cadres and Party members, socio-economic development, political stability, the preservation of ethical and cultural values, and the consolidation of public trust in the Party's leadership and the socialist regime.

2.1.4. Concept of Preventing and Combating Corruption in Light of Ho Chi Minh's Ideology in the Southeastern Provinces

Preventing and Combating Corruption in light of Ho Chi Minh's ideology in the Southeastern provinces refers to the actions of relevant actors and forces in this region (Party committees, local governments, the Vietnam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations, the people, the press, and the media) in promulgating and implementing measures to prevent, detect, deter, and handle corrupt practices among cadres, Party members, and public officials. These activities are grounded in the understanding and creative application of Ho Chi Minh's ideology, aligned with specific local conditions, to strengthen the political system, enhance economic development, maintain political stability, and reinforce public trust in the leadership of local Party committees, authorities, and the cadre corps in the Southeastern provinces.

2.2. THE CONTENT OF HO CHI MINH'S IDEOLOGY ON PREVENTING AND COMBATING CORRUPTION

2.2.1. The Necessity of Preventing and Combating Corruption

2.2.1.1. Preventing and combating corruption contributes to eliminating the negative remnants of the old society and building a new, civilized, and progressive society

According to Ho Chi Minh, during the transitional period, alongside predominantly positive achievements, "there still remain vestiges of the old society, such as embezzlement, wastefulness, laziness, and bureaucratism." Therefore, to successfully construct the new social system, it is imperative to resolutely eliminate such "tumors" so that the new regime may truly embody civility and progress.

2.2.1.2. Preventing and combating corruption contributes to ensuring the success of national resistance and reconstruction, thereby promoting national economic development

Corruption inflicts not only political harm but also "undermines national construction; harms efforts to improve the people's living conditions"; it directly causes loss and damage to State property and squanders the sweat and contributions of the people. Ho Chi Minh identified corruption as a formidable enemy - an "internal invader" - even more dangerous than external enemies. He explicitly stated, "Embezzlement is the theft of public property, the conversion of public assets into private possessions. It harms the work of building the country."

2.2.1.3. Preventing and combating corruption contributes to building a clean, strong Party and political system

Corruption causes extensive damage not only economically but also politically, culturally, and morally; most critically, it erodes the Party and the political system from within. Ho Chi Minh regarded corruption as "a rather dangerous enemy, for it carries no swords or guns, yet it infiltrates our organizations and sabotages our work." If corruption is not prevented and addressed, it becomes a major threat that weakens the Party's leadership capacity and the integrity and resilience of the political system. Fully aware of this, as the founder and trainer of the Party, Ho Chi Minh consistently emphasized the necessity of safeguarding the Party's purity and strength, placing anti-corruption efforts among the top priorities.

2.2.1.4. Preventing and combating corruption contributes to preserving the culture and ethics of the Party and its cadre and Party members

The Party's cadre and Party members are "faithful and diligent servants of the people," embodying high cultural and moral values that foster public trust, protection, and support for the Party under all circumstances. Ultimately, this trust constitutes the source of the Party's strength. However, within the Party, there remain individuals who, driven by personal interests, neglect their responsibilities and obligations to serve the masses, thereby undermining the noble values of the Party and the socialist regime. Moreover, corruption exacerbates the moral degradation of cadres and Party members. Therefore, to preserve the dignity and credibility of the cadre, Ho Chi Minh resolutely sought to "eradicate" corruption from the political system.

2.2.1.5. Preventing and Combating Corruption Contributes to Ensuring Democratic Practice within the Party and Society

During his lifetime, Ho Chi Minh asserted that "democracy is the aspiration" of the people and, at the same time, the overarching objective of the revolution under the Party's leadership. National independence and the people's well-being, freedom, and happiness were the goals he steadfastly pursued throughout his revolutionary career. To realize these goals, Ho Chi Minh held that it was essential to establish a democratic, just, and civilized system in which cadres and Party members serve as the "servants" and "public officials" of the people. However, after the revolutionary government was established, signs emerged within the cadre and Party membership showing that some individuals "proclaimed 'to serve the masses,' yet acted contrary to the interests of the masses and contrary to the policies of the Party and the Government." A particularly alarming manifestation was the increasing occurrence of embezzlement and corruption among cadres. Ho Chi Minh pointed out that a segment of cadres "focused only on the interests of their own localities without regard for the interests of the whole; working in any unit, they defended and sought to benefit that unit alone." He emphasized that "combating embezzlement, wastefulness, and bureaucracy is democracy." In his thought, democracy is reflected first and foremost in the requirement that cadres and Party members truly be the "public servants" and "faithful agents" of the people, with all thoughts, actions, and decisions grounded in the interests of the people.

2.2.2. Causes of Corruption

2.2.2.1. Individualism

Corruption originates from various causes, but according to Ho Chi Minh, the most fundamental is individualism. For him, individualism is "a highly poisonous germ," giving rise to numerous dangerous maladies, foremost among them corruption. He warned early on that "a nation, a Party, and a person who were once great and admired may not continue to be loved and praised today or tomorrow if their hearts are no longer pure, if they succumb to individualism." Individualism acts like a worm that eats away at conscience, honor, and morality, obscuring noble ideals and exerting a corrosive influence over the thoughts and actions of cadre and Party members.

2.2.2.2. Negative remnants of the old regime

According to Ho Chi Minh, corruption also stems from the remnants of the colonial and feudal regimes; in other words, corruption is "an ally of colonialism and feudalism." Historical experience demonstrates that under colonial and feudal rule, the Vietnamese people were brutally exploited, while freedom and equality remained unattainable ideals. In such a system, the ruling class cared only for personal interests, ruthlessly oppressing and exploiting other social groups, particularly workers and peasants. From this, Ho Chi Minh

concluded: “Embezzlement, wastefulness, and bureaucratism are the evils of the old society. They arise from selfishness, self-interest, and the exploitative regime of ‘man exploiting man’.” Thus, to eradicate corruption at its root, it is necessary to abolish the old regime and successfully build the new one.

2.2.2.3. Limitations in Power Control

Ho Chi Minh early recognized that corruption also stems from inadequacies in mechanisms for controlling power. He sternly warned against and criticized such maladies as “militarism,” “bureaucratism,” “careerism,” and “arrogance” among a segment of Party and State cadres in certain localities. He pointed out that “the people resent chairmen and committee members because of their insolence, abuse of authority, and reliance on power. These officials, failing to understand the mission and policies of the Viet Minh, tend to abuse even the limited authority they hold. They exploit the positions and powers assigned to them for personal purposes, behave arbitrarily and capriciously, acting as they please while disregarding public opinion. They are concerned only with eating well, dressing well, enriching themselves, and appropriating public property for private gain, in complete disregard of morality, conscience, and social opinion.”

2.2.3. Forces Involved in Preventing and Combating Corruption

2.2.3.1. The Communist Party of Vietnam

The Party plays the leading role in anti-corruption efforts. In preventing and combating corruption, Ho Chi Minh placed particular emphasis on the role of the Party. He asserted that “as in other fronts, to win on this front, there must be preparation, planning, organization, leadership, and steadfastness.” Ho Chi Minh regarded anti-corruption as a battleground, a struggle against wrongdoing and evil; thus, victory cannot be achieved spontaneously or individually, but requires well-defined guidelines, policies, and systematic organization. The Party’s role is reflected in formulating orientations and principles for anti-corruption, as well as leading the construction of a clean and strong political system at all levels. Importantly, Ho Chi Minh emphasized that the Party must regularly conduct political and ideological education.

2.2.3.2. The State

First, the National Assembly

Second, the Government and its subordinate agencies

Third, the judicial bodies: the People’s Procuracy and the People’s Courts

2.2.3.3. Coordinating Forces

First, the United National Front and mass sociopolitical organizations

Second, the people

Third, the journalism and media

2.2.4. Measures for Preventing and Combating Corruption

2.2.4.1. Propaganda and Education to Raise Awareness among Cadres, Party Members, and the People

Propaganda and education serve as the foundation for raising awareness, cultivating revolutionary ethics, and strengthening ideological commitment among cadres, Party members, and the people. Ho Chi Minh asserted that effective anti-corruption must begin with enabling everyone to clearly understand its harmful effects, correctly recognize its causes and manifestations, thereby fostering and promoting each individual’s voluntary and conscientious participation in anti-corruption efforts.

2.2.4.2. Improving Policies and Laws on Preventing and Combating Corruption

Ho Chi Minh early underscored the “supreme” role of law in social life, stating that “everything must have the guardian spirit of the rule of law.” As the head of the Party, State,

and Government, he paid great attention to drafting and promulgating mechanisms, policies, and laws for anti-corruption. For, as he emphasized, “There must be laws to punish embezzlement and wastefulness, and these laws must be strictly enforced.”

2.2.4.3. Promoting the Initiative and Conscientiousness of Cadres and Party Members in Cultivating Revolutionary Ethics and Combating Individualism

During the revolutionary leadership process, Ho Chi Minh observed that once the Party becomes a ruling party, cadres and Party members inevitably hold some degree of authority. Without revolutionary ethics, they are prone to develop vices and harmful habits that can undermine the revolution. Therefore, he consistently required cadres and Party members to actively and conscientiously cultivate and practice revolutionary ethics, considering this as “a daily task of self-purification.”

2.2.4.4. Strengthening Inspection, Supervision, and Power Control

For the purpose of preventing and combating corruption, Ho Chi Minh attached great importance to inspection and supervision. He held that “inspection has the effect of promoting and educating Party members and cadres to fulfill their duties to the Party and the State, serving as good examples for the people.” Through inspection, wrongful acts and misconduct among cadres and Party members can be promptly corrected. Based on his practical experience in leading Party-building and revolutionary government work, Ho Chi Minh concluded that nine-tenths of the shortcomings of cadres and Party members, particularly corrupt behaviors, stem from insufficient oversight.

2.2.4.5. Promoting the Role of the People in Preventing and Combating Corruption

The people are the bearers of political power and the direct victims of corruption. Ho Chi Minh emphasized: “Public and collective property is inviolable. Embezzlement of public property is a violation of the common interests of the people; it is an enemy of the people. Therefore, resolutely combating corruption is the shared responsibility of the entire Party and all the people.”

2.2.4.6. Promoting the Role of the Press and Media in Preventing and Combating Corruption

Consistently maintaining the view that “the press is also an important branch of culture,” Ho Chi Minh highly valued the role of the press and media in the revolutionary cause, including anti-corruption. He stated: “The press must encourage good people and good deeds and frankly criticize evils such as laziness, embezzlement, wastefulness, and bureaucratism. This is extremely necessary.” Accordingly, the press must openly and objectively denounce negative manifestations, irresponsibility, lax management, or any complicity in corrupt acts. This is not only a professional duty but also a profound socio-political responsibility, raising awareness among cadres, Party members, and the people, while creating strong public pressure to prevent and curb corruption.

2.2.4.7. Resolutely and Strictly Punishing Corrupt Acts

From an early stage, Ho Chi Minh asserted: “In a country where rewards and punishments are strict, the people will live in peace.” In preventing and combating corruption, alongside propaganda and education, he emphasized that strictly handling corrupt acts is particularly important. He clarified: “Education is primary, but for those who stubbornly refuse to reform, the authorities must employ the law. The law is the people’s law, used to prevent actions harmful to the people and to protect the common interests of the majority.” Accordingly, he consistently advocated resolute eradication of corruption, regarding it not only as necessary but also as a humane act: “Eliminate one worm to save the

whole forest.” Furthermore, the strict punishment of corrupt acts should not be limited to legal sanctions; it must also be accompanied by moral and conscientious judgment through public condemnation.

Summary of chapter 2

From the very early days of gaining political power, Ho Chi Minh attached particular importance to preventing and combating corruption, regarding it as a vital task for the Party and the State. Through his works, speeches, writings, letters, and practical leadership of the revolutionary cause, Ho Chi Minh developed a comprehensive thought on preventing and combating corruption, providing practical and concrete guiding viewpoints on its necessity, causes, actors, forces, and measures. His thought represents the inheritance and development of the anti-corruption ideas and practices of the nation’s ancestors, while also absorbing progressive values from the cultural heritage of humanity, both Western and Eastern, including Confucianism, Buddhism, bourgeois thought, and especially Marxism-Leninism. Ho Chi Minh’s thought on preventing and combating corruption embodies both scientific rigor and profound theoretical and practical value. Although social practice is always dynamic and evolving, Ho Chi Minh’s ideology on preventing and combating corruption remains fully relevant. Therefore, thoroughly understanding and creatively applying his thought is a key factor in enhancing the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts and combating social evils in Vietnam today, including in the provinces of the Southeastern region.

By presenting and analyzing the concepts related to the topic - such as corruption, prevention and combat, preventing and combating corruption, Ho Chi Minh’s ideology on preventing and combating corruption, preventing and combating corruption according to Ho Chi Minh’s ideology, and preventing and combating corruption according to Ho Chi Minh’s ideology in the Southeastern provinces - this study clarifies his thought on preventing and combating corruption following a logical order of the research issues. From this, the theoretical and practical values, as well as the necessity of thoroughly understanding and applying Ho Chi Minh’s ideology on preventing and combating corruption in the Southeastern provinces, are evident. Clarifying the theoretical issues of preventing and combating corruption according to Ho Chi Minh’s ideology serves as a theoretical foundation for assessing the current status of corruption in these provinces from 2013 to the present under his ideological perspective. At the same time, it provides a basis for identifying future issues in preventing and combating corruption according to Ho Chi Minh’s ideology in the Southeastern provinces.

Chapter 3

THE CURRENT SITUATION OF ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN PROVINCES FROM 2013 TO THE PRESENT FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF HO CHI MINH’S IDEOLOGY AND EMERGING ISSUES

3.1 OVERVIEW OF THE CONTEXT OF THE SOUTHEASTERN PROVINCES

3.1.1. Physical geography

Prior to the administrative consolidation at the provincial level, the Southeastern region comprised six provinces and centrally governed cities: Ho Chi Minh City, Dong Nai, Binh Duong, Ba Ria-Vung Tau, Binh Phuoc, and Tay Ninh.

3.1.2. Socio-Economic Conditions

The Southeastern region serves as the key economic hub of Southern Vietnam. It functions as a “gateway” and major node of exchange between Vietnam and countries in the

region and the world. The provinces in this region are not only known for their dynamism, innovation, and creativity but also act as the economic locomotive and the leading center of industrial development, mineral exploitation, tourism, and services nationwide.

3.1.3. Population, Ethnicity, and Religion

Population: As of July 1, 2025 (following the administrative consolidation at the provincial level), the Southeastern provinces have a total population of approximately 21,290,670 people. Among them, Ho Chi Minh City has 13,608,800 residents (the largest population nationwide); Dong Nai has 4,427,700 residents (ranking third nationwide); and Tay Ninh has 3,254,170 residents (ranking eighteenth nationwide).

Ethnicity: The Southeastern region is home to residents originating from many parts of the country, with 40 ethnic groups currently cohabiting the area. The major groups include the Kinh, Hoa, Khmer, Choro, Chăm, Stieng, and Ede. The Kinh constitute 92.46% of the population, while the remaining groups account for 7.54%.

Religion: The region is characterized by rich religious diversity, with six major religions in active practice: Catholicism, Buddhism, Protestantism, Islam, Caodaism, and Hoa Hao Buddhism, alongside several other religious communities. The total number of followers is 4,756,550, accounting for 30.09% of the population.

3.1.4. Historical, Cultural, and Human Traditions

The Southeastern region has a longstanding tradition of patriotism and is considered the cradle of the Southern revolutionary movement, with many historically significant bases such as the “Eighteen Betel-Garden Hamlets” (Hoc Mon), the Rung Sac Special Zone (Can Gio), Ba Den Mountain (Tay Ninh), the D Resistance Zone (Dong Nai), and the Cu Chi Tunnels. These historical conditions have forged the resilient, courageous, and indomitable character of the local people, who are always ready to confront and resist injustice and wrongdoing. The region is also well known for its people’s simplicity, sincerity, frankness, generosity, open-minded lifestyle, and strong sense of solidarity and compassion.

3.1.5. Cadres, Party Members, and Civil Servants

In recent years, the development of the contingent of cadres, Party members, and civil servants at various levels in the Southeastern provinces has achieved significant progress. The contingent has been fundamentally strengthened in terms of quantity, quality, structure, qualifications, morality, and professional capacity, thereby gradually meeting the developmental requirements of the Southeastern region in the new period.

3.2. THE CURRENT SITUATION OF ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN PROVINCES FROM 2013 TO THE PRESENT FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF HO CHI MINH’S IDEOLOGY

3.2.1. Propaganda and Education to Enhance the Awareness and Responsibility of Cadres, Party Members, Civil Servants, and the People in Anti-Corruption Work

3.2.2. Issuing, Revising, Supplementing, and Completing Regulations as well as Implementing the Party’s Views and the State’s Policies and Laws on Anti-Corruption

3.2.3. Strengthening and Enhancing the Effectiveness of Coordination Among Specialized Agencies and Developing the Contingent of Cadres Responsible for Anti-Corruption Work

3.2.4. Moral Education Associated with Promoting the Exemplary Responsibility of Cadres, Party Members, and Civil Servants

3.2.5. Inspection, Supervision, Auditing, and Control of Power

3.2.6. Promoting the Role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, Political-Social Organizations, and the People in Anti-Corruption

3.2.7. Promoting the Role of the Journalism and Media

3.2.8. Detecting and Handling Corruption Cases and Recovering Corrupted Assets

3.3. ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION OF ANTI-CORRUPTION IN THE SOUTHEASTERN PROVINCES FROM 2013 TO THE PRESENT FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF HO CHI MINH'S IDEOLOGY AND EMERGING ISSUES

3.3.1. General Assessment

3.3.1.1. Achievements and Underlying Causes

** Achievements*

First, regarding awareness. In recent years, Party committees and local governments in the Southeastern provinces have demonstrated a clear and increasingly profound transformation in their understanding of the significance, importance, and inevitability of anti-corruption and anti-negative practices.

Second, regarding implementation. Based on a profound study and thorough grasp of President Ho Chi Minh's teachings on anti-corruption measures, Party committees and authorities in the Southeastern provinces have synchronously and resolutely implemented multiple practical and context-appropriate anti-corruption solutions aligned with local conditions.

Third, regarding outcomes. Anti-corruption efforts in the Southeastern provinces have achieved highly positive, comprehensive, and noteworthy results, reflecting strong political determination and the resolute, well-structured leadership and direction of local Party committees and authorities.

** Causes*

First, the correct, timely, and consistent leadership of the Party and the State over anti-corruption efforts in the Southeastern provinces.

Second, the sense of responsibility and active engagement of stakeholders and forces involved in anti-corruption and anti-negative practices across the region.

Third, the improvement of mechanisms and policies, alongside strengthened transparency and openness in the activities of agencies, organizations, and units, has been given due attention and emphasis by provincial Party committees and authorities.

3.3.1.2. Limitations and Underlying Causes

** Limitations*

First, regarding awareness. Although the awareness of Party committees, authorities, cadres, Party members, and the people in the Southeastern provinces concerning anti-corruption has undergone positive changes in recent years, certain limitations persist. This is most evident in the fact that some Party committees and local authorities have not truly regarded anti-corruption as an urgent and essential political task.

Second, regarding implementation. In recent years, the Southeastern provinces have implemented a relatively comprehensive system of anti-corruption measures in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's teachings and the directives of the Central Government, covering prevention, detection, handling, and recovery of corrupted assets. However, in practice, the effectiveness of these efforts has not met expectations and has yet to produce breakthroughs in anti-corruption work.

Third, regarding outcomes. Although anti-corruption efforts in the Southeastern provinces have achieved certain results, there remain considerable limitations in practice.

** Underlying Causes*

First, some Party committees and local authorities have not demonstrated sufficient determination or persistence in leading and directing anti-corruption efforts.

Second, mechanisms, policies, and laws still reveal shortcomings, failing to keep pace with the rapid development and increasing complexity of economic and social activities in the region.

Third, the role and responsibility of specialized anti-corruption agencies in the Southeastern provinces have not been fully promoted.

Fourth, the mobilization of the strength of the people, the press, and the media in anti-corruption remains insufficiently effective.

Fifth, the degradation in political ideology, morality, and lifestyle among a segment of cadres, Party members, and civil servants - including some leaders of Party committees and local authorities - continues to pose challenges.

3.3.2. Emerging Issues

3.3.2.1. The discrepancy between the increasingly stringent requirements of anti-corruption efforts and the still-limited awareness of a segment of cadres, Party members, civil servants, and the people regarding this issue

3.3.2.2. Mechanisms, policies, and laws on anti-corruption remain riddled with loopholes, overlap, and a lack of coherence, while corrupt practices are becoming increasingly sophisticated and complex

3.3.2.3. Close coordination among competent agencies in anti-corruption, waste prevention, and combating negative phenomena is critically important; however, in practice, such coordination remains unsynchronized, and its effectiveness is limited

3.3.2.4. Ethics constitute a “core” factor in anti-corruption, yet a portion of cadres, Party members, and civil servants have not demonstrated the necessary self-discipline in moral cultivation and practice

3.3.2.5. Inspection, supervision, and control of power serve as the “key” to preventing corruption, but the implementation of these measures still faces many limitations and shortcomings

3.3.2.6. The people play an important role in anti-corruption; however, mechanisms and policies to promote and protect the people’s role in this regard remain inadequate

3.3.2.7. The role of the press and media in oversight and social criticism contrasts sharply with their limited practical effectiveness in exposing and combating corruption at present

Summary of chapter 3

Corruption has become a global phenomenon, posing a grave threat to the stability and development of all nations, regardless of their political systems. In Vietnam, the Party has identified corruption as one of the major “risks” that endanger the survival of the Party and the regime, while simultaneously hindering national development. Therefore, the Party and the State have consistently attached special importance to anti-corruption work, demonstrating a high level of political determination and mobilizing the concerted participation of the entire political system and the people.

Upholding the Party’s viewpoints and creatively applying Ho Chi Minh’s ideology, anti-corruption efforts in the Southeastern provinces in recent years have yielded notable results. Awareness and responsibility among Party committees, authorities, cadres, Party members, and the people concerning anti-corruption and combating negative practices have

improved significantly. Preventive measures against corruption have received attention in leadership and direction and have been implemented regularly, generating initial positive outcomes. The handling of corrupt acts and recovery of corrupted assets has been undertaken resolutely. Overall, anti-corruption efforts in the Southeastern provinces have shown many positive developments in practice. However, the reality also reveals that anti-corruption work in the region still faces numerous shortcomings that require attention and remediation. The awareness and responsibility of some Party committees, authorities, cadres, Party members, and segments of the population remain limited. The implementation and organization of anti-corruption measures continue to lack breakthroughs. Although corruption has been largely prevented and contained, it remains complex and unpredictable in several localities.

These strengths and limitations stem from various objective and subjective causes, with subjective causes being predominant. Based on the actual situation and underlying causes, Chapter 3 identifies several emerging issues in anti-corruption work in the Southeastern provinces from the perspective of Ho Chi Minh's ideology in the coming period. These serve as an important premise and objective basis for forecasting factors influencing anti-corruption efforts in the region and, subsequently, for defining orientations and proposing solutions grounded in Ho Chi Minh's ideology to enhance anti-corruption effectiveness in the new era.

Chapter 4

ORIENTATIONS AND SOLUTIONS FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION BASED ON HO CHI MINH'S IDEOLOGY IN THE SOUTHEASTERN PROVINCES IN THE NEW ERA

4.1. FORECASTING FACTORS AFFECTING ANTI-CORRUPTION BASED ON HO CHI MINH'S IDEOLOGY IN THE SOUTHEASTERN PROVINCES IN THE NEW ERA

4.1.1. Political Determination and the Party's Viewpoints on Anti-Corruption and Combating Negative Practices

Fully aware of the grave consequences of corruption and the urgent demands of reality, the Party affirms that anti-corruption "has become an irreversible trend"; at the same time, it resolutely enforces strict disciplinary action against all corrupt and unethical acts, regardless of who is involved, what position they hold, or whether they are incumbent or retired, thereby eliminating the mentality of a "safe landing." Party discipline is imposed first, serving as a premise and pathway for State discipline, organizational discipline, and criminal prosecution. This reflects the Party's strong and consistent political determination in combating corruption and negative practices.

4.1.2. Dynamic Socio-Economic Development of the Southeastern Provinces

In the coming period, the Southeastern provinces will continue to affirm their position as the most dynamically developing socio-economic region in the country. Economically, this region - benefiting from its advantages as an industrial, service, and logistics hub and a gateway for international trade - will continue to attract substantial domestic and foreign investment, particularly in high technology, clean energy, smart urban infrastructure, and digital transformation. Along with the improvement of inter-regional transport systems such as expressways, seaports, and Long Thanh International Airport, the Southeastern region will become a "locomotive" driving regional connectivity and international integration.

4.1.3. The Strong Advancement of Science and Technology

In the coming years, science and technology will continue to advance rapidly with unprecedented breakthroughs, as they are regarded as the principal driving forces of human development. This momentum is further accelerated by the wave of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, characterized by innovations in artificial intelligence, big data, biotechnology, and new materials. Meanwhile, the urgent need to address global challenges, coupled with trends in globalization and the significant increase in resources allocated to research and development, has created a favorable environment for science and technology to “explode.” This trend has also been anticipated by the Party: “The Fourth Industrial Revolution will continue to develop strongly and exert profound impacts across all domains. New productive forces, especially high technology and artificial intelligence, are advancing at unprecedented levels.” Such developments will undoubtedly influence all countries and every sphere of social life, including anti-corruption efforts based on Ho Chi Minh’s ideology.

4.1.4. The Market Economy and the Hostile Forces’ Sabotage of the Anti-Corruption Efforts Initiated and Led by the Party

The socialist-oriented market economy has significantly contributed to the comprehensive development of the country, particularly in the economic domain. The Southeastern provinces have effectively leveraged market mechanisms to achieve notable accomplishments, making important contributions to national GDP growth, export turnover, and state budget revenue. However, the market economy simultaneously generates various negative consequences, giving rise to complex issues related to social ethics, legal discipline, and Party building. In the Southeastern region, the adverse side of the market mechanism has been influencing the mindset and lifestyle of a segment of cadres, Party members, and civil servants, most visibly reflected in tendencies toward individualism, utilitarianism, materialism, and the neglect of traditional cultural values. These tendencies weaken their sense of self-cultivation, ethical discipline, and public service responsibility. If not effectively controlled, such manifestations may become fertile grounds for corruption to emerge and proliferate.

4.1.5. The Trend of Globalization and the Deepening, Comprehensive Expansion of International Cooperation in the Southeastern Provinces

The global landscape is undergoing unprecedentedly rapid and complex transformations toward a multipolar, multicentric, multilayered, and strongly segmented structure. Peace, cooperation, and development remain the prevailing trends, yet they are confronted with increasingly complex challenges. Major powers continue to both compete and cooperate, compromising when necessary, though competition is expected to intensify. Concurrently, nations around the world are increasingly inclined to “move closer together” in order to jointly address global issues, including the pervasive challenge of corruption.

4.1.6. The Acceleration of the Implementation of the “Strategy for Building and Perfecting the Socialist Rule-of-Law State of Vietnam until 2030, with a Vision toward 2045” and the Reform and Restructuring of the Political System

To realize the national aspiration of advancing into a new era - a period of national rejuvenation - the Party and the State are vigorously promoting breakthrough solutions across numerous areas and sectors. Among these, the “Strategy for Building and Perfecting the Socialist Rule-of-Law State of Vietnam until 2030, with a Vision toward 2045” stands as a political mission of exceptional importance. Successful implementation of this Strategy

will contribute to building local governments in the Southeastern provinces that are genuinely “of the people, by the people, and for the people,” in accordance with Ho Chi Minh’s ideology. The practice of democracy will continue to be reinforced; the legal culture and law-abiding consciousness of cadres, Party members, civil servants, and citizens will be increasingly strengthened; and the control of state power will be exercised more rigorously in association with enhanced legality, discipline, transparency, and accountability in the activities of cadres, Party members, and civil servants. These developments will have positive impacts, contributing to improving the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts in line with Ho Chi Minh’s ideology.

4.1.7. The Continuing Complexity and Unpredictability of Corruption, Wastefulness, and Negative Practices among a Segment of Cadres, Party Members, and Civil Servants in the Southeastern Provinces

In the coming period, corruption, wastefulness, and negative practices among a segment of cadres, Party members, and civil servants in the Southeastern provinces are forecast to continue manifesting in complex and unpredictable ways. These issues may even escalate in terms of scale, severity, and sophistication. The deterioration in political ideology, ethics, and lifestyle among a portion of the cadre and Party membership has not been effectively curbed, leaving them increasingly vulnerable to moral decline and more easily tempted by material interests.

4.2. ORIENTATIONS FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN PROVINCES IN THE NEW ERA BASED ON HO CHI MINH’S IDEOLOGY

4.2.1. Studying, Internalizing, and Creatively Applying Ho Chi Minh’s Ideology on Anti-Corruption through Diverse Measures Suitable to New Conditions and Contexts

4.2.2. Thoroughly Grasping the Political Determination, Viewpoints, and Guidelines of the Party in Preventing and Combating Corruption and Negative Practices

4.2.3. Linking Anti-Corruption Efforts Based on Ho Chi Minh’s Ideology with Party Building and Rectification, as well as the Reform and Restructuring of the Political System in the Southeastern Provinces

4.2.4. Orienting Anti-Corruption Efforts Based on Ho Chi Minh’s Ideology toward Contributing to the Development of the Southeastern Provinces into Key Economic Regions that Play a Vital Role in National Development

4.2.5. Orienting Anti-Corruption Efforts Based on Ho Chi Minh’s Ideology toward Preventing Risks to the Ruling Party, Maintaining Political Stability, and Preserving Culture and Ethics among Cadres, Party Members, and Civil Servants

4.2.6. Anti-Corruption Efforts Based on Ho Chi Minh’s Ideology in the Southeastern Provinces Must Be Linked with the Prevention of Wastefulness and Negative Practices

4.3. SOLUTIONS FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION IN THE SOUTHEASTERN PROVINCES IN THE NEW ERA BASED ON HO CHI MINH’S IDEOLOGY

4.3.1. Strengthening Propaganda and Education to Enhance Awareness and Political Determination among Party Committees, Authorities, Cadres, Party Members, and Civil Servants in the Southeastern Provinces regarding Anti-Corruption

To achieve this, Party committees and authorities in the Southeastern provinces should effectively implement the following: First, uphold the strong political determination of Party

committees and authorities, particularly the provincial leaders, in preventing and combating corruption; Second, synchronously implement propaganda and educational measures to raise awareness among cadres, Party members, civil servants, and the people regarding the prevention of corruption, wastefulness, and negative practices; Third, diversify forms of propaganda and education to enhance awareness of preventing and combating corruption, wastefulness, and negative practices.

4.3.2. Improving and Supplementing Mechanisms, Institutions, and Legal Policies on Anti-Corruption

Improving and supplementing mechanisms, institutions, and legal policies on anti-corruption is a decisive solution that provides a comprehensive and rigorous legal framework for preventing, detecting, and handling corruption. To implement this effectively, Party committees and authorities in the Southeastern provinces need to focus on the following key areas: First, supplement and improve regulations regarding cadre management; Second, formulate and promulgate strict sanctions against corruption to ensure that cadres, Party members, and civil servants “dare not” engage in corruption, while also ensuring the humanitarian nature of the system; Third, improve regulations on recovering corrupt assets; Fourth, improve mechanisms to promote the role of the people in preventing and combating corruption and negative practices; Fifth, supplement and adjust the functions and duties of the Steering Committee for Preventing and Combating Corruption, Wastefulness, and Negative Practices in the Southeastern provinces; Sixth, study and promulgate regulations on the digitalization of assets and personal income of cadres, Party members, and civil servants; Seventh, study and promulgate mechanisms and policies to enhance the income of cadres, Party members, and civil servants; Eighth, improve mechanisms and policies that promote the “seven dares” spirit among cadres, Party members, and civil servants in anti-corruption efforts; Ninth, improve mechanisms and institutions for managing the private economic sector.

4.3.3. Enhancing the Effectiveness and Efficiency of Coordination and Promoting the Role of Agencies and Units Responsible for Preventing and Combating Corruption, Wastefulness, and Negative Practices

Enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of coordination and promoting the role of agencies and units responsible for preventing and combating corruption, wastefulness, and negative practices is a crucial and decisive requirement for the quality and effectiveness of this work in the Southeastern provinces. On this basis, Party committees and authorities in these provinces need to focus on the following key measures: First, improve the efficiency of coordination among agencies and units responsible for preventing and combating corruption, wastefulness, and negative practices; Second, promote the proactive role of these agencies and units in anti-corruption and anti-negative practice work; Third, reorganize the administrative apparatus and develop a professional cadre team directly involved in anti-corruption and anti-negative practice work at the local level.

4.3.4. Promoting the Initiative and Self-Discipline of Cadres, Party Members, and Civil Servants in the Southeastern Provinces in Cultivating and Practicing Revolutionary Ethics

The Southeastern provinces, characterized by rapid urbanization and dynamic economic development, create numerous material temptations surrounding cadres, Party members, and civil servants. Therefore, fostering initiative and self-discipline in cultivating and practicing revolutionary ethics is a foundational solution to enhance the effectiveness of

anti-corruption efforts based on Ho Chi Minh's ideology. In the coming period, cadres, Party members, and civil servants in these provinces should implement the following: First, uphold the spirit of serving the Fatherland and the people; Second, cultivate integrity, uphold honor and self-respect, and experience a sense of shame in the face of corruption and negative practices; Third, promote self-reflection, self-correction, self-criticism, and constructive criticism; Fourth, maintain a minimal attachment to material desires; Fifth, demonstrate exemplary leadership and pioneering spirit in cultivating and practicing revolutionary ethics, particularly for those in leadership positions.

4.3.5. Strengthening Inspection, Supervision, and Control over the Exercise of Power among Cadres, Party Members, and Civil Servants

Corruption primarily arises from the abuse of power, including acts of overreach, arbitrary use of authority, and exploiting power for personal or factional gain. To strengthen inspection, supervision, and control over the exercise of power among cadres, Party members, and civil servants, it is necessary to implement the following measures: First, further foster a strong transformation in the awareness of Party committees, Party organizations at all levels, and the cadre and civil servant workforce regarding inspection, supervision, and power control; Second, enhance leadership and guidance to improve the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of the planning and implementation of inspection, supervision, and power control activities; Third, provincial Party committees should strengthen guidance of functional agencies, especially the Provincial Party Inspection Committees, in designing and executing inspection, supervision, and power control plans for cadres, Party members, and civil servants; Fourth, the control of power by Party committees and organizations at all levels must be conducted continuously, transparently, and with a focused and prioritized approach; Fifth, develop and improve the professional capacity of cadres engaged in inspection work at all levels to support the fight against corruption effectively.

4.3.6. Promoting the Role and Responsibility of the People in Combating Corruption, Wastefulness, and Negative Practices

Preventing and combating corruption, wastefulness, and negative practices is not only the responsibility of agencies within the political system but also the duty and obligation of every citizen. To ensure the effectiveness of this measure in the specific context of the Southeastern provinces, Party committees and authorities should focus on the following key aspects: First, strengthen propaganda and legal dissemination to enhance the awareness and responsibility of the people in the fight against corruption, wastefulness, and negative practices; Second, increase transparency and openness in the operations of political system agencies at all levels to enhance the effectiveness of public oversight; Third, promote the role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and other socio-political organizations in participating in anti-corruption, anti-wastefulness, and anti-negative practice efforts.

4.3.7. Promoting the Role of Press and Media Agencies in Combating Corruption and Negative Practices

Throughout the leadership and guidance of the revolution, Ho Chi Minh consistently emphasized the crucial role of the press and media in both the resistance and nation-building efforts. He considered the press as a sharp weapon in the pursuit of righteousness and the fight against wrongdoing, especially in combating corruption and negative practices. Currently, the Party and the State recognize press and media agencies as vital channels for disseminating information, raising public awareness, shaping public opinion,

and mobilizing societal participation in anti-corruption and anti-negative practice work. To maximize their role in alignment with Ho Chi Minh's ideology in the Southeastern provinces, the following measures should be implemented: First, strengthen Party leadership and governmental management of press and media agencies; Second, improve the quality of information, ensuring accuracy, objectivity, and timeliness in reporting corruption and negative practice cases; Third, enhance the capacity, political resilience, professional ethics, and skills of journalists and reporters; Fourth, promptly recognize and reward press and media agencies, as well as journalists and reporters, who have achieved outstanding results in anti-corruption efforts.

4.3.8. Integrating Anti-Corruption with Combating Wastefulness and Negative Practices, and Promoting Organizational Reform of the Political System in the Southeastern Provinces

Integrating anti-corruption with the fight against wastefulness and negative practices, while simultaneously promoting organizational reform of the political system, is a pivotal solution that lays the foundation for building a clean and strong political system in the Southeastern provinces. Corruption, wastefulness, and negative practices are inherently “internal enemies” that are interrelated, mutually reinforcing, and if not timely addressed, will erode public trust, weaken internal strength, and hinder sustainable development. Furthermore, a cumbersome bureaucracy with multiple intermediary levels not only wastes resources but also creates loopholes for corruption and negative practices to emerge. To effectively implement this solution, the following key measures should be undertaken: First, ensure close, synchronized, and effective integration between anti-corruption efforts and the fight against wastefulness and negative practices; Second, advance the reform and reorganization of the political system in the Southeastern provinces toward a “lean, streamlined, and strong” model, operating with both effectiveness and efficiency; Third, intensify the critique and denunciation of erroneous viewpoints that distort the Party's and State's efforts in combating corruption, wastefulness, and negative practices in the Southeastern provinces.

4.3.9. Supplementing and Adjusting the Functions and Tasks of the Steering Committee for Anti-Corruption, Anti-Wastefulness, and Anti-Negative Practices in the Southeastern Provinces

As the largest economic center of the country, hosting numerous key infrastructure projects and massive investment capital, along with the rapid development of the real estate, service, and logistics markets, the risk of corruption and vested interests in areas such as land management, public investment, planning, finance, and budget management is significant. Moreover, policy overlaps during the integration period, coupled with difficulties in unifying administrative structures, may create “loopholes” exploitable by negative practices. Without effective control, corruption could evolve from isolated acts into systematic, sophisticated, and harder-to-detect collusions. Therefore, in addition to leveraging opportunities to improve mechanisms and enhance management efficiency, Ho Chi Minh City requires specific mechanisms for anti-corruption, anti-wastefulness, and anti-negative practice efforts. Accordingly, it is necessary to propose to the Politburo, the Secretariat, and the Central Steering Committee for Anti-Corruption, Anti-Wastefulness, and Anti-Negative Practices to study and consider enhancing and expanding the functions, tasks, and resources of the Steering Committee for Anti-Corruption, Anti-Wastefulness, and

Anti-Negative Practices in certain provinces/cities post-merger, where the scope is extensive, the territories complex, and the concentration of major economic resources high, including Ho Chi Minh City.

Summary of Chapter 4

Corruption and negative practices remain among the major threats and challenges to the economic, political, cultural, and social development of the Southeastern provinces in general, and to Party building, the political system, and the cadre, Party member, and civil servant workforce in particular. In the new context, anti-corruption efforts guided by Ho Chi Minh's ideology in the Southeastern provinces are influenced by numerous domestic and international factors, particularly by the practical situation in each province. These factors simultaneously create fundamental opportunities and advantages, while also presenting significant difficulties and challenges, comprehensively impacting anti-corruption efforts based on Ho Chi Minh's ideology in the Southeastern provinces.

Based on the Party's perspectives and the application of Ho Chi Minh's ideology, this dissertation identifies strategic orientations and proposes several measures for anti-corruption according to Ho Chi Minh's ideology in the Southeastern provinces in the new era, including: Strengthening propaganda and education to raise awareness and political determination among Party committees, authorities, cadres, Party members, and civil servants regarding anti-corruption; Improving and supplementing mechanisms, institutions, and legal policies on anti-corruption; Enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of coordination and promoting the role of agencies and units responsible for anti-corruption, anti-wastefulness, and anti-negative practices; Fostering the proactive and self-disciplined spirit of cadres, Party members, and civil servants in cultivating and practicing revolutionary ethics; Strengthening inspection, supervision, and power control within the cadre, Party member, and civil servant workforce; Promoting the role and responsibility of the people in anti-corruption, anti-wastefulness, and anti-negative practices; Promoting the role of the press and media agencies in anti-corruption, anti-wastefulness, and anti-negative practices; Integrating anti-corruption with the fight against wastefulness and negative practices while advancing reforms and organizational restructuring of the political system in the Southeastern provinces.

These solutions are both general - based on the application of Ho Chi Minh's ideology and the Party and State's perspectives on anti-corruption, anti-wastefulness, and anti-negative practices - and specific, closely aligned with the practical realities of the Southeastern provinces. Moreover, these solutions are dialectically interrelated, mutually influencing one another; effective implementation of one measure provides the foundation for implementing others. Therefore, these measures must be carried out in a synchronized manner, avoiding the absolutization or neglect of any single solution.

CONCLUSION

1. With a keen political vision and the dialectical thinking of an outstanding revolutionary, Ho Chi Minh, from an early stage, clearly recognized the dangerous nature and severe consequences of corruption for the survival of the regime, the sustainable development of the country, and the people's trust in the Party and the State. After the August Revolution of 1945, in his capacity as the head of the Party and the State, Ho Chi Minh paid particular attention to the anti-corruption effort, considering it one of the core tasks in building and rectifying the Party, protecting the young State, and maintaining integrity within the administrative apparatus. Through his works, speeches, writings, letters to cadres and Party members, and concrete actions in leadership and practical guidance, Ho Chi Minh established a comprehensive system of thought on anti-corruption. This thought encompasses profound, guiding principles regarding the necessity of combating corruption, the causes of corruption, the forces to be mobilized, and the measures required for effective implementation.

2. Thoroughly grasping and creatively applying Ho Chi Minh's ideology on anti-corruption, over more than 90 years of Party building and maturation, especially during nearly four decades of national renovation, the Party has developed increasingly deep, clear, and correct understandings of the risks and harms of corruption. The Party identifies anti-corruption as a political task of special importance, directly related to the Party's destiny, the survival of the socialist regime, and the country's prospects in the new era - the era of national resurgence. Therefore, anti-corruption and the fight against negative practices have been vigorously, decisively, and synchronously implemented by the Party and State from the central to the local levels. Numerous major corruption cases have been detected and handled, reflecting both the strictness of the law and the humanitarian and humane nature of the socialist regime. This has fostered significant trust among cadres, Party members, civil servants, and the people, and has been recognized and highly evaluated by the international community.

3. The Southeastern region is a key economic zone in the South, holding strategic importance in terms of economy, politics, security, and national defense. In the process of renovation, under the leadership of the Party, local Party committees, authorities, and the people of the Southeastern provinces have achieved significant accomplishments in many areas, making important contributions to national development. Implementing the Party's perspectives, policies, and political determination, and creatively applying Ho Chi Minh's ideology, from 2013 to the present, anti-corruption efforts in the Southeastern provinces have yielded numerous positive results. The awareness of Party committees, authorities, cadres, Party members, and the people regarding anti-corruption has been fundamentally sufficient and correct; numerous anti-corruption preventive measures have been widely and synchronously implemented by local Party committees and authorities; investigations and handling of corrupt acts have been carried out decisively; and the recovery of corrupt assets has made notable progress. Nevertheless, alongside these positive outcomes, anti-corruption in the Southeastern provinces still faces certain limitations. Corruption within the cadre, Party member, and civil servant workforce has not been fully prevented or eradicated. This situation stems from multiple factors, both subjective and objective, but primarily originates

from the ideological, moral, and lifestyle degradation among a segment of cadres, Party members, and civil servants.

4. In the forthcoming period, the work of anti-corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's ideology in the Southeastern provinces needs to be continuously implemented in the context of profound changes in the economic and socio-political landscape. The processes of globalization and international integration, particularly the application of science and technology and digital transformation in state management, provide favorable conditions to enhance transparency and improve the effectiveness of preventing, detecting, and addressing corruption. The Party and the State continue to demonstrate strong political determination and decisive action, linking anti-corruption with the fight against wastefulness and negative practices, thereby creating a foundation for localities to proactively implement synchronized and context-appropriate solutions. This is combined with the dynamic development of the provinces in the region, the consensus and trust of the people, as well as the efforts to innovate the political system and reorganize the administrative apparatus in association with building a clean and strong Party organization. Within this context, the continued application of Ho Chi Minh's ideology in anti-corruption work is of utmost importance and urgency.

5. Anti-corruption is an extremely challenging and complex issue. To perform this task effectively, Party committees, authorities, and especially the provincial leaders in the Southeastern provinces must demonstrate political determination and implement multiple decisive and breakthrough policies and solutions in a coordinated manner. Among these, the application of Ho Chi Minh's ideology on anti-corruption is of particular and significant importance. Thoroughly understanding and creatively applying Ho Chi Minh's ideology on anti-corruption, in the forthcoming period, Party committees and authorities in the Southeastern provinces need to implement the following measures: strengthen propaganda and education to raise awareness and political determination of Party committees, authorities, cadres, Party members, civil servants, and the people regarding anti-corruption; complete and supplement mechanisms, institutions, and legal policies on anti-corruption, wastefulness, and negative practices; enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of coordination and promote the role of agencies and units responsible for anti-corruption, waste prevention, and combating negative practices; foster the proactive and self-disciplined spirit of cadres, Party members, and civil servants in moral and revolutionary ethical cultivation; strengthen inspection, supervision, and control of power within the cadre, Party member, and civil servant corps; promote the role and responsibility of the people in the fight against corruption, waste, and negative practices; enhance the role of the press and media in anti-corruption, waste prevention, and combating negative practices; integrate anti-corruption with the fight against waste and negative practices, while vigorously promoting the reform and reorganization of the political system's apparatus in the Southeastern provinces. Through these measures, corruption will gradually be prevented, restrained, and eventually reduced; Party organizations, political systems, and the cadre, Party member, and civil servant corps will be cleaner, stronger, and more disciplined. This will contribute to bringing the Southeastern provinces, together with the entire country, into the new era - the era of national resurgence.

LIST OF PUBLISHED WORKS BY THE AUTHOR RELATED TO THE THESIS

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