

HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS

DOAN TRUNG DUNG

**THE LEADERSHIP OF PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL
PARTY COMMITTEES IN THE MEKONG DELTA IN
SAFEGUARDING THE PARTY'S IDEOLOGICAL
FOUNDATION IN THE CURRENT PERIOD**

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Supervisors: 1. Dr. Phan Cong Khanh



2. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Le Van Cuong



Reviewer 1: Prof. Dr. Lai Quoc Khanh

University of Social Sciences and Humanities

Reviewer 2: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tran Thi Huong

Academy of Journalism and Communication

Reviewer 3: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dinh Ngoc Giang

Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics

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INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale for the Study

The Communist Party of Vietnam identifies Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought as its ideological foundation and guiding compass for action. Throughout its leadership of the Vietnamese revolution, the Party has upheld the fine traditions of the nation, absorbed the intellectual essence of humanity, and remained steadfast in grasping objective laws, global trends, and national realities. This has enabled the Party to formulate sound and creative political platforms and revolutionary lines that reflect the legitimate aspirations and interests of the People - earning their trust and support, and leading the nation to historic achievements in the twentieth century.

Across all revolutionary stages, especially during critical turning points or moments of difficulty and challenge, the Party has always attached special importance to protecting its ideological foundation and resolutely combating wrongful and hostile viewpoints. This task is considered a vital component of Party building, essential to ensuring the Party's purity, strength, and its ability to fulfill the missions of each revolutionary period.

In the context of the entire Party, people, and army vigorously implementing strategic and transformative decisions to advance the country into a new era, the task of safeguarding the Party's ideological foundation has become increasingly urgent. This mission is of strategic significance and is carried out frequently by the Politburo, the Secretariat, the Central Committee, Party committees at all levels, and the contingent of cadres and Party members - particularly provincial and municipal Party committees, including those in the Mekong Delta.

The Mekong Delta holds strategic geo-economic and geopolitical importance. It is a multi-ethnic and multi-religious region with a complex historical trajectory. Hostile forces have taken advantage of ethnic and religious sensitivities to collude with dissidents and opportunists, incite separatism and autonomy, sow distrust, and undermine national unity - creating risks of local "hotspots" threatening security and social order. The region is also one of the "Ba Tây" (Tây Bắc, Tây Nguyên, Tây Nam Bộ), which are focal areas targeted in hostile "peaceful evolution" strategies.

Fully aware of these challenges, provincial and municipal Party committees in the Mekong Delta have actively led, directed, and organized the implementation of tasks to safeguard the Party's ideological foundation. They have issued leadership documents; strengthened core forces; renewed and diversified communication and ideological work; and implemented programs and plans with positive results - creating favorable conditions for local socio-economic development and contributing to national achievements.

However, limitations remain. Some Party committee members have not fully recognized the significance of this mission. Many localities face difficulties in determining appropriate leadership content and methods; coordination among forces is insufficient; and the development and implementation of programs and plans are sometimes not aligned with local realities. The inspection and supervision of Resolution No. 35-NQ/TW in some Party committees remain infrequent. Additionally, disciplinary and criminal cases involving provincial-level cadre have been exploited by hostile forces to erode public trust. These issues require urgent study and effective solutions.

To help address these pressing issues - promoting strengths, overcoming shortcomings, and further strengthening the leadership of Mekong Delta provincial and municipal Party committees in safeguarding the Party's ideological foundation - the researcher selected the dissertation topic: *“The Leadership of Provincial Party Committees in the Mekong Delta in Safeguarding the Party's Ideological Foundation in the Current Period”*.

2. Purpose and Tasks of the Dissertation

2.1. Purpose

Based on theoretical and practical analysis, the dissertation proposes orientations and key solutions to enhance the leadership of Mekong Delta provincial and municipal Party committees in safeguarding the Party's ideological foundation and combating hostile and wrongful viewpoints through 2035.

2.2. Tasks

Provide an overview of related scientific works, identify inherited values, and determine issues requiring further research.

Clarify theoretical and practical matters concerning the leadership of Mekong Delta Party committees in safeguarding the Party's ideological foundation.

Assess the current state of leadership from 2018 to the present, identifying strengths, limitations, causes, and lessons learned.

Forecast favorable and challenging factors, and propose orientations and major solutions for enhancing leadership through 2035.

3. Research Subjects and Scope

3.1. Research Subject

The leadership activities of provincial and municipal Party committees in the Mekong Delta in safeguarding the Party's ideological foundation.

3.2. Research Scope

Spatial scope: The dissertation assesses the current situation across the Mekong Delta region, which includes 12 provinces and cities: Long An, Tiền Giang, Bến Tre, Đồng Tháp, Trà Vinh, Vĩnh Long, An Giang, Hậu Giang, Sóc Trăng, Bạc Liêu, Kiên Giang, Cà Mau, and Cần Thơ. The proposed orientations and solutions focus on five provinces and cities after administrative consolidation: Đồng Tháp, Vĩnh Long, Cà Mau, An Giang, and Cần Thơ.

Temporal scope: The research surveys and evaluates the leadership of the Mekong Delta provincial and municipal Party Committees in protecting the Party's ideological foundation from 2018 (the time of implementing Politburo Resolution No. 35-NQ/TW dated October 22, 2018, of the the 12th Politburo) to the present. The proposed orientations and solutions in the dissertation are valid through 2035

4. Theoretical and Practical Basis, Research Methods

The dissertation is grounded in the methodological foundation of Marxist-Leninist dialectical and historical materialism, while also employing specific research methods such as analysis combined with synthesis; systematization; the logical-historical method; statistical and comparative methods; sociological investigation; and practical summarization.

The method of analysis combined with synthesis is applied throughout all chapters of the dissertation, particularly in the overview of related research, the theoretical and practical foundations, and the assessment of the

leadership exercised by the Mekong Delta provincial and municipal Party Committees in safeguarding the Party's ideological foundation.

The systematization method is used in the research overview and in Chapter 2 to comprehensively and fully examine, in theoretical terms, the leadership role of the Mekong Delta provincial and municipal Party Committees in protecting the Party's ideological foundation, and to clearly identify the key issues the dissertation needs to address.

The logical-historical method is employed in Chapter 2 to study theoretical and practical issues related to the leadership of the Mekong Delta provincial and municipal Party Committees in safeguarding the Party's ideological foundation; in Chapter 3 to evaluate underlying causes; and in Chapter 4 to analyze and forecast favorable and challenging factors in order to propose major solutions to strengthen the leadership of provincial and municipal Party Committees in this area.

Statistical and comparative methods are used in the overview of related research; in Chapter 2 during the analysis of issues concerning the Mekong Delta; and in Chapter 3 to assess the actual leadership of the provincial and municipal Party Committees in protecting the Party's ideological foundation.

The sociological investigation method is applied to collect information from cadres, Party members, and residents of the Mekong Delta through an online questionnaire. The author of the dissertation disseminated the survey to 388 respondents and compiled the results. These findings are used from Chapters 2 to 4 to provide additional evidence for assessments and to enhance the persuasiveness of the dissertation through citations.

The practical summarization method is employed in Chapter 3 to analyze and evaluate the strengths and limitations of the leadership of the Mekong Delta provincial and municipal Party Committees in safeguarding the Party's ideological foundation, as well as to draw relevant lessons. The dissertation also examines practical realities to propose feasible solutions for strengthening this leadership through 2035.

5. Scientific Contributions of the Dissertation

The dissertation develops the concept of the leadership exercised by the provincial and municipal Party Committees in the Mekong Delta in safeguarding the Party's ideological foundation as follows: "It encompasses

all activities of the provincial and municipal Party Committees and their standing boards, together with the participation of Party organizations at all levels, cadres, Party members, and the people of the provinces and cities, in issuing, leading, directing, organizing, inspecting, and supervising the implementation of tasks aimed at protecting the Party's ideological foundation. These efforts contribute to safeguarding the Party, its Political Platform, and guidelines; protecting the People and the socialist rule-of-law State; upholding the cause of renewal, modernization, and international integration; protecting Party organizations and governments at all levels; and maintaining a peaceful, politically stable environment for the sustainable development of the Mekong Delta region.”

The dissertation draws two notable lessons: (1) consistently grounding leadership and direction in the specific characteristics of each locality and closely following new developments arising from practical circumstances to formulate appropriate tasks and solutions in safeguarding the Party's ideological foundation; (2) ensuring close and coordinated efforts among relevant actors and combining multiple measures to enhance the effectiveness of protecting the Party's ideological foundation.

A distinctive solution associated with the leadership role of the provincial and municipal Party Committees in safeguarding the Party's ideological foundation is: leading the development and coordination of specialized and core forces capable of meeting the increasingly demanding requirements of this work.

6. Theoretical and Practical Significance

The dissertation contributes to clarifying theoretical issues about Party leadership in ideological protection within a specific and sensitive region. It also provides scientific arguments for policymaking, planning, and implementation, and serves as a reference for teaching and research at political academies and universities - especially in the Mekong Delta.

7. Structure of the Dissertation

The dissertation includes an Introduction, four chapters with nine sections, Conclusion, list of the author's published works, references, and appendices.

Chapter 1

OVERVIEW OF RELATED RESEARCH

1.1. VIETNAMESE RESEARCH WORKS

1.1.1. Research Related to the Party's Leadership and the Leadership of Provincial Party Committees

The dissertation reviews a wide range of Vietnamese studies concerning the Party's leadership, including research on the Party's leadership over the State, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, and socio-political organizations by authors such as Trần Khắc Việt, Nguyễn Văn Giang, and Phạm Tất Thắng; the Party's leadership over the political system by Bùi Đình Bôn; and the Party's leadership over the State by Nguyễn Thế Trung. Several works also examine the Party's role in combating "peaceful evolution" in the ideological field, notably those of Trần Quốc Dương, as well as studies on the Party's ruling capacity and leadership capabilities by Lâm Quốc Tuấn, Vũ Trọng Lâm, and Dương Trung Ý.

Relevant studies on the leadership of provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta address various fields such as new rural development (Lê Quốc Khởi), agricultural economic restructuring (Dương Trung Ý and Bùi Văn Nghiê), and the development of Khmer ethnic minority cadres (Trần Hoàng Khải). Additionally, research on the leadership of provincial Party committees in other regions - such as the Red River Delta (Đào Thành Lưỡng), the South Central Coast (Trần Văn Phương), the Central Highlands (Vũ Xuân Thủy), or military regions (Bùi Văn Thành) - offers useful insights into leadership methods, organizational mechanisms, and Party-building tasks. Collectively, these studies clarify core aspects of Party leadership, such as concepts, leadership content, and leadership methods, forming an important foundation for this dissertation.

1.1.2. Research on Safeguarding the Party's Ideological Foundation

The dissertation analyzes a group of scientific works - research projects, monographs, reference books, conference proceedings, doctoral dissertations, and journal articles - related to safeguarding the Party's ideological foundation.

Notable among these are studies by the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics; Lê Quốc Lý; Nguyễn Bá Dương; the Central Propaganda and Education Commission of the Ministry of Public Security; the Central Theoretical Council; Đinh Ngọc Giang; and Lê Văn Lợi.

Several works address ideological protection efforts in the Mekong Delta, including those conducted by the An Giang Provincial Party Committee, the Hậu Giang Provincial Party Committee, and studies by Nguyễn Thanh Sơn, Trần Hoàng Khải, and Đinh Văn Thụy. These provide valuable empirical data regarding ideological challenges, regional characteristics, and local models of implementing Resolution No. 35-NQ/TW.

1.2. FOREIGN RESEARCH WORKS

1.2.1. Studies on the Leadership of Political Parties

The dissertation examines foreign works relating to the leadership of ruling parties and political organizations. These include: Ha Quoc Cuong, *Enhancing the Leadership and Governing Capacity, Preventing Corruption, Degradation, and Political Risks (China)*; Xôm Nước Xôm Vi Chít on *innovating state leadership in the Lao People's Democratic Republic*; Bun-Thoong Chit-Ma-Ni, *dissertation on the Lao People's Revolutionary Party's leadership in new rural development*; Thoong Băn Seng Aphone, *research on party leadership in national security protection*; Mayphone Her, *dissertation on provincial Party committees in northern Laos leading poverty reduction*. These works provide comparative perspectives on leadership models, governance capacity, and the role of ruling parties in ideological, political, and socio-economic tasks.

1.2.2. Studies on Ideological Foundations and Their Protection

The dissertation also reviews foreign literature on ideological protection and development, focusing primarily on Chinese and Lao authors. Key works include: Li Chen Ming, Chen Zhi Hua, *Assessing Risks - Reflections 20 Years After the Dissolution of the CPSU*; Bun Duong Cay Xôn, *dissertation on ideological work of provincial Party committees in central Laos*; Articles by Zhao Wenru, Zhang Wei Dong, and Li Biao on *ideological work in the new era*; *The Communist Party of China: Five Years of Strict and Comprehensive Party Governance* (Central Organization Department, 2019); Cheng Enfu, *analysis of safeguarding and creatively developing Marxism-Leninism*; Shang Ming Sui & Phan Boi Sa, on

ideological struggle in the contemporary period; English-language works by authors such as Johanson, Katya Glow, and Katharine Dommett. These studies provide important comparative insights into ideological management, ideological struggle, and the protection of ruling-party legitimacy in various political systems.

1.3. ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING RESEARCH AND ISSUES REQUIRING CONTINUED STUDY

1.3.1. Achievements of Previous Research

First, existing studies have clarified the Party's leadership in various areas of social life and analyzed the leadership methods of provincial Party committees, including issuing resolutions, organization and personnel work, communication and persuasion, leadership through local governments and mass organizations, role-model setting by Party members, and inspection and supervision.

Second, many works address the protection and development of ideological foundations and the tasks of safeguarding ruling-party ideology.

Third, some studies have begun analyzing ideological protection efforts in the Mekong Delta and the leadership of local Party committees. They highlight regional characteristics affecting ideological work, assess local implementation of ideological protection tasks, and propose solutions aligned with regional realities.

1.3.2. Issues Requiring Further Research

Despite extensive literature, no comprehensive study has yet examined the leadership of provincial and municipal Party committees in safeguarding the ideological foundation of the Communist Party within the distinct context of the Mekong Delta.

Therefore, the dissertation must address the following gaps:

Clarifying theoretical foundations and developing a suitable analytical framework for studying ideological protection leadership at the provincial level.

Assessing achievements and limitations in the leadership of Mekong Delta Party committees in implementing Resolution No. 35-NQ/TW since 2018, determining underlying causes, and identifying practical lessons.

Analyzing contextual factors - global, national, and regional - that affect ideological protection tasks, thereby proposing orientations and solutions to strengthen leadership in the coming period.

Chapter 2

THE LEADERSHIP OF PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEES IN THE MEKONG DELTA IN SAFEGUARDING THE PARTY'S IDEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION - THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL ISSUES

2.1. THE MEKONG DELTA AND ITS PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEES

2.1.1. Characteristics of the Mekong Delta

2.1.1.1. Geographic, Natural, and Historical Characteristics

The Mekong Delta is located in the southwest of Vietnam and is the largest alluvial plain in the country. Historically, it has undergone complex transformations involving many cultural and political entities such as the Kingdom of Funan, the Khmer Empire, and Vietnamese settlers. It was also a region used extensively by French colonialists and U.S. imperialists as an administrative and military base. The people of the Mekong Delta possess a strong patriotic tradition and have played an active role in resisting foreign invasions.

2.1.1.2. Ethnic and Religious Characteristics

The region is multi-ethnic and multi-religious. Ethnic-religious relations have distinctive features: Ethnicity and religion are closely tied together in many communities. Each ethnic group tends to be associated with specific belief systems or religions that profoundly shape their material and spiritual life. Many ethnic minorities maintain close cultural, familial, and religious ties with communities in neighboring countries. Historically, ethnic and religious groups in the southwestern region exhibited diverse attitudes toward the revolutionary movement. These characteristics create a complex political-social environment and present both advantages and challenges for safeguarding the Party's ideological foundation.

2.1.1.3. Socio-Economic, National Defense, and Security Characteristics

The Mekong Delta is one of Vietnam's six major economic regions, known for agricultural production and renewable energy potential. It contributes: 31.37% of national agricultural output; 95% of Vietnam's rice exports; 65% of seafood exports; 70% of fruit exports. However, the region

also faces significant challenges: Agricultural development has reached its threshold, showing signs of stagnation; Climate change and sea-level rise pose severe risks to sustainable development; Poverty rates remain relatively high; Security and national defense pressures are substantial due to the region's strategic location; All these factors influence the ideological landscape and the requirements of ideological protection.

2.1.2. Functions, Tasks, Working Relationships, and Characteristics of Provincial Party Committees

2.1.2.1. Functions

Provincial Party Committees are the leading bodies of provincial Party organizations between congresses.

They perform two core functions:

Party-building leadership: Provincial Party Committees organize the dissemination and implementation of Central resolutions, directives, and regulations; formulate provincial resolutions on political, ideological, ethical, organizational, and personnel affairs; and ensure the purity and strength of the provincial Party organization.

Leadership over the political system: Provincial Party Committees lead local government, the Fatherland Front, socio-political organizations, and mass organizations to implement the Party's line and the State's policies and laws effectively.

2.1.2.2. Tasks

According to Regulation No. 305-QĐ/TW, June 13, 2025. Provincial Party Committees are responsible for:

1. Disseminating and concretizing provincial Party congress resolutions and Central resolutions.
2. Leading the review and evaluation of Central and provincial resolutions.
3. Orienting and deciding issues on Party-building, organization, personnel, inspection, supervision, and discipline.
4. Leading local governments in performing state management functions.
5. Leading mass mobilization and grassroots democracy.

6. Deciding issues related to Party finances and assets; approving matters handled by the Standing Committee; and fulfilling duties assigned by the Politburo, Secretariat, and Central Committee.

2.1.2.3. Working Relationships

Provincial Party Committees maintain relationships with: Higher-level Party bodies (Central Committee, Politburo, Secretariat); Central advisory agencies; Party committees directly under the Central Committee, Military Region 9 Party Committee, and Border Guard Party Committee; Subordinate Party committees and advisory bodies at the provincial level. These relationships ensure unified leadership while allowing local adaptation.

2.1.2.4. Characteristics of Provincial Party Committees in the Mekong Delta

Adequate quantity and structure of provincial Party members; High proportions of women and ethnic minority members; Improved qualifications and political capacity; Strong revolutionary tradition and close connection with the people; Sociocultural traits of the riverine, agricultural society influencing working style and leadership methods

2.2. SAFEGUARDING THE PARTY'S IDEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION AND THE LEADERSHIP ROLE OF PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEES IN THE MEKONG DELTA

2.2.1. Safeguarding the Party's Ideological Foundation

2.2.1.1. Definition and Content

Safeguarding the Party's ideological foundation refers to the integrated use of forces and measures to preserve, strengthen, and creatively develop the core values of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought, while combating distortions and wrongful views from internal and external sources.

Content includes:

First, raising awareness and responsibility throughout the political system.

Second, translating resolutions into concrete programs and action plans.

Third, building and coordinating core ideological protection forces - such as Steering Committee 35, expert groups, and collaborators.

Fourth, conducting ideological education, communication, theoretical development, forecasting, and the struggle against hostile viewpoints.

Fifth, inspecting, supervising, reviewing, and evaluating the implementation process.

2.2.1.2. Role

The work contributes to:

First, strengthening Party-building and Party rectification.

Second, enhancing the Party's leadership capacity and its effectiveness as the ruling Party.

Third, consolidating national unity and fostering comprehensive development.

Fourth, effectively combating hostile and wrongful viewpoints.

Fifth, advancing global struggles for peace, democracy, and social progress.

2.2.2. Leadership of Provincial Party Committees in Safeguarding the Ideological Foundation

2.2.2.1. Concept

The leadership of the Mekong Delta provincial and municipal Party Committees in safeguarding the Party's ideological foundation encompasses all activities carried out by the provincial and municipal Party Committees, their standing boards, along with the participation of Party organizations at all levels, cadres, Party members, and the people of the provinces and cities. These activities include issuing, leading, directing, organizing, inspecting, and supervising the implementation of tasks aimed at protecting the Party's ideological foundation, thereby contributing to safeguarding the Party, its Political Platform and guidelines; protecting the people, the socialist rule-of-law State, the cause of renewal, modernization, and international integration; protecting Party organizations and governments at all levels; and preserving a peaceful, politically stable environment to ensure the sustainable development of the Mekong Delta region

Core elements:

Leadership subjects: Provincial Party Committees and their Standing Committees;

Participants: Party organizations, local governments, mass organizations, armed forces, and the populace;

Objectives: Effective implementation of the Party's ideological protection line;

Tasks: Issuing resolutions; organizing implementation; conducting inspection and supervision; directing state agencies, the Fatherland Front, and organizations to participate.

2.2.2.2. Leadership Content

First, determining goals, directions, and solutions based on the Party's viewpoints. *Second*, conducting theoretical education, ideological communication, and developing local theoretical work. *Third*, combating hostile and wrongful viewpoints. *Fourth*, guiding public opinion and promoting positive achievements. *Fifth*, ensuring material and organizational conditions for ideological protection.

2.2.2.3. Leadership Methods

The provincial and municipal Party Committees in the Mekong Delta lead the work of safeguarding the Party's ideological foundation through the following methods: *First*, they provide leadership by issuing resolutions, decisions, guidelines, and orientations related to the protection of the Party's ideological foundation. *Second*, they exercise leadership through the organizational and personnel work of the provincial and municipal Party Committees. *Third*, they lead through the provincial authorities, which institutionalize and concretize the resolutions and guidelines on safeguarding the Party's ideological foundation. *Fourth*, they lead by promoting the role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations in participating in the protection of the Party's ideological foundation. *Fifth*, they lead by promoting the exemplary role of Party committees and Party members in carrying out tasks related to safeguarding the Party's ideological foundation. *Sixth*, they provide leadership through the inspection and supervision of the implementation of tasks related to protecting the Party's ideological foundation

Chapter 3

THE LEADERSHIP OF PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEES IN THE MEKONG DELTA IN SAFEGUARDING THE PARTY'S IDEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION - CURRENT SITUATION, CAUSES, AND LESSONS

3.1. CURRENT SITUATION OF LEADERSHIP BY MEKONG DELTA PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEES

3.1.1. Strengths

3.1.1.1. *In implementing leadership content*

First, provincial Party committees have seriously implemented and disseminated the Party's resolutions and guidelines, particularly Resolution No. 35-NQ/TW, and subsequently identified goals, directions, tasks, and solutions appropriate for their localities.

Second, the quality of education, communication, and dissemination of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought has improved, with increasing attention paid to local theoretical development and practical summarization.

Third, the fight against hostile and wrongful viewpoints has been strengthened. Provincial Party Committees have implemented measures through Steering Committee 35, core forces, and communication channels with initial positive results.

Fourth, Provincial Party Committees have regularly captured and guided public opinion, proactively addressing sensitive issues and effectively communicating regional achievements.

Fifth, Provincial Party Committees have focused on ensuring organizational, personnel, financial, and technical conditions for ideological protection tasks.

3.1.1.2. *Strengths in Leadership Methods*

First, Provincial Party Committees have promptly issued policy orientations, directives, and action plans regarding ideological protection and political security.

Second, leadership through organizational and personnel work has been enhanced, including building specialized and core forces such as Steering Committee 35, expert teams, and collaborators.

Third, Provincial Party Committees have effectively led local governments in institutionalizing and implementing documents related to ideological protection.

Fourth, the roles of the Fatherland Front, socio-political organizations, and the people in protecting the ideological foundation have been actively promoted.

Fifth, Provincial Party Committees have emphasized role modeling among Party committees and cadres, contributing to stronger political responsibility.

Sixth, inspection and supervision have been strengthened, contributing to efficient implementation of ideological protection tasks.

3.1.2. Limitations and Shortcomings

3.1.2.1. Limitations in Leadership Content

First, the identification of ideological protection tasks in some localities remains general, and the effectiveness of certain tasks is limited.

Second, political-ideological education is slow to innovate; practical summarization and theoretical development have not met requirements.

Third, public opinion monitoring and guidance are sometimes slow, untimely, or inaccurate.

Fourth, the struggle against hostile views is not always sharp or persuasive, particularly in complex and sensitive fields.

Fifth, resources, facilities, and support policies for ideological protection forces remain insufficient.

3.1.2.2. Limitations in Leadership Methods

First, many Provincial Party Committees have not issued independent resolutions specifically on ideological protection, relying mainly on Central documents; programs and plans sometimes lack depth.

Second, leadership through organizational and personnel work remains inadequate; some members of Steering Committee 35 and expert teams are underutilized.

Third, leadership through local governments, the Fatherland Front, and socio-political organizations remains inconsistent, and the “people’s ideological front” has not been fully leveraged.

Fourth, some cadres and Party members, including provincial-level Party committee members, fail to demonstrate exemplary conduct, affecting public trust.

Fifth, inspection and supervision of ideological protection tasks are not regular or substantive, leading to uneven implementation quality.

3.2. CAUSES AND LESSONS LEARNED

3.2.1. Causes

3.2.1.1. Causes of Strengths

First, the Party has paid increasing attention to ideological protection and the fight against hostile viewpoints.

Second, institutional frameworks for ideological protection - especially Steering Committee 35 - have gradually been consolidated.

Third, socio-economic achievements at national and regional levels have created favorable political conditions for ideological work.

Fourth, Steering Committee 35 and other core forces have provided timely advisory support, contributing to effective implementation.

Fifth, Provincial Party Committees and subordinate Party committees have demonstrated political responsibility and initiative in carrying out ideological protection tasks.

3.2.1.2. Causes of Limitations

First, the awareness of some cadres and Party members - including provincial - level Party committee members - about the importance of ideological protection remains incomplete.

Second, organizational capacity, expertise, and technical skills of some cadres in ideological protection work remain inadequate.

Third, policies, remuneration, and working conditions for specialized and core forces are limited; infrastructure - especially digital infrastructure - remains insufficient.

Fourth, some shortcomings in Party building and rectification persist; local governments and mass organizations lack effective measures to mobilize people for ideological protection.

Fifth, hostile forces are increasingly sophisticated in exploiting cyberspace, ethnic religious issues, and socio-economic difficulties in the region.

Sixth, the Mekong Delta's distinctive characteristics - historical complexity, ethnic, religious sensitivity, and developmental challenges - create structural difficulties for ideological protection.

3.2.2. Key Lessons Learned

First, building strong provincial Party committees - disciplined, united, and politically steadfast - is decisive for effective ideological protection leadership.

Second, strong and sharp ideological protection forces are essential, especially Steering Committee 35 and core advisory teams.

Third, leadership must always start from local characteristics and be closely linked to new developments in local realities.

Fourth, effective coordination among actors (Party committees, governments, mass organizations, security forces, media, etc.) is fundamental to improving ideological protection outcomes.

Fifth, regular inspection, supervision, reviews, and practical summarization help promptly correct shortcomings and promote best practices.

Chapter 4

ORIENTATIONS AND SOLUTIONS TO ENHANCE THE LEADERSHIP OF PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEES IN THE MEKONG DELTA IN SAFEGUARDING THE PARTY'S IDEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION THROUGH 2035

4. FORECAST OF ADVANTAGES, CHALLENGES, AND ORIENTATIONS FOR STRENGTHENING THE LEADERSHIP OF PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL PARTY COMMITTEES IN THE MEKONG DELTA IN SAFEGUARDING THE PARTY'S IDEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION TO 2035

4.1.1. Forecast of advantages and challenges

4.1.1.1. Advantages

Firstly, international developments offer positive impacts on national and regional development.

Secondly, the Fourth Industrial Revolution creates favorable conditions for the Party's ideological work.

Thirdly, achievements in the renewal process enhance the nation's position and affirm the Party's leadership.

Fourthly, the Mekong Delta receives increasing attention and achieves socio-economic progress, strengthening public trust.

Fifthly, revolutionary policies and the Party-building efforts nationwide and in the Mekong Delta will be strongly implemented.

Sixthly, after five years of implementing Resolution No. 35-NQ/TW, Party Committees in the Mekong Delta have drawn valuable leadership lessons.

4.1.1.2. Challenges

Firstly, global developments will continue to be complex and unpredictable.

Secondly, hostile forces are aggressively using technology and cyberspace to intensify their sabotage in the ideological sphere.

Thirdly, the Mekong Delta still faces socio-economic and security challenges, making it vulnerable to exploitation.

Fourthly, the Mekong Delta - one of “Ba Tay” continues to be a focal point targeted by hostile forces in their strategy of conducting “peaceful evolution”

Fifthly, political, ethical, and lifestyle degradation, along with signs of “self-evolution” and “self-transformation” among some cadres, erode public trust..

4.1.2. Orientations

The draft documents submitted to the 14th National Party Congress identify the following directions: Vigorously renew the content and methods of ideological work; enhance the combativeness, educational value, and persuasive power of political and ideological propaganda and education. Strengthen the dissemination of the Party’s guidelines and orientations, the State’s policies and laws, and revolutionary traditions, in association with studying and following Ho Chi Minh’s thought, morality, and style, as well as the building and rectification of a clean, strong, and comprehensive Party and political system. Maintain regularity and improve the quality of theoretical training and updates on new knowledge. Improve the quality of theoretical exchanges with communist parties and political parties around the world. Ensure strong leadership over propaganda, journalism, publishing, and communications; effectively manage cybersecurity; safeguard the Party’s ideological foundation, and resolutely combat wrongful, hostile, and

opportunistic viewpoints. Study and develop an ideological work strategy in the context of digital transformation

4.2. KEY SOLUTIONS TO STRENGTHENING THE LEADERSHIP OF PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL PARTY COMMITTEES IN THE MEKONG DELTA REGION OVER THE PROTECTION OF THE PARTY'S IDEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION THROUGH 2035

4.2.1. Continuing to Raise Awareness and Responsibilities of Party Committees, Party Organizations, and Political System Entities Regarding the Protection of the Party's Ideological Foundation

A correct understanding by Party committees, authorities, officials, and Party members serves as the foundation for each individual and organization to define their responsibilities and proactively and creatively fulfill the task of safeguarding the Party's ideological foundation and refuting distorted, hostile viewpoints. To contribute to enhancing the awareness and responsibilities of Party committees, Party organizations, and entities within the political system concerning the protection of the Party's ideological foundation, the following solutions should be implemented:

First, thoroughly grasp and implement the Party Central Committee's resolutions, directives, and regulations on the protection of the Party's ideological foundation.

Second, diversify and enhance the effectiveness of communication and dissemination campaigns related to the safeguarding of the Party's ideological foundation.

Third, strengthen the sense of responsibility among members of the Standing Committees, Executive Committees of Party organizations, and leaders of other entities in the political system across the Mekong Delta region in fulfilling their duties in protecting the Party's ideological foundation.

4.2.2. Enhancing the Quality of Provincial Party Committee Members and Advisory Bodies of the Party Committees in the Mekong Delta

4.2.2.1. Improving the Quality of Provincial Party Committee Members in Leading and Organizing the Protection of the Party's Ideological Foundation

First, concretize, thoroughly understand, and strictly implement the standards for provincial Party committee members in accordance with

Party regulations and the particular characteristics of the provinces and cities in the new context, in association with the restructuring of the political apparatus and the national and regional development goals in the new era.

Second, improve the quality of all stages of the personnel work process to build a competent team of provincial Party committee members in the Mekong Delta, especially in the selection and appointment process during apparatus streamlining.

Third, strengthen the political will, morality, and lifestyle of provincial Party committee members; proactively prevent ideological degradation, moral decline, and manifestations of “self-evolution” and “self-transformation.”

Fourth, reform working styles and methods of Party committees at the provincial level to meet increasingly demanding leadership requirements in the new era, aligning with the Party’s key decisions.

4.2.2.2. Improving the Quality of Advisory and Supporting Agencies for Provincial Party Committees in the Mekong Delta

First, continue to thoroughly grasp and build consensus on the position and role of advisory bodies in enhancing the leadership capacity of provincial Party committees, especially implementing Regulation No. 365-QĐ/TW dated August 30, 2025, issued by the Secretariat.

Second, review and concretize the functions and advisory responsibilities of Party-affiliated commissions according to the general regulations of the Central Committee.

Third, invest in upgrading the infrastructure and equipment, particularly digital infrastructure, of advisory and supporting bodies under the provincial Party Committees in the Mekong Delta.

4.2.3. Leading the Building and Coordination of Specialized Forces to Meet the Increasing Demands in Safeguarding the Party’s Ideological Foundation

4.2.3.1. Leading the Development of Specialized Forces for the Protection of the Party’s Ideological Foundation

First, clearly identify and assign responsibilities to each specialized and core force from the provincial level to grassroots in the task of protecting the Party’s ideological foundation.

Second, focus on selecting and building a team of experts and pioneering personnel who are qualified to carry out the assigned tasks.

Third, regularly strengthen capacity-building by organizing training courses and thematic workshops to enhance the qualifications and expertise of specialized and core personnel.

Fourth, develop appropriate mechanisms, policies, and working conditions for the specialized and core forces engaged in safeguarding the Party's ideological foundation.

4.2.3.2. Leading Inter-Provincial Coordination in the Protection of the Party's Ideological Foundation

First, the provincial Party Committees shall lead the promotion of the role of the Provincial Steering Committee 35 in coordinating relevant forces.

Second, inter-agency coordination must be based on the strengths and responsibilities of each unit, aligned with their assigned functions and tasks.

Third, implement strict routines for briefings, reporting, and regular information exchanges among forces involved.

Fourth, develop and institutionalize coordination mechanisms by signing inter-agency regulations on protecting the Party's ideological foundation.

4.2.4. Promoting the Role of Governments, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, and Socio-Political Organizations in Actively and Effectively Safeguarding the Party's Ideological Foundation

4.2.4.1. Promoting the Role of Government Agencies at All Levels in the Protection of the Party's Ideological Foundation

First, direct government bodies at all levels to concretize the Party's guidelines, resolutions, and plans on safeguarding ideological foundations in line with those of the provincial Party Committees in the Mekong Delta.

Second, maximize the role of state agencies in investing in technical equipment and resources to modernize the forces tasked with protecting the Party's ideological foundation and countering hostile viewpoints.

Third, build clean and strong local governments that can manage and promote socio-economic development while ensuring political security and public order - an essential basis for ideological protection.

Fourth, local governments and public officials in the Mekong Delta shall directly carry out the task of protecting the Party's ideological foundation.

4.2.4.2. Promoting the Role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and Socio-Political Organizations in Defending the Party's Ideological Foundation

First, the Party Committees in the Mekong Delta shall enhance the role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations in building a great national unity bloc, mobilizing people to implement Party policies and State laws.

Second, lead the Vietnam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations in mobilizing their officials and members to actively participate in safeguarding the Party's ideological foundation and refuting hostile arguments through appropriate methods.

Third, encourage the Vietnam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations to mobilize artists, intellectuals, religious dignitaries, and respected community figures to engage in ideological protection efforts.

Fourth, enhance their role in building a clean and strong Party and political system in the Mekong Delta.

4.2.5. Continuing to Promote the Exemplary Role of Party Committees and Party Members; Strengthening Inspection, Supervision, and Preliminary Reviews of the Leadership of Provincial Party Committees in Protecting the Party's Ideological Foundation

4.2.5.1. Continuing to Promote the Exemplary Role of Party Committees and Party Members in Protecting the Party's Ideological Foundation

First, Party committees and members must strictly uphold and implement the Party's regulations on the exemplary role of Party cadres.

Second, take the lead in fulfilling assigned tasks relating to the protection of the Party's ideological foundation in accordance with their official duties.

Third, Party committees must instruct agencies to regularly care for the material and spiritual wellbeing of their staff and civil servants, thus fostering internal unity and commitment to the ideological mission.

4.2.5.2. Strengthening Inspection, Supervision, and the Preliminary and Final Review of the Leadership Role of Provincial Party Committees in Protecting the Party's Ideological Foundation

First, the provincial Party Committees shall organize inspections and direct their Inspection Commissions to conduct regular and thematic inspections, as well as develop supervision plans regarding implementation.

Second, Party Committees shall inspect Party organizations and members working in local government bodies.

Third, Steering Committee 35 at all levels must regularly conduct briefings, reviews, emulation movements, commendations, and disciplinary actions against collectives and individuals who fail to effectively implement Resolution No. 35-NQ/TW of the Politburo.

4.2.6. Fostering Socio-Economic Development, Preserving and Promoting Cultural Values, Ensuring National Defense and Security, and Improving All Aspects of People's Lives in the Mekong Delta

First, continue to thoroughly grasp and effectively implement the Party's guidelines and the State's policies and laws on regional development. Priority should be given to organizing the implementation of Resolution No. 13-NQ/TW on “Directions for socio-economic development and national defense and security in the Mekong Delta region to 2035, with a vision to 2045.”

Second, effectively implement ethnic and religious policies; deploy socio-economic development programs and targets aimed at poverty reduction, sustainable livelihoods, and cultural value preservation. Efforts should focus on nurturing and promoting the rich cultural identities of local communities, including ethnic minorities and religious groups.

Third, ensure public security and social order. Party Committees and local authorities must focus on resolving urgent and emerging issues concerning public order and safety at the grassroots level, particularly in key areas related to national defense and security - such as remote areas, border regions, islands, and ethnic minority communities.

CONCLUSION

Safeguarding the ideological foundation of the Communist Party of Vietnam and resolutely combating hostile and wrongful viewpoints is an essential, long-term, and strategic mission of the entire Party, the entire political system, and the entire people - particularly provincial Party committees, which are directly responsible for local leadership.

Throughout the current period, provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta have demonstrated significant effort and responsibility in leading ideological protection tasks. They have concretized Central documents, strengthened Steering Committee 35 and core forces, renewed communication and theoretical education, improved public opinion guidance, and coordinated among local organizations and forces. These efforts have contributed to maintaining political stability, fostering socio-economic development, and preserving national unity in the region.

However, limitations and shortcomings remain, stemming from both subjective and objective causes - such as incomplete awareness among cadres, insufficient capacity of some ideological protection forces, lack of specialized infrastructure, and increasing complexity of hostile activities exploiting ethnic and religious sensitivities.

Drawing from theoretical and practical analysis, the dissertation proposes orientations and major solutions to enhance the leadership of Mekong Delta provincial Party committees through 2035. These include raising political awareness; improving leadership capacity; renewing ideological education; strengthening the fight against hostile viewpoints; enhancing coordination within the region; consolidating organizational structures; building high-quality cadres; and ensuring resources and modern working conditions.

The dissertation affirms that strengthening ideological protection in the Mekong Delta not only serves the region but also contributes to the broader strategic mission of protecting the Party, the socialist regime, national independence, and the path toward comprehensive and long-term national development.

LIST OF SCIENTIFIC WORKS PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR RELATED TO THE DISSERTATION

1. Doan Trung Dung (2019), *"Social Networks and the Party's Ideological Work"*, Theoretical Activities Journal, No. 5 (162).
2. Doan Trung Dung (2022), *"Coordinating Forces in the Protection of the Party's Ideological Foundation"*, Political Theory Journal, Special Issue - Quarter I.
3. Doan Trung Dung (2023), *"Emerging Issues in the Protection of the Party's Ideological Foundation and the Struggle against Wrongful and Hostile Viewpoints in the Southwestern Region"*, in Monograph: *Protecting the Party's Ideological Foundation and Countering Wrongful and Hostile Viewpoints - From General Perspectives to Regional Specificities in the Southwest*, Political Theory Publishing House, Hanoi, p.197.
4. Doan Trung Dung (2023), *"The Role of Political Theory Education in Protecting the Party's Ideological Foundation and Countering Wrongful and Hostile Viewpoints in the Southwestern Region"*, in Monograph: *Protecting the Party's Ideological Foundation and Countering Wrongful and Hostile Viewpoints - From General Perspectives to Regional Specificities in the Southwest*, Political Theory Publishing House, Hanoi, p.324.
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8. Doan Trung Dung (Co-editor) (2025), *Promoting the Role of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union in Can Tho City in Protecting the Party's Ideological Foundation and Countering Wrongful and Hostile Viewpoints Today*, Can Tho University Publishing House, Can Tho.