

HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS

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**PREVENTION AND COMBATING OF CORRUPTION
IN ACCORDANCE WITH HO CHI MINH THOUGHT IN
THE SOUTHEASTERN PROVINCES AT PRESENT**

SUMMARY OF THE DOCTORAL THESIS

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INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale for the study

Corruption is a form of deviation in the exercise of power, arising when public power is misused for personal gain. In class-based societies, where state power is organized and exercised through public institutions, the risk of corruption is always present and may manifest itself in various forms. International practice shows that corruption is not “exclusive” to any particular political model, but can occur in many countries under different leadership mechanisms; therefore, the prevention and combating of corruption has become a universal requirement of modern state governance. The consequences of corruption are not measured solely by material losses, but are also reflected in the erosion of discipline, the distortion of standards of public service, the erosion of social justice, and the weakening of the People’s trust in public authorities.

Within his ideological legacy, President Ho Chi Minh placed special emphasis on upholding revolutionary ethics, safeguarding the integrity of the apparatus, and combating manifestations of “self-deterioration” from within. He referred to corruption as an “internal enemy” because it undermines the system from the inside, weakens the fighting capacity of the Party, and damages the purity and strength of the political system, thereby potentially exerting a direct impact on the prestige, governing capacity, and sustainability of the regime. Beyond criticism, Ho Chi Minh also left a system of arguments providing long-term orientation for the prevention and combating of corruption: attaching importance to education and the cultivation of public-service ethics, emphasizing the establishment of mechanisms for controlling power, and at the same time upholding the role of the People’s supervision and strict discipline. It is precisely the combination of “building” and “combating,” between moral factors and institutional factors, that constitutes the distinctive value of Ho Chi Minh Thought on the prevention and combating of corruption, contributing to the provision of a scientific foundation for the Party in formulating guidelines, viewpoints, and solutions for the prevention and combating of corruption, in conjunction with Party building, building a clean and strong political system, and building a contingent of cadres, Party members, and civil servants who meet task requirements.

The Southeastern region (Ho Chi Minh City, Dong Nai, and Tay Ninh) occupies a strategically important position for the country in political, economic, socio-cultural, national defence and security, and external relations dimensions. Practical experience in recent years shows that this region has continued to promote dynamism and creativity, achieved numerous development accomplishments, and maintained its role as the locomotive of the national economy, “contributing approximately 45% of GDP and about 50% of the total industrial output value, export turnover, and state budget revenue of the whole country.” However, alongside its role as a driving force is a high concentration of resources, a dense volume of projects, rapid urbanization, and increasingly complex mechanisms for investment allocation and public asset management; these factors heighten the risk of the emergence of corrupt practices, particularly in sensitive areas related to land, investment, finance, and public service activities.

Thoroughly grasping the Party’s guidelines on the prevention and combating of corruption and negative phenomena, with the spirit of “resolutely and persistently fighting to prevent, curb,

and push back corruption and negative phenomena with higher political determination, stronger action, and greater effectiveness,” Party committees and local authorities in the Southeastern provinces have identified the prevention and combating of corruption and negative phenomena as a key task in Party building and the building of the political system. Practical results show positive changes: numerous cases and incidents have been detected and handled; Party discipline and State law have been strictly enforced; and the responsibility of heads of agencies and units has gradually been emphasized. The approach to handling has also been placed within the requirement of being both resolute and prudent, clearly reflecting the viewpoint of being “resolute and persistent, uncompromising, showing no leniency, and leaving no crimes unpunished; at the same time, avoiding wrongful convictions; very strict, yet also highly humane and compassionate, combining reason and sentiment.” These are important signals affirming the determination in leadership and the dynamism in local-level implementation.

Nevertheless, the prevention and combating of corruption in the Southeastern provinces still face considerable challenges. Corruption remains complex, with increasingly sophisticated methods and a wide scope of diffusion, appearing across multiple levels, sectors, and fields; it is particularly prominent in land management, public investment, finance, and banking. A number of cases reveal serious characteristics in terms of scale and consequences, involving multiple actors at different levels, and even forming “rings” or “interest groups” through collusion between a segment of cadres, Party members, and civil servants and enterprises in order to influence decisions of state agencies for illicit gain. The objectives of corruption also tend to become more diversified, encompassing not only material benefits but also non-material interests such as power, status, and political influence. In addition, corruption has shown manifestations of intertwining between the public and private sectors, spreading into the private sector and giving rise to new forms of violations, thereby undermining public service integrity and creating difficulties for detection and handling. Consequently, the repercussions are not limited to the loss of resources, but also entail a decline in governance effectiveness, damage to the credibility of the apparatus, and erosion of social trust; at the same time, they exert negative impacts on the investment environment, competitiveness, and sustainable development of the region.

From the perspective of Ho Chi Minh Thought, it can be seen that many of the deep-rooted causes of contemporary corruption remain closely associated with issues that he had already identified, including individualism, the degeneration of political ideology, morality, and lifestyle; lax inspection and supervision; and limitations in the control of power. At the same time, the system of solutions suggested by Ho Chi Minh is comprehensive in nature: combining propaganda and education with the improvement of mechanisms, policies, and laws; combining the promotion of the self-conscious moral cultivation of cadres, Party members, and civil servants with the strengthening of inspection, supervision, and power control; promoting the role of the People, the press, and the media; and resolutely and strictly handling acts of corruption. Although there have been studies on Ho Chi Minh Thought in the prevention and combating of corruption and its application in practice at the national level or in certain sectors, fields, and localities, there is still a lack of an in-depth and systematic study on the prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought in the Southeastern provinces. This gap necessitates a work that both clarifies the content of Ho Chi Minh Thought and applies it to assess the current situation and propose solutions suited to the specific characteristics of the region, from the perspective of Ho Chi Minh Studies.

In the context of new development, the Southeastern region continues to be an area concentrating major projects and substantial investment resources; this requires transparency and accountability mechanisms to keep pace in order to limit the risk of corruption. On the other hand, the process of reforming and restructuring the organizational apparatus of the political system, consolidating the contingent of cadres, Party members, and civil servants, and implementing administrative adjustments may give rise to “sensitive points” in resource allocation, personnel arrangement, and public asset management. If enforcement discipline and supervision mechanisms are not sufficiently strong, such conditions may be easily exploited, leading to negative phenomena. Therefore, the requirement is to maintain a high level of political determination while simultaneously implementing solutions that are both fundamental and breakthrough in nature. Within the overall range of approaches, the study and creative application of Ho Chi Minh Thought on the prevention and combating of corruption is of particular significance, as this Thought provides a system of criteria that integrates moral and institutional factors, thereby assisting in the design of mechanisms for prevention, detection, handling, and control of power in an effective and sustainable manner.

On the basis of the above reasons, the doctoral candidate has selected the topic: ***“Prevention and Combating of Corruption in Accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought in the Southeastern Provinces at Present”*** as the official title of the doctoral thesis in Ho Chi Minh Studies.

2. Research objectives and tasks

2.1. Research objectives

On the basis of clarifying the content of Ho Chi Minh Thought on the prevention and combating of corruption, this study assesses the current situation of the prevention and combating of corruption in the Southeastern provinces from the perspective of Ho Chi Minh Thought; thereby proposing orientations and solutions for the prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought in the Southeastern provinces in the new era.

2.2. Research tasks

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

First, to review studies related to the thesis topic, summarize the results that have been achieved, and identify issues that require further research.

Second, to systematize, analyze, and clarify a number of basic concepts related to the thesis topic and the content of Ho Chi Minh Thought on the prevention and combating of corruption.

Third, to study and assess the current situation of the prevention and combating of corruption in the Southeastern provinces from 2013 to the present from the perspective of Ho Chi Minh Thought, and to identify a number of issues that arise.

Fourth, to forecast influencing factors; determine orientations; and propose solutions for the prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought in the Southeastern provinces in the new era.

3. Research object and scope of the thesis

3.1. Research object

Ho Chi Minh Thought on the prevention and combating of corruption and its application to the prevention and combating of corruption in the Southeastern provinces in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought.

3.2. Scope of the study

- *In terms of content:* The study clarifies the content of Ho Chi Minh Thought on the prevention and combating of corruption and its application to the prevention and combating of corruption in the Southeastern provinces at present.

- *In terms of space:* The study examines the prevention and combating of corruption in the Southeastern provinces (with primary focus on the public sector).

- *In terms of time:* From 2013 to the present (in 2013, the Politburo issued Decision No. 162-QĐ/TW on the establishment of the Central Steering Committee for the Prevention and Combating of Corruption, headed by the General Secretary); orientations and solutions for the prevention and combating of corruption in the Southeastern provinces are of validity up to 2030, with a vision toward 2045.

4. Theoretical and practical foundations and research methods

4.1. Theoretical and practical foundations

4.1.1. Theoretical foundation

The thesis is grounded in the theoretical foundations of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought, as well as the lines, viewpoints, directives, resolutions, and preliminary and final review reports of the Communist Party of Vietnam on the prevention and combating of corruption.

4.1.2. Practical foundation

The thesis is based on the practical experience of the prevention and combating of corruption under the leadership and direction of provincial Party committees and People's Committees of the Southeastern provinces in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought from 2013 to the present.

4.2. Methodology and research methods

4.2.1. Methodology

The study is based on the methodology of dialectical materialism and historical materialism, as well as the methodological approaches of Political Science and Ho Chi Minh Studies.

4.2.2. Research methods

On the basis of the methodology of Marxism-Leninism, the thesis employs the following specific research methods:

The methods of generalization, logic, historical analysis, statistics, and comparison are mainly used in the chapter reviewing the research situation in order to examine and assess an overview of relevant studies by various authors. Through this process, research outcomes are summarized, issues that have been addressed are identified, and issues that the thesis continues to address are clarified.

The methods of analysis, synthesis, comparison, induction-deduction, and deduction-induction are employed to clarify related concepts, as well as to construct the central concepts of the thesis.

The logical and historical methods are used to systematize and clarify the fundamental content of Ho Chi Minh Thought on the prevention and combating of corruption.

The methods of statistics, comparison, analysis, synthesis, systematization, and generalization are also applied.

The sociological survey method: the thesis uses this method to collect information through questionnaires administered to cadres, Party members, civil servants, and citizens in the Southeastern provinces on fundamental issues related to the prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought.

5. New contributions of the thesis

First, the thesis supplements, systematizes, and further clarifies basic concepts related to the topic, including corruption; the prevention and combating of corruption; the prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought; and the prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought in the Southeastern provinces.

Second, the thesis contributes to analyzing and further deepening the core contents of Ho Chi Minh Thought on the prevention and combating of corruption, thereby affirming the theoretical value and practical significance of this Thought in the current period.

Third, the thesis conducts surveys, analysis, and a relatively comprehensive and objective assessment of the current situation of the prevention and combating of corruption in the Southeastern provinces from 2013 to the present from the perspective of Ho Chi Minh Thought, identifying achievements, limitations, and their causes.

Fourth, on the basis of theoretical and practical issues, the thesis identifies and forecasts factors influencing the prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought in the Southeastern provinces; at the same time, it proposes feasible orientations and solutions suited to practical conditions in order to enhance the effectiveness of the prevention and combating of corruption in the Southeastern provinces in the new era.

6. Theoretical and practical significance of the thesis

6.1. Theoretical significance of the thesis

The research results of the thesis contribute to providing scientific arguments for enhancing awareness of the content and value of Ho Chi Minh Thought on the prevention and combating of corruption; and provide several theoretical and practical issues concerning the prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought in the Southeastern provinces.

6.2. Practical significance of the thesis

The research results of the thesis may be used as reference materials for studying and applying Ho Chi Minh Thought on the prevention and combating of corruption in the Southeastern provinces in particular and in Vietnam in general in the coming period; they may also serve as reference materials for teaching, learning, and researching issues related to the prevention and combating of corruption at academies, universities, and educational institutions nationwide; at the same time, they may suggest a number of solutions for the provincial Steering Committees for the prevention and combating of corruption, wastefulness, and negative phenomena in the Southeastern provinces to improve the quality of the prevention and combating of corruption in the time ahead.

7. Structure of the thesis

The thesis consists of an Introduction; the main content (04 chapters with 10 sections); a Conclusion; a list of the author's thesis-related publications; references; and appendices.

Chapter 1

LITERATURE REVIEW OF STUDIES RELATED TO THE THESIS TOPIC

1.1. RESEARCH SITUATION RELATED TO THE THESIS TOPIC

Studies on the Prevention and Combating of Corruption

In recent years, many scholars and researchers have shown interest in studying the prevention and combating of corruption, notably 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, Tran Van Tinh, Ed. J. Edgardo Campos, Sanjay Pradhan, Dan Hough, Alina Mungiu-Pippidi, Yahong Zhang, Cecilia Lavena, Ta Xuan Dao, Susan Rose-Ackerman and Bonnie J. Palifka, Ronald Kroeze, André Vitoria, Guy Geltner, among others. These studies approach the issue from various perspectives (such as the roles of the state, citizens, enterprises, and socio-political organizations), across different disciplines (Law, Political Science, Party Building, Philosophy, Sociology, and Economics), and from diverse political viewpoints (socialist and capitalist). Through these approaches, the studies have clarified the nature, causes, and increasingly sophisticated and complex manifestations of corruption, as well as elucidated the necessity and urgency of the prevention and combating of corruption. At the same time, the authors have proposed comprehensive systems of solutions, including institutional improvement; Party building and rectification; enhancement of the effectiveness and efficiency of state management; promotion of the role of the people, the press, and civil society; and the strengthening of inspection, examination, supervision, and the strict handling of violations.

Studies on Ho Chi Minh Thought on the Prevention and Combating of Corruption

At present, there are quite a number of works that directly address Ho Chi Minh Thought on the prevention and combating of corruption, with notable authors such as Bui Manh Cuong, Do Thi Quyen; Chu Thai Thanh; Lai Quoc Khanh, Nguyen Ngoc Anh; Mach Quang Thang; Tran Minh Truong, among others. In general, these works have been conducted in a thorough and serious manner, clearly demonstrating the revolutionary and scientific nature of Ho Chi Minh Thought on the prevention and combating of corruption. The authors focus on in-depth analyses of Ho Chi Minh's speeches and writings on the prevention and combating of corruption, as well as the fundamental contents of his Thought in this regard, including the necessity of preventing and combating corruption, the causes of corruption, the subjects, forces, and measures involved in the prevention and combating of corruption. According to the authors, these contents constitute not only a theoretical foundation for determining guidelines and lines of action, but also valuable lessons and experiences for the prevention and combating of corruption in Vietnam today. These works therefore serve as highly useful reference materials for the doctoral candidate in implementing the objectives and tasks set out in the thesis.

Studies on the Application of Ho Chi Minh Thought on the Prevention and Combating of Corruption

The application of Ho Chi Minh Thought on the prevention and combating of corruption has attracted considerable research attention from Party and State leaders as well as a large number of scholars, notably Pham Thi Hai Chuyen; Tran Quang Dai, Pham Anh Tuan; Doan Thi Chin; Nguyen Dang Dung; Nghiem Si Liem; Trinh Quoc Viet, among others. In particular, studies on this issue have also involved Party leaders, such as General Secretary To Lam. These works affirm that research into Ho Chi Minh Thought on the prevention and combating of corruption and the application of his Thought in current practice is of special importance, contributing to Party building and to the building of a contingent of cadres and Party members that is clean and strong. However, the application of his Thought to the prevention and

combating of corruption in specific localities, especially in the Southeastern provinces, has not yet been addressed by any study.

1.2. OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH RESULTS AND ISSUES THAT THE THESIS NEEDS TO CONTINUE TO ADDRESS

1.2.1. General assessment of research results

Through a review of studies on the prevention and combating of corruption; Ho Chi Minh Thought on the prevention and combating of corruption; and the application of his Thought in practice, it can be seen that many scholars and researchers, both domestic and international, have shown interest in this field, including a number of monographic studies. In general, these studies focus on clarifying several key issues, namely: corruption and its adverse effects; the role and necessity of the prevention and combating of corruption; the current situation of the prevention and combating of corruption in Vietnam; and, on that basis, proposing solutions for the prevention and combating of corruption in general and for the prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought in particular.

1.2.2. Issues that the thesis needs to continue to address

On the basis of summarizing, analyzing, and assessing published studies, it can be seen that no research has yet approached the issue from the perspective adopted by this thesis. Therefore, the research direction of the thesis is entirely new. The review of published studies provides a basis for the doctoral candidate to apply and inherit prior research in order to clarify relevant issues, thereby identifying solutions for the prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought in the Southeastern provinces in the time ahead. In this regard, the thesis focuses on clarifying the following issues:

First, to identify and clarify the connotations of concepts such as corruption, the prevention and combating of corruption, the prevention and combating of corruption in the Southeastern provinces, and the prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought in the Southeastern provinces at present; and to elucidate the content of Ho Chi Minh Thought on the prevention and combating of corruption, including its necessity, causes, forces, and measures.

Second, on the basis of the issues clarified above, the thesis studies and assesses the current situation of the prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought in the Southeastern provinces from 2013 to the present; thereby drawing out the causes of strengths and limitations in the prevention and combating of corruption in the Southeastern provinces in recent years.

Third, the thesis conducts an in-depth study and analysis of the characteristics of the economic, political, cultural, and social conditions in the Southeastern provinces, and identifies factors influencing the prevention and combating of corruption in the Southeastern provinces in the coming period.

Fourth, the thesis proposes viewpoints and solutions for the prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought in the Southeastern provinces up to 2030, with a vision toward 2045.

Chapter 1 Summary

Research on the prevention and combating of corruption has long become a field attracting the attention of numerous scholars and politicians both domestically and internationally, including the direct participation and guidance of Party and State leaders of Vietnam. These studies have been conducted from diverse perspectives, with different scopes and research subjects, thereby initially clarifying the concepts, origins, causes, and consequences of corruption, while also pointing out the necessity of further intensifying the prevention and combating of corruption in the period ahead. On that basis, many objectives,

orientations, and solutions have been proposed, constituting a valuable source of reference that enables the doctoral candidate to gain a more multidimensional and comprehensive perspective when delving into Ho Chi Minh Thought on the prevention and combating of corruption, particularly in addressing the research objectives and tasks set forth in the thesis.

However, the review of relevant studies shows that significant gaps still remain, as no work has yet addressed the prevention and combating of corruption in the Southeastern provinces in a comprehensive, systematic, and thorough manner. Existing studies have largely been confined to the national level or to research on certain specific sectors and fields, lacking close linkage with the distinctive political, economic, and socio-cultural characteristics of the Southeastern region. In particular, to date there has been no study that directly analyzes and elucidates the prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought in this region. This gap not only reflects an academic deficiency, but also poses an urgent requirement for in-depth research to meet both theoretical and practical demands in the leadership and direction of the prevention and combating of corruption by local Party committees and authorities.

From this gap, the doctoral candidate identifies the task of inheritance and development. On the one hand, the thesis selectively inherits previous research achievements on the prevention and combating of corruption, especially studies analyzing Ho Chi Minh Thought and the Party's viewpoints and lines in the struggle against corruption. On the other hand, it supplements and develops these studies by delving into the specific characteristics and context of the Southeastern provinces, clearly analyzing the influencing factors and causes of corruption at the local level, as well as elucidating ways to creatively apply Ho Chi Minh Thought in order to enhance the effectiveness of the prevention and combating of corruption in the current period. This approach not only enables the thesis to inherit the general theoretical and practical foundations, but also ensures novelty and regional specificity, thereby further clarifying the enduring value and contemporary vitality of Ho Chi Minh Thought in the struggle against corruption in a key region of the country.

Chapter 2

PREVENTION AND COMBATING OF CORRUPTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH HO CHI MINH THOUGHT - SOME THEORETICAL ISSUES

2.1. SOME BASIC CONCEPTS

2.1.1. The concept of corruption

Corruption is the act of abusing positions and powers for illicit gain, occurring not only in the public sector but also in the non-state sector.

2.1.2. The concept of the prevention and combating of corruption

The prevention and combating of corruption is a system of approaches and measures implemented by subjects and forces (the Party, the State, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, socio-political organizations, and the People) to prevent, deter, and eliminate the causes and conditions giving rise to corruption; to detect and promptly apply sanctions to handle corrupt acts; and to recover corrupt assets in accordance with the provisions of law.

2.1.3. Ho Chi Minh Thought on the prevention and combating of corruption

Ho Chi Minh Thought on the prevention and combating of corruption is a system of viewpoints concerning the necessity of preventing and combating corruption, the causes of corruption, and the forces and measures for the prevention and combating of corruption. His Thought serves as the foundation and guiding principle for the Party in formulating viewpoints and guidelines, and for the State to institutionalize them into policies and laws and to organize

the implementation of the prevention and combating of corruption in practice, thereby contributing to Party building, the building of the political system, and the building of a contingent of cadres and Party members that is clean and strong; promoting socio-economic development; maintaining political stability; preserving positive moral and cultural values; and consolidating the People's trust in the leadership of the Party and the socialist regime.

2.1.4. The concept of the prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought in the Southeastern provinces

** Prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought*

This refers to the purposeful activities of subjects and forces in studying and flexibly and creatively applying Ho Chi Minh Thought to the promulgation and organization of the implementation of measures for the prevention and combating of corruption, with a view to preventing, detecting, and handling corrupt acts committed by cadres, Party members, and civil servants, thereby contributing to Party building, the building of the political system, and the building of a contingent of cadres and Party members that is clean and strong; promoting economic development, maintaining political stability, and consolidating and strengthening the People's trust in the leadership of the Party and the socialist regime.

** Prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought in the Southeastern provinces*

The prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought in the Southeastern provinces refers to the activities of subjects and forces in the Southeastern provinces (Party committees, authorities, the Vietnam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations, the People, the press, and the media, etc.) in promulgating and organizing the implementation of measures to prevent, detect, deter, and handle corrupt acts committed by cadres, Party members, and civil servants, on the basis of awareness of and the creative application of Ho Chi Minh Thought in accordance with specific practical conditions, with the aim of purifying the political system, promoting economic development, maintaining political stability, and consolidating and strengthening the People's trust in Party committees, authorities, and the contingent of cadres, Party members, and civil servants in the Southeastern provinces.

2.2. CONTENT OF HO CHI MINH THOUGHT ON THE PREVENTION AND COMBATING OF CORRUPTION

2.2.1. The necessity of the prevention and combating of corruption

2.2.1.1. *The prevention and combating of corruption as a means of combating and eliminating the negative remnants of the old society, thereby creating a foundation for building a new, civilized, and progressive society*

According to Ho Chi Minh, during the transitional period, alongside positive achievements as the main aspect, there still remain negative elements of the old society such as embezzlement, wastefulness, laziness, and bureaucracy. Therefore, in order to successfully build a new social system, it is necessary to resolutely remove these malignant elements so that the system may truly become good, civilized, and progressive.

2.2.1.2. *The prevention and combating of corruption as an inevitable requirement to ensure the success of the cause of resistance, nation-building, and national economic development*

Corruption not only causes political harm, but also “harms the cause of national construction and harms efforts to improve the people's livelihood”; it directly results in losses and damage to state property and wastes the sweat and contributions of the People. Corruption

was identified by Ho Chi Minh as a kind of enemy—an extremely dangerous “internal enemy,” even more dangerous than external enemies. He pointed out that “embezzlement is the theft of public property, turning public assets into private possessions. It harms the cause of national construction.”

2.2.1.3. The prevention and combating of corruption to ensure the purity and strength of the Party and the political system

Corruption causes serious harm not only in economic terms but also in political, cultural, and moral aspects; in particular, it corrodes the Party and the political system from within. Ho Chi Minh held that corruption is “a rather dangerous enemy, because it does not carry swords or guns, but hides within our organizations to sabotage our work.” If not prevented and handled, corruption will become one of the risks that weaken the leadership capacity and the purity and strength of the Party as well as the entire political system. Having early recognized this danger, as the founder and trainer of the Party, Ho Chi Minh consistently paid close attention to safeguarding the Party’s purity and strength. One of the issues he placed at the forefront was the prevention and combating of corruption.

2.2.1.4. The prevention and combating of corruption as an inevitable requirement for preserving the culture and ethics of the Party and the contingent of cadres and Party members

In this regard, the contingent of cadres and Party members of the Party are those who serve as loyal and devoted “public servants” of the People. This creates noble cultural values, contributing to the People’s trust in, protection of, and solidarity with the Party under any conditions and circumstances. Ultimately, this constitutes the source of the Party’s strength. However, within the Party there remain cadres and Party members who, for personal interests, forget their responsibilities and obligations to be self-sacrificing and to work for the benefit of the masses, thereby harming the noble values of the Party and the regime. In addition, corruption further aggravates the moral degradation of cadres and Party members. For this reason, in order to preserve the prestige and image of cadres, Ho Chi Minh resolutely called for the “eradication” of corruption from the political system.

2.2.1.5. The prevention and combating of corruption as a direct means of ensuring the practice of democracy within the Party and society

During his lifetime, Ho Chi Minh held that “democracy is the aspiration” of the People, and at the same time a consistent objective of the revolution under the leadership of the Party. Accordingly, national independence, prosperity, freedom, and happiness for the People were the goals that Ho Chi Minh pursued and steadfastly realized throughout his revolutionary life. To realize these goals, Ho Chi Minh maintained that it was necessary to build a democratic, just, and civilized regime, in which cadres and Party members are “servants” and “public servants” of the People. However, after the seizure of power, there emerged within the contingent of cadres and Party members a situation in which “they speak of ‘serving the masses,’ yet act contrary to the interests of the masses, contrary to the lines and policies of the Party and the Government.” Most notably, embezzlement and corruption increasingly appeared among cadres. Ho Chi Minh pointed out that a section of cadres “pay attention only to the interests of their own localities without regard for the interests of the whole; working in whatever department, they merely defend and cultivate that department.” He emphasized that “fighting embezzlement, wastefulness, and bureaucracy is democracy.” In his Thought, democracy is manifested first and foremost in the requirement that cadres and Party members must truly be “public servants” and “servants” of the People, with all thoughts, deeds, and actions originating from the interests of the People.

2.2.2. Causes of corruption

2.2.2.1. Individualism

Corruption arises from many causes; however, according to Ho Chi Minh, the foremost cause is individualism. In his view, individualism is “a highly poisonous germ” that gives rise to many dangerous diseases, especially corruption. He issued an early warning that “a nation, a Party, and each individual, who yesterday were great and possessed great appeal, will not necessarily continue to be loved and praised today and tomorrow if their hearts are no longer pure, if they fall into individualism.” Individualism is like a worm that gnaws at conscience, honor, and morality, obscuring noble ideals and dominating and guiding all thoughts and actions of cadres and Party members.

2.2.2.2. *The negative remnants of the old regime*

According to Ho Chi Minh, corruption also originates from the colonial and feudal systems; in other words, corruption is “an ally of colonialism and feudalism.” In practice, under colonial and feudal regimes, the Vietnamese people were subjected to ruthless exploitation, and freedom and equality were entirely remote ideals. In such regimes, the ruling class cared only for its own interests by harshly oppressing and exploiting other social strata, especially workers and peasants. From this reality, Ho Chi Minh affirmed that “embezzlement, wastefulness, and bureaucracy are evils of the old society. They arise from selfishness and self-interest, from egoism that harms others, and from a system of ‘man exploiting man.’” To eradicate corruption at its roots, it is necessary to abolish the old regime and successfully build a new one.

2.2.2.3. *Limitations in power control*

Ho Chi Minh early recognized that the causes of corruption also stem from shortcomings in the control of power. He sternly warned against and criticized problems such as “militarism,” “bureaucracy,” a “sense of position,” and “arrogance” among a segment of Party and State cadres in certain localities. He pointed out that “the people resent chairpersons and committee members because of their arrogance, reliance on status, and abuse of power. These individuals do not understand the tasks and policies of the Viet Minh; therefore, when they gain a small amount of power, they tend to abuse it.” They exploit the positions and powers entrusted to them to pursue personal purposes, act recklessly and arbitrarily, do whatever they please, and show contempt for public opinion. They care only about eating well, dressing well, enriching themselves, and appropriating public property for private use, completely disregarding morality, conscience, or social opinion.

2.2.3. Forces for the prevention and combating of corruption

2.2.3.1. *The Communist Party of Vietnam*

The Party plays a leading role in the prevention and combating of corruption. In this regard, Ho Chi Minh placed special emphasis on the role of the Party. He affirmed that “as on other fronts, to win on this front it is necessary to have preparation, plans, organization; it is necessary to have leadership and a steadfast core.” He regarded the prevention and combating of corruption as a front, a struggle against what is wrong and evil; to achieve victory, it cannot be spontaneous or isolated, but must be carried out on the basis of clear guidelines, lines of action, and a tight and systematic organization. The Party’s role is manifested in formulating viewpoints and guiding principles for the prevention and combating of corruption, as well as in leading the building of clean and strong political systems at all levels. In particular, according to Ho Chi Minh, the Party must regularly carry out political and ideological education.

2.2.3.2. *The State*

First, the National Assembly.

Second, the Government and government-affiliated agencies.

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

2.2.3.3. Coordinating forces participating in implementation

First, the United Front and socio-political organizations.

Second, the People.

Third, the press and the media.

2.2.4. Measures for the prevention and combating of corruption

2.2.4.1. Propaganda and education to raise the awareness of cadres, Party members, and the People regarding the prevention and combating of corruption

Propaganda and education constitute the foundation for raising awareness, cultivating revolutionary moral qualities, and consolidating ideological standpoints among cadres, Party members, and the People. Ho Chi Minh held that, for the prevention and combating of corruption to be effective, it is first necessary to enable everyone to clearly understand its harmful consequences and to correctly perceive the causes and manifestations of corruption; thereby arousing and promoting the voluntary and self-conscious spirit of each individual in the prevention and combating of corruption.

2.2.4.2. Improving policies and laws on the prevention and combating of corruption

Ho Chi Minh early recognized the “supreme” role of law in social life, affirming that “everything must be governed by the rule of law.” In his capacity as the leader of the Party, the State, and the Government, he paid great attention to the drafting and promulgation of mechanisms, policies, and laws for the prevention and combating of corruption. According to him, “it is necessary to have laws to punish embezzlement and wastefulness, and those laws must be strictly observed.”

2.2.4.3. Promoting the positive and self-conscious spirit of cadres and Party members in cultivating and training revolutionary ethics and in combating individualism

In the course of leading the revolution, Ho Chi Minh observed that when the Party becomes the ruling party, cadres and Party members inevitably hold a certain degree of power; without revolutionary ethics, this can easily give rise to bad habits and vices that harm the revolution. Therefore, he consistently required cadres and Party members to actively and consciously cultivate and train revolutionary ethics, regarding this as “a daily task, like washing one’s face every day.”

2.2.4.4. Strengthening inspection, supervision, and control of power

In order to prevent and combat corruption, Ho Chi Minh consistently attached great importance to inspection and supervision. He held that “inspection has the effect of promoting and educating Party members and cadres to fully carry out their duties toward the Party and the State, and to set a good example for the People.” Through inspection, improper actions and misconduct among cadres and Party members can be promptly rectified. From the practical experience of leading and directing Party building and the building of the revolutionary government, Ho Chi Minh maintained that nine-tenths of the shortcomings of cadres and Party members, especially corrupt acts, stem from a lack of inspection.

2.2.4.5. Promoting the role of the People in the prevention and combating of corruption

The People are the subjects of power and those who are directly affected by corruption. Ho Chi Minh emphasized that “public property of the State and of the collective is ‘inviolable’; embezzling public property means infringing upon the common interests of the People, and thus becoming an enemy of the People. Therefore, resolutely combating corruption is the shared responsibility of the entire Party and the entire People.”

2.2.4.6. Promoting the role of the press and the media in the prevention and combating of corruption

Consistent with the view that “journalism is also an important sector of culture,” Ho Chi Minh consistently highly valued the role of the press and the media in the revolutionary cause in

general, including in the prevention and combating of corruption. He pointed out that “the press must encourage good people and good deeds, and frankly criticize bad practices such as laziness, embezzlement, wastefulness, and bureaucracy. This is a very necessary task.” Therefore, the press must frankly and objectively criticize negative manifestations, irresponsibility, lax management, or the tolerance of and collusion with corrupt acts. This is not only a professional duty but also a lofty socio-political responsibility, contributing to raising awareness among cadres, Party members, and the People, and creating strong public pressure to prevent and push back corruption.

2.2.4.7. Resolutely handling corrupt acts with strict measures

From a very early stage, Ho Chi Minh affirmed that in a country where rewards and punishments are strictly enforced, the people can live in peace and security. In order to prevent and combat corruption, alongside the emphasis on propaganda and education as the primary measures, Ho Chi Minh considered the strict handling of corrupt acts to be of particular importance. He pointed out that “*education* is primary, but for those who are obstinate and refuse to reform, the authorities must apply the *law*. The law is the law of the People, used to prevent actions that harm the People and to protect the common interests of the great majority of the People.” Therefore, he consistently demonstrated a resolute attitude toward eradicating corruption, regarding this not only as a necessary task but also as a humane one: “killing one worm to save the whole forest.” Furthermore, the strict punishment of corrupt acts is not merely the application of legal sanctions to wrongful behavior, but must also be associated with moral and conscientious judgment through condemnation by the People.

Chapter 2 Summary

From the very first days of gaining state power, Ho Chi Minh attached special importance to the prevention and combating of corruption as a vital task of the Party and the State. Through his works, speeches, articles, letters, and through the practical leadership and direction of the revolutionary cause, Ho Chi Minh formed a system of thought on the prevention and combating of corruption with practical and specific guiding viewpoints concerning its necessity, causes, subjects, forces, and measures. His Thought represents both the inheritance and development of the anti-corruption ideas and practices of previous generations throughout national history, while also absorbing progressive values from the quintessence of human culture in both the West and the East, including Confucianism, Buddhism, bourgeois thought, and especially Marxism-Leninism. His Thought on the prevention and combating of corruption embodies scientific character and possesses profound theoretical and practical value. Although reality is constantly evolving and changing, Ho Chi Minh Thought on the prevention and combating of corruption retains its enduring value. Therefore, thoroughly grasping and creatively applying his Thought constitutes a key to enhancing the effectiveness of the prevention and combating of corruption and negative phenomena in Vietnam today, including in the Southeastern provinces.

Through presenting and elucidating concepts related to the thesis topic, such as corruption; prevention and combating; the prevention and combating of corruption; Ho Chi Minh Thought on the prevention and combating of corruption; the prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought; and the prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought in the Southeastern provinces, the thesis simultaneously analyzes and clarifies Ho Chi Minh Thought on the prevention and combating of corruption in a logical sequence consistent with the research issues. On that basis, it highlights the theoretical and practical value of this Thought, as well as the necessity of thoroughly grasping and applying Ho Chi Minh Thought in the prevention and combating of corruption in the Southeastern provinces. Clarifying these theoretical issues concerning the prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought serves as the

theoretical foundation for examining and assessing the current situation of the prevention and combating of corruption in the Southeastern provinces from 2013 to the present from the perspective of Ho Chi Minh Thought; at the same time, it provides a basis for identifying issues that need to be addressed in the prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought in the Southeastern provinces in the coming period.

Chapter 3

THE CURRENT SITUATION OF THE PREVENTION AND COMBATING OF CORRUPTION IN THE SOUTHEASTERN PROVINCES FROM 2013 TO THE PRESENT FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF HO CHI MINH THOUGHT AND SOME ISSUES RAISED

3.1. OVERVIEW OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SOUTHEASTERN PROVINCES

3.1.1. Natural conditions

Prior to the merger of provincial-level administrative units, the Southeastern provinces 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 is the Southern Key Economic Region, serving as a “gateway” and a hub for exchanges between Vietnam and countries in the region and the world. The Southeastern provinces are not only centers of innovation, dynamism, and creativity, but also the economic locomotive and the largest national centers for industrial development, mineral exploitation, tourism, and services.

3.1.3. Population, ethnicity, and religion

Population: As of July 01, 2025 (after the merger of provincial-level administrative units), the population of the Southeastern provinces is approximately 21,290,670 people. Of which, Ho Chi Minh City has 13,608,800 people (ranking first nationwide); Dong Nai has 4,427,700 people (ranking third nationwide); and Tay Ninh has 3,254,170 people (ranking eighteenth nationwide).

Ethnicity: The Southeastern region is a convergence area for populations from many regions of the country; at present, “40 different ethnic groups live together, mainly the Kinh, Hoa, Khmer, Cho Ro, Cham, Stieng, and Ede. The Kinh account for 92.46% of the population in the area, while the remaining groups account for 7.54%.”

Religion: The Southeastern provinces are a region diverse and rich in religions, with “six major religions currently operating, including Catholicism, Buddhism, Protestantism, Islam, Cao Dai, and Hoa Hao, as well as several other religions, with a total of 4,756,550 followers, accounting for 30.09% of the population.”

3.1.4. Historical, cultural traditions, and human characteristics

The Southeastern region is a land rich in patriotic traditions and the cradle of the southern revolution, with many well-known revolutionary bases such as the Eighteen Betel Garden Villages (Hoc Mon), the Rung Sat Special Zone (Can Gio), Ba Den Mountain (Tay Ninh), War Zone D (Dong Nai), and the Cu Chi Tunnels. These traditions have forged the people of the region with resilient, steadfast, and courageous qualities, ready to struggle against what is wrong and evil. The Southeastern region is also known as a land of simple, sincere, forthright, and generous people, characterized by an open-minded, affectionate, and humane way of life.

3.1.5. Cadres, Party members, and civil servants

In recent years, the work of building the contingent of cadres, Party members, and civil servants at all levels in the Southeastern provinces has achieved many important results. The contingent has been fundamentally developed to ensure adequacy in quantity, quality, structure, qualifications, moral qualities, and capacity, gradually meeting the development requirements of the Southeastern provinces in the new period.

3.2. THE CURRENT SITUATION OF THE PREVENTION AND COMBATING OF CORRUPTION IN THE SOUTHEASTERN PROVINCES FROM 2013 TO THE PRESENT FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF HO CHI MINH THOUGHT

3.2.1. Propaganda and education to raise awareness and responsibility of cadres, Party members, civil servants, and the People in the prevention and combating of corruption

3.2.2. Promulgation, amendment, supplementation, and improvement of regulations, and the implementation of the Party's viewpoints and the State's policies and laws on the prevention and combating of corruption

3.2.3. Consolidating and enhancing the effectiveness of coordination among specialized agencies and building the contingent of cadres engaged in the prevention and combating of corruption

3.2.4. Ethical education in association with promoting the exemplary responsibility of cadres, Party members, and civil servants

3.2.5. Inspection, supervision, examination, and control of power

3.2.6. Promoting the role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, socio-political organizations, and the People in the prevention and combating of corruption

3.2.7. Promoting the role of the press and the media

3.2.8. Detecting and handling corruption cases and recovering corrupt assets

3.3. ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION OF THE PREVENTION AND COMBATING OF CORRUPTION IN THE SOUTHEASTERN PROVINCES FROM 2013 TO THE PRESENT FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF HO CHI MINH THOUGHT AND SOME ISSUES RAISED

3.3.1. General assessment

3.3.1.1. Achievements and their causes

** Achievements*

First, the awareness of Party committees and authorities in the Southeastern provinces regarding the prevention and combating of corruption has been basically sound and adequate.

Second, measures for the prevention and combating of corruption have been implemented in a relatively comprehensive and synchronized manner.

Third, the prevention and combating of corruption in the Southeastern provinces in recent years have achieved very positive and noteworthy results.

** Causes*

First, the correct, timely, and regular leadership of the Party and the State over the prevention and combating of corruption in the Southeastern provinces.

Second, the sense of responsibility and commitment of subjects and forces in the Southeastern provinces in the prevention and combating of corruption and negative phenomena.

Third, the work of improving mechanisms and policies and promoting openness and transparency in the operations of agencies, organizations, and units has received due attention and emphasis from Party committees and authorities in the provinces.

3.3.1.2. Limitations and causes

*** Limitations**

First, the awareness of some subjects and forces regarding the prevention and combating of corruption remains limited.

Second, anti-corruption measures are still general in nature and formalistic.

Third, although the prevention and combating of corruption in the Southeastern provinces in recent years have achieved certain results, in practice there remain many limitations.

*** Causes**

First, some local Party committees and authorities have not been truly resolute and persistent in leading and directing the prevention and combating of corruption.

Second, mechanisms, policies, and laws remain inadequate and have not kept pace with the speed of development and the complexity of socio-economic activities in the region.

Third, the role and responsibility of specialized agencies for the prevention and combating of corruption and negative phenomena in the Southeastern provinces have not been fully brought into play.

Fourth, the mobilization of the strength of the People, the press, and the media in the prevention and combating of corruption has not been truly effective.

Fifth, the degradation of political ideology, ethics, and lifestyle among a segment of cadres, Party members, and civil servants, including leaders of local Party committees and authorities.

3.3.2. Some issues raised

3.3.2.1. *The mismatch between increasingly high requirements for the prevention and combating of corruption 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 the prevention and combating of corruption remain marked by loopholes, overlaps, and a lack of coherence, while corrupt acts are becoming increasingly sophisticated and complex*

3.3.2.3. *Close coordination among functional agencies in the prevention and combating of corruption, wastefulness, and negative phenomena is of particular importance; however, in practice such coordination remains insufficiently synchronized and the effectiveness achieved is not high*

3.3.2.4. *Ethics constitutes a “core” factor in the prevention and combating of corruption; nevertheless, a segment of cadres, Party members, and civil servants have not been self-conscious in cultivating and training themselves*

3.3.2.5. *Inspection, supervision, and control of power are the “key” to preventing corruption; however, their implementation in practice still reveals many limitations and shortcomings*

3.3.2.6. *The People play an important role in the prevention and combating of corruption; however, at present there remains a lack of mechanisms and policies to promote and protect the People’s role in anti-corruption efforts*

3.3.2.7. *The role of social supervision and social criticism of the press and the media contrasted with the current limitations in reporting on and combating corruption*

Chapter 3 Summary

Corruption has now become a global scourge, posing a threat to the development and stability of all countries in the world, regardless of political system. For Vietnam, corruption has been identified by the Party as one of the “risks” threatening the survival of the Party and the regime, and hindering national development. Therefore, the Party and the State have always

paid special attention to the prevention and combating of corruption, with very high political determination and the concerted involvement of the entire political system and the People.

Thoroughly grasping the Party's viewpoints and creatively applying Ho Chi Minh Thought, in recent years the prevention and combating of corruption in the Southeastern provinces have achieved certain results. Notably, the awareness and sense of responsibility of Party committees, authorities, cadres, Party members, and the People toward the prevention and combating of corruption and negative phenomena have shown positive progress; measures for preventing corruption have received due attention from Party committees and authorities through regular leadership and direction in implementation, initially yielding practical effectiveness; the handling of corrupt acts and the recovery of corrupt assets have been carried out resolutely; and in practice, the results of the prevention and combating of corruption and negative phenomena in the Southeastern provinces have exhibited many positive changes. However, practical experience also shows that the prevention and combating of corruption in the Southeastern provinces still face numerous limitations that require attention and remediation. These include inadequate awareness and responsibility among some Party committees, authorities, cadres, Party members, and segments of the People; the implementation and organization of anti-corruption measures that remain rather general and lack breakthrough character; and the situation of corruption in the Southeastern provinces, although basically prevented and restrained, still remaining complex and unpredictable.

The above-mentioned strengths and limitations stem from multiple causes, both objective and subjective, with subjective causes being the primary ones. On the basis of the practical situation and its causes, Chapter 3 has identified a number of issues arising in the prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought in the Southeastern region in the time ahead. This constitutes the premise and objective basis for the author to forecast factors influencing the prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought in the Southeastern provinces. On that basis, viewpoints are determined and solutions are proposed for the prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought in the Southeastern provinces in the new era.

Chapter 4

ORIENTATIONS AND SOLUTIONS FOR THE PREVENTION AND COMBATING OF CORRUPTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH HO CHI MINH THOUGHT IN THE SOUTHEASTERN PROVINCES IN THE NEW ERA

4.1. FORECASTING FACTORS INFLUENCING THE PREVENTION AND COMBATING OF CORRUPTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH HO CHI MINH THOUGHT IN THE SOUTHEASTERN PROVINCES IN THE NEW ERA

4.1.1. Political determination and the Party's viewpoints on the prevention and combating of corruption and negative phenomena

Fully aware of the serious harms of corruption and the urgent demands of practice, the Party has determined that the prevention and combating of corruption “has become an irreversible trend”; at the same time, it resolutely and strictly handles acts of corruption and negative phenomena, regardless of who is involved, what position they hold, whether they are incumbents or retirees, thereby eliminating the notion of “safe landing.” Party discipline takes precedence, creating the premise and opening the way for State discipline, mass-organization

discipline, and criminal prosecution. This demonstrates the Party's strong and consistent political determination in the prevention and combating of corruption and negative phenomena.

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 one of the country's leading dynamic regions in socio-economic development. Economically, with advantages as a center for industry, services, logistics, and an international trade hub, the region will continue to strongly attract domestic and foreign investment, particularly in high technology, clean energy, smart urban infrastructure, and digital transformation. Along with the completion of inter-regional transport systems such as expressways, seaports, and Long Thanh Airport, the Southeastern region will become a "locomotive" driving regional linkage and international integration.

4.1.3. The strong development of science and technology

In the coming period, science and technology will continue to make strong breakthroughs with remarkable advances, as they are regarded as a primary driving force in the development of humankind; at the same time, this process is propelled by the wave of the Fourth Industrial Revolution with breakthroughs in artificial intelligence, big data, biotechnology, new materials, and related fields. Along with this, the urgent demand to address global challenges, the trend of globalization, and the rapid increase in investment resources for research and development have created a favorable environment for science and technology to "boom." This has also been forecast by the Party, which states that "the Fourth Industrial Revolution continues to develop strongly and exerts profound impacts on all fields. New productive forces, especially high technology and artificial intelligence, are developing with unprecedented breakthroughs." These developments will exert significant impacts on all countries, all fields, and all aspects of social life, including the prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought.

4.1.4. The market economy and the subversive activities of hostile and reactionary forces against the anti-corruption effort initiated and led by the Party

The socialist-oriented market economy has strongly promoted the country's comprehensive development, especially in the economic sphere. The Southeastern provinces have effectively leveraged market mechanisms to achieve many notable accomplishments, making important contributions to GDP growth, export turnover, and national budget revenues. However, the market economy also generates a number of adverse effects, giving rise to complex issues related to social ethics, legal discipline, and Party building. In the Southeastern region, the negative aspects of market mechanisms have influenced the thinking and lifestyles of a segment of cadres, Party members, and civil servants, most evidently reflected in tendencies toward individualism, pragmatism, materialism, and the devaluation of traditional cultural values, thereby weakening awareness of moral cultivation, ethical training, and public-service responsibility. If not effectively controlled, these manifestations may become fertile ground for the emergence and development of corruption.

4.1.5. The trend of globalization and the increasingly deep and comprehensive expansion of international cooperation in the Southeastern provinces

The global landscape is undergoing rapid and unprecedentedly complex changes toward multipolarity, multi-centers, multi-layers, and pronounced fragmentation. Peace, cooperation, and development remain major trends; however, they are facing many new and increasingly complex challenges. Major powers continue to engage in both competition and cooperation, as well as compromise, but competition is becoming increasingly intense. At the same time, countries around the world are showing a growing tendency to "draw closer together" in order to jointly address global issues, including the scourge of corruption.

4.1.6. The process of accelerating the implementation of the “Strategy for Building and Perfecting the Socialist Rule-of-Law State of Vietnam to 2030, with a Vision toward 2045,” and the reform and restructuring of the organizational apparatus of the political system

In order to realize the goal of bringing the country into a new era-the era of national rise-the Party and the State are accelerating the implementation of a range of breakthrough solutions across sectors and fields. Among these, the “Strategy for Building and Perfecting the Socialist Rule-of-Law State of Vietnam to 2030, with a Vision toward 2045” constitutes a political task of special importance. The successful implementation of this Strategy will contribute to building authorities at all levels in the Southeastern provinces that are truly “of the People, by the People, and for the People,” in accordance with Ho Chi Minh’s viewpoint. The process of implementing democracy will continue to receive due attention; the legal culture and law-abiding awareness of cadres, Party members, civil servants, and the People will be further enhanced; and the control of state power will be carried out more rigorously in conjunction with strengthening the rule of law, ensuring discipline and order, and promoting openness and transparency in the activities of cadres, Party members, and civil servants. These developments will have positive impacts, contributing to enhancing the effectiveness of the prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought.

4.1.7. The situation of corruption, wastefulness, and negative phenomena among a segment of cadres, Party members, and civil servants in the Southeastern provinces will continue to develop in complex and unpredictable ways

In the coming period, the situation of corruption, wastefulness, and negative phenomena among a segment of cadres, Party members, and civil servants in the Southeastern provinces is forecast to continue to evolve in complex and unpredictable ways, and may even increase in scale, severity, and sophistication. The degradation in political ideology, ethics, and lifestyle among a segment of cadres, Party members, and civil servants has not yet been effectively prevented, making them vulnerable to decline and easily tempted by material interests.

4.2. ORIENTATIONS FOR THE PREVENTION AND COMBATING OF CORRUPTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH HO CHI MINH THOUGHT IN THE SOUTHEASTERN PROVINCES IN THE NEW ERA

4.2.1. Studying, thoroughly grasping, and creatively applying Ho Chi Minh Thought in the prevention and combating of corruption through diverse forms and measures appropriate to new conditions and contexts

4.2.2. Thoroughly grasping political determination and the Party’s viewpoints and guidelines in the prevention and combating of corruption and negative phenomena

4.2.3. Linking the prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought with Party building and rectification, and with the reform and restructuring of the organizational apparatus of the political system in the Southeastern provinces

4.2.4. The prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought aimed at contributing to the building of the Southeastern provinces as a key economic region playing an important role in national development

4.2.5. The prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought in the Southeastern provinces aimed at contributing to the prevention of risks to the ruling Party, maintaining political stability, and preserving culture and ethics among cadres, Party members, and civil servants

4.2.6. The prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought in the Southeastern provinces must be associated with the prevention and combating of wastefulness and negative phenomena

4.2.7. The prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought in the Southeastern provinces must be associated with the prevention and combating of bureaucracy

4.3. SOLUTIONS FOR THE PREVENTION AND COMBATING OF CORRUPTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH HO CHI MINH THOUGHT IN THE SOUTHEASTERN PROVINCES IN THE NEW ERA

4.3.1. Strengthening propaganda and education to raise awareness and political determination of Party committees, authorities, cadres, Party members, and civil servants in the Southeastern provinces regarding the prevention and combating of corruption

To achieve this, Party committees and authorities in the Southeastern provinces need to effectively implement the following contents. First, to uphold and demonstrate strong political determination of Party committees and authorities, especially the heads of the Southeastern provinces, in the prevention and combating of corruption. Second, to synchronously implement propaganda and education activities to raise awareness among cadres, Party members, civil servants, and the People regarding the prevention and combating of corruption, wastefulness, and negative phenomena. Third, to diversify forms of propaganda and education to enhance awareness of the prevention and combating of corruption, wastefulness, and negative phenomena.

4.3.2. Improving and supplementing mechanisms, institutions, and legal policies on the prevention and combating of corruption

Improving and supplementing mechanisms, institutions, and legal policies on the prevention and combating of corruption constitute one of the solutions of decisive significance, creating a comprehensive and rigorous legal framework to prevent, detect, and handle corruption. To implement this effectively, Party committees and authorities in the Southeastern provinces should focus on properly carrying out the following key tasks. First, to supplement and improve regulations on personnel affairs. Second, to develop and promulgate truly strict sanctions against corruption so that cadres, Party members, and civil servants “do not dare” to engage in corruption, while at the same time ensuring the humane nature of the regime. Third, to improve regulations on the recovery of corrupt assets. Fourth, to improve mechanisms to promote the role of the People in the prevention and combating of corruption and negative phenomena. Fifth, to supplement and adjust the functions and tasks of the Steering Committees for the Prevention and Combating of Corruption, Wastefulness, and Negative Phenomena in the Southeastern provinces. Sixth, to study and promulgate regulations on the digitization of personal assets and income of cadres, Party members, and civil servants. Seventh, to study and promulgate mechanisms and policies to increase income for cadres, Party members, and civil servants. Eighth, to improve mechanisms and policies to promote the spirit of the “seven dares” among cadres, Party members, and civil servants in the prevention and combating of corruption. Ninth, to improve mechanisms and institutions for managing the private economic sector.

4.3.3. Promoting the positive and self-conscious spirit of cadres, Party members, and civil servants in the Southeastern provinces in cultivating and training revolutionary ethics

The Southeastern provinces-where urbanization is rapid and economic development is dynamic-have created numerous material temptations surrounding the contingent of cadres, Party members, and civil servants. Therefore, promoting a positive and self-conscious spirit in cultivating and training revolutionary ethics constitutes one of the fundamental and root

solutions for enhancing the effectiveness of the prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought. In the coming period, cadres, Party members, and civil servants in the Southeastern provinces need to implement the following contents. First, to uphold the spirit of devotion to the Fatherland and service to the People among each cadre, Party member, and civil servant. Second, to promote a sense of integrity and honor, to value dignity and self-respect, and to feel shame toward corrupt and negative behaviors. Third, to promote the spirit of self-examination, self-correction, self-criticism, and criticism among each cadre, Party member, and civil servant. Fourth, cadres, Party members, and civil servants in the Southeastern provinces must “have little desire for material gain.” Fifth, to promote the pioneering and exemplary role in cultivating and training revolutionary ethics among cadres, Party members, and civil servants, especially heads of agencies and units.

4.3.4. Strengthening inspection, supervision, and control of power within the contingent of cadres, Party members, and civil servants

Corruption arises primarily from the degeneration of power, from abuses of power, usurpation of power, and the exploitation of power for personal or group interests. To strengthen inspection, supervision, and control of power within the contingent of cadres, Party members, and civil servants, it is necessary to focus on effectively implementing the following measures. First, to continue creating stronger transformations in awareness among Party committees, Party organizations at all levels, and the contingent of cadres and civil servants in the Southeastern provinces regarding inspection, supervision, and control of power. Second, to strengthen leadership and direction to improve the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of the formulation and implementation of inspection, supervision, and power-control work. Third, provincial Party committees need to enhance leadership over functional agencies, especially inspection committees at all levels, in developing plans for inspection, supervision, and control of power within the contingent of cadres, Party members, and civil servants. Fourth, the control of power by Party committees and Party organizations at all levels must be conducted regularly, publicly, and with clear focus and priorities. Fifth, to build and improve the quality of the contingent of inspection cadres at all levels toward professionalization, serving the struggle against corruption.

4.3.5. Promoting the role and responsibility of the People in the struggle to prevent and combat corruption, wastefulness, and negative phenomena

The prevention and combating of corruption, wastefulness, and negative phenomena are not only the responsibility of agencies within the political system, but also the responsibility and obligation of every citizen. For this solution to be effective in the specific context of the Southeastern provinces, Party committees and authorities at all levels need to attach importance to effectively implementing the following key tasks. First, to intensify propaganda and dissemination of the law in order to raise the awareness and sense of responsibility of the People in the struggle against corruption, wastefulness, and negative phenomena. Second, to enhance openness and transparency in the operations of the political system at all levels so as to improve the effectiveness of the People’s exercise of their supervisory rights. Third, to promote the role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations in participating in the prevention and combating of corruption, wastefulness, and negative phenomena.

4.3.6. Promoting the role of press and media agencies in the prevention and combating of corruption and negative phenomena

In the course of leading and directing the revolution, Ho Chi Minh consistently highly valued the role and special importance of the press and the media in the cause of resistance and nation-building. He always regarded the press as a sharp weapon in the mission of “upholding righteousness and eliminating evil,” especially in the struggle against corruption and negative phenomena. At present, the Party and the State identify press and media agencies as one of the important information channels that contribute to raising awareness, guiding public opinion, and promoting the participation of the entire society in the prevention and combating of corruption and negative phenomena. In order to fully promote their role in the prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought in the Southeastern provinces in the coming period, it is necessary to synchronously implement the following measures. First, to strengthen the leadership of Party committees and the management of authorities over press and media agencies. Second, to improve the quality of information, ensuring truthfulness, objectivity, and timeliness in reporting on cases of corruption and negative phenomena. Third, to enhance the capacity, political steadfastness, professional ethics, and professional skills of journalists and reporters. Fourth, to promptly honor and reward press and media agencies, as well as journalists and reporters, who have made significant contributions to the prevention and combating of corruption.

4.3.7. Resolute and strict handling of corrupt acts and improving the effectiveness of the recovery of corrupt assets

In practice, a number of corruption cases and incidents involving cadres, Party members, and civil servants in the Southeastern provinces in recent years have shown extremely serious violations, causing particularly grave consequences not only in economic terms (amounting to tens or even hundreds of billions of Vietnamese dong) but also undermining the leadership and governance capacity of the entire system of Party committees and local authorities. Notably, these violations have provoked public indignation, diminished the People’s trust in Party committees and authorities, and generated concerns among partners and foreign investors when considering investment in the localities. However, according to the opinions of a large number of the People, the judgments and disciplinary measures imposed on the individuals involved have been disproportionate and insufficiently deterrent or cautionary. It must be frankly acknowledged that, from a certain perspective, the assessment of the “People’s tribunal” is entirely valid. Therefore, in order to improve the quality of the prevention and combating of corruption, it is necessary to resolutely and strictly handle corrupt acts and to enhance the recovery of corrupt assets. This constitutes the necessary “remedy” to bring down the “fever” of corruption in the Southeastern provinces.

Chapter 4 Summary

Corruption and negative phenomena are among the major risks and challenges affecting socio-economic, political, cultural, and social development in the Southeastern provinces in general, and Party building, the political system, and the contingent of cadres, Party members, and civil servants in particular. In the new context, the prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought in the Southeastern provinces are influenced by numerous domestic and international factors, especially practical conditions in the localities. These factors simultaneously create fundamental opportunities and favorable conditions, while

also posing significant difficulties and challenges, exerting comprehensive impacts on the prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought in the Southeastern provinces.

On the basis of thoroughly grasping the Party's viewpoints and applying Ho Chi Minh Thought, the dissertation identifies orientations and proposes a number of solutions for the prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought 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 in the Southeastern provinces regarding the prevention and combating of corruption; improving and supplementing mechanisms, institutions, and legal policies on the prevention and combating of corruption; promoting the positive and self-conscious spirit of cadres, Party members, and civil servants in the Southeastern provinces in cultivating and training revolutionary ethics; strengthening inspection, supervision, and control of power within the contingent of cadres, Party members, and civil servants; promoting the role and responsibility of the People in the prevention and combating of corruption, wastefulness, and negative phenomena; promoting the role of press and media agencies in the prevention and combating of corruption, wastefulness, and negative phenomena; and resolutely and strictly handling corrupt acts while improving the effectiveness of the recovery of corrupt assets.

The above solutions are both general in nature-based on the application of Ho Chi Minh Thought and the thorough implementation of the Party's and the State's viewpoints on the prevention and combating of corruption, wastefulness, and negative phenomena-and distinctive, closely aligned with the practical conditions of the Southeastern provinces. At the same time, these solutions are dialectically interrelated and mutually reinforcing; the effective implementation of one solution constitutes the basis and premise for the implementation of others. Therefore, it is necessary to implement them in a comprehensive and synchronized manner, avoiding both absolutizing and underestimating any particular solution.

CONCLUSION

1. With a sharp political vision and the dialectical thinking of an outstanding revolutionary, Ho Chi Minh clearly recognized from a very early stage the dangerous nature and serious 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 special attention to the prevention and combating of corruption, regarding it as one of the central tasks in the work of Party building and rectification, protecting the newly established State, and safeguarding integrity within the public apparatus. Through his works, speeches, articles, letters to cadres and Party members, and concrete actions in practical leadership and direction, Ho Chi Minh formed a comprehensive system of thought on the prevention and combating of corruption. This Thought encompasses profound and guiding arguments on the necessity of combating corruption, the causes giving rise to corruption, the forces that need to be mobilized, and the measures required for effective implementation.

2. The Southeastern region is the Southern Key Economic Region, holding a strategic position in terms of the country's economy, politics, security, and national defense. In the process of renewal, under the leadership of the Party, Party committees, authorities, and the

People of the Southeastern provinces have achieved significant accomplishments across many fields, making important contributions to national development. In implementing the Party's viewpoints, guidelines, and political determination, and creatively applying Ho Chi Minh Thought, from 2013 to the present the prevention and combating of corruption in the Southeastern provinces have achieved many positive results. The awareness of Party committees, authorities, cadres, Party members, and the People in the Southeastern provinces regarding the prevention and combating of corruption has become basically adequate and sound; numerous corruption-prevention measures have been widely and synchronously implemented by local Party committees and authorities; the investigation and handling of corrupt acts have been carried out resolutely; and the recovery of corrupt assets has made notable progress. However, alongside these positive results, the prevention and combating of corruption in the Southeastern provinces still exhibit certain limitations. Corruption among the contingent of cadres, Party members, and civil servants has not yet been effectively prevented or pushed back. This situation stems from multiple causes, both subjective and objective, but primarily from the degradation of political ideology, ethics, and lifestyle among a segment of cadres, Party members, and civil servants.

3. In the coming period, the prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought in the Southeastern provinces should continue to be implemented in a context marked by profound transformations in economic and socio-political conditions. The processes of globalization and international integration, particularly the application of science and technology and digital transformation in state management, create favorable conditions for enhancing transparency and improving the effectiveness of preventing, detecting, and handling corruption. The Party and the State continue to demonstrate strong political determination and resolute action, linking the prevention and combating of corruption with the prevention and combating of wastefulness and negative phenomena, thereby providing a foundation for localities to proactively and synchronously implement appropriate solutions. Coupled with this are the dynamic development of provinces in the region, the consensus and trust of the People, as well as ongoing efforts to renew the political system and reorganize the organizational apparatus in association with building clean and strong Party organizations. In this context, continuing to apply Ho Chi Minh Thought in the prevention and combating of corruption is of particular importance and urgency.

4. To enhance the effectiveness of the prevention and combating of corruption in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought in the Southeastern provinces, it is necessary to implement solutions in a synchronized and comprehensive manner, ranging from strengthening education in revolutionary ethics and improving political awareness to perfecting mechanisms for the control of power, promoting the role of social supervision, and upholding exemplary responsibility among cadres, Party members, and civil servants. Through these efforts, corruption can be gradually prevented and restrained, and eventually pushed back; Party organizations, the political system at all levels, and the contingent of cadres, Party members, and civil servants can be built to be clean and strong. This will contribute to enabling the Southeastern provinces, together with the whole country, to advance into a new era-the era of the nation's rise.

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