

HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS

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**BUILDING THE GREAT NATIONAL UNITY
BLOC IN THE MEKONG DELTA TODAY IN
ACCORDANCE WITH HO CHI MINH'S
IDEOLOGY**

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INTRODUCTION

1. The urgency of the theme

In Ho Chi Minh's ideological legacy, national great unity constitutes one of his seminal ideas and an early-formulated revolutionary strategy that has consistently guided the Communist Party of Vietnam's line on national solidarity. This strategic orientation became a decisive factor contributing to the victories of the Vietnamese revolution. Under the Party's leadership, grounded in Ho Chi Minh's ideology on great national unity, the revolutionary movement for national liberation achieved the triumph of the August Revolution in 1945, secured success in subsequent resistance wars, and advanced nation-building along the socialist path with significant accomplishments.

In the current context, the international environment is marked by complex and unpredictable developments, with opportunities intertwined with challenges. Intensifying strategic competition among major powers has generated substantial impacts on the global economy and trade, directly influencing Vietnam's external environment. Economic recession in many countries, supply chain disruptions, global inflation, and shifting investment flows place urgent demands on Vietnam to strengthen internal capacities, reform institutions, and proactively adapt. Non-traditional security threats - particularly climate change, cyber insecurity, epidemics, and transnational crime - continue to pose challenges to stability and sustainable development. Moreover, hostile forces persist in exploiting issues of democracy and human rights to intervene and sow division within the national unity bloc, thereby complicating the socio-political landscape. In this context, consolidating public consensus and promoting the strength of great national unity constitute strategic requirements essential for political-social stability, mobilizing collective strength, overcoming difficulties and challenges, and fostering national development.

As Vietnam enters a new stage of deepened international integration - also regarded as the nation's "third era," the era of national rise - the task of building and strengthening great national unity in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's ideology becomes increasingly imperative. This task is of long-term strategic significance and represents a vital source of endogenous strength, ensuring socio-political stability, enhancing national competitiveness, and enabling the successful realization of development objectives in the new era.

The Mekong Delta (also known as the Mekong River Delta or the Southwest Region) is a strategically significant area in multiple respects. The region is home

to diverse ethnic groups - Kinh, Khmer, Hoa, and Cham - with the Kinh forming the majority and approximately 1.3 million Khmer people residing in the area. It is also characterized by notable religious diversity, comprising 13 religions, including several with large numbers of adherents such as Buddhism, Catholicism, and Hoa Hao Buddhism. In the context of the country's ongoing renewal process and comprehensive state reform, the Mekong Delta is experiencing major transformations, including administrative boundary restructuring. At the same time, the region is profoundly affected by climate change: sea-level rise, saline intrusion, land subsidence, and declining freshwater resources threaten the livelihoods of millions, altering the ecological and economic structure of the entire region. Additionally, emerging regional security instabilities - particularly potential border conflicts between Cambodia and Thailand - pose risks to trade flows, migration, and security along Vietnam's southwestern frontier.

With its long-standing tradition of solidarity and community cohesion, its multi-ethnic and multi-religious composition, and its role as the nation's key agricultural production zone, the Mekong Delta holds a uniquely strategic position in economic, socio-cultural, environmental, national defense and security, and foreign affairs domains. This strategic role has been affirmed in Resolution No. 13-NQ/TW dated April 2, 2022, of the Politburo on orientations for socio-economic development and national defense-security in the Mekong Delta toward 2030, with a vision to 2045. To successfully realize these objectives, building the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's ideology constitutes a strategic mission and an essential condition for mobilizing all social strata, ethnic groups, religions, classes, overseas Vietnamese communities, mass organizations, and socio-political institutions in a unified effort toward development goals. Strengthening this unity is also fundamental to reinforcing the relationship between the Party, the State, and the people; upholding the Party's leadership and the State's governance; and enabling the region to overcome challenges, transform risks into opportunities, and advance to new stages of development.

Achieving these goals requires the political system, the people of the Mekong Delta, and relevant stakeholders to deepen their understanding of the role, significance, and strategic importance of building the great national unity bloc in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's ideology. It is essential to continue applying and creatively developing Ho Chi Minh's ideology on national solidarity to align with evolving circumstances; to further strengthen theoretical and practical research; and

to clarify the foundations, implications, and local applications of this ideology within Mekong Delta provinces to realize the goals of prosperity, strength, democracy, equity, civilization, and sustainable happiness.

From the above considerations, the author has chosen the topic “***Building the Great National Unity Bloc in the Mekong Delta Today in Accordance with Ho Chi Minh’s Ideology***” as the doctoral dissertation in Ho Chi Minh Studies.

2. Research Objectives and Tasks

2.1. Research Objectives

Based on the analysis and clarification of Ho Chi Minh’s ideology on great national unity and the current state of building the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta in accordance with his ideology, the dissertation aims to apply this theoretical foundation to propose solutions for further strengthening the great national unity bloc in the region in the coming period, aligned with its specific practical conditions.

2.2. Research Tasks

Provide an overview of studies related to the topic; analyze and assess existing research findings; and identify issues that require further in-depth investigation in the dissertation.

Clarify key concepts relevant to the dissertation topic, including nation, great national unity, building the great national unity bloc, Ho Chi Minh’s ideology on building the great national unity bloc, and the construction of the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta in accordance with Ho Chi Minh’s ideology.

Analyze and elucidate the fundamental components of Ho Chi Minh’s ideology on great national unity.

Examine and assess the current situation - including strengths, limitations, and their underlying causes - and identify the emerging issues in building the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta in accordance with Ho Chi Minh’s ideology.

Forecast influencing factors and apply Ho Chi Minh’s ideology to propose viewpoints and solutions for further developing the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta in the coming period.

3. Research Scope and Subjects

3.1. Research Subject

The construction of the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta today in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's ideology.

3.2. Research Scope

Scope of content: A study on the application of Ho Chi Minh's thought on building the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta today.

Scope of space: The research concentrates on several provinces and cities with large populations of ethnic and religious communities, including Soc Trang, Tra Vinh, An Giang, Kien Giang, Bac Lieu, Ca Mau, Vinh Long, and Can Tho City (before July 1, 2025). Following the administrative consolidation at the provincial level (after July 1, 2025), these localities include Vinh Long, An Giang, Ca Mau provinces, and Can Tho City. Among them, Can Tho is the sole centrally governed city and the largest urban center in the Mekong Delta. Many of the above-mentioned localities are significantly affected by climate change - particularly saline intrusion, erosion, land subsidence, and tidal flooding - while infrastructure in some areas remains underdeveloped and living standards are still comparatively low.

Scope of time: The dissertation examines the situation from 2015 to the present. This timeframe aligns with the Party's renewed orientations for building the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta, notably: Directive No. 49-CT/TW dated October 20, 2015, of the Party Secretariat on strengthening and renewing mass mobilization work in ethnic minority areas to gradually improve the material and spiritual well-being of the people, reinforce the great national unity bloc, and consolidate public trust in the Party, the State, and the socialist regime; and the Law on the Vietnam Fatherland Front (Law No. 75/2015/QH13) promulgated on June 9, 2015, which defines the organization and activities of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, emphasizing its role and methods in mobilizing and consolidating the great national unity bloc. The proposed viewpoints and solutions are oriented toward 2030, with a vision to 2045.

4. Theoretical Basis and Research Methodology

4.1. Theoretical Basis

The dissertation is grounded in Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's ideology, and the Party's guidelines and policies, which together constitute the theoretical and methodological foundation for studying and applying Ho Chi Minh's ideology on great national unity to the construction of the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta provinces.

4.2. Research Methodology

The study employs both disciplinary and interdisciplinary methods of Ho Chi Minh Studies, including the historical method, logical method, analytical-synthetic method, statistical method, comparative method, textual analysis, abstraction and concretization, and sociological investigation. Specifically:

Chapter 1: Uses the historical method, logical method, textual analysis, and analytical-synthetic approaches to collect and examine documents, and to provide an overview of research related to building the great national unity bloc in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's ideology.

Chapter 2: Applies abstraction and generalization to develop fundamental concepts pertinent to the dissertation; employs the historical and logical methods, together with analytical-synthetic techniques, to elucidate and systematize the content of Ho Chi Minh's ideology on constructing the great national unity bloc.

Chapter 3: The study employs analytical-synthetic methods, practical review, and sociological surveys to clarify the current state of building the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta since 2015. Textual analysis is used to provide persuasive evidence in assessing the situation and outcomes of this process. Statistical and comparative methods are applied to contrast key aspects of unity-building in the Mekong Delta with other regions and across different periods, thereby enabling substantive evaluations and conclusions. In assessing the current situation, the author conducts sociological surveys using two respondent groups: the first includes Party and State agencies, the Fatherland Front, mass organizations, and socio-political organizations, with 480 questionnaires; the second comprises representatives of households, workers, farmers, pupils, and students, with 640 questionnaires. The total number of survey questionnaires administered across the two groups is 1,120.

Chapter 4: Applies textual analysis, practical research methods, statistical and forecasting techniques, along with deductive and inductive reasoning, to examine influencing factors and propose viewpoints and solutions for building the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's ideology, ensuring alignment with contemporary realities.

5. New Contributions of the Thesis

5.1. Theoretical Contributions

The research findings contribute to a deeper understanding of Ho Chi Minh's theoretical system on great national unity. They reaffirm the urgency and profound significance of applying and creatively developing Ho Chi Minh's ideology in building the great national unity bloc, tailored to the specific conditions of each province in the Mekong Delta.

5.2. Practical Contributions

The thesis provides a systematic and comprehensive synthesis of the practice of building the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta from 2015 to the present. It proposes feasible viewpoints and solutions for strengthening great national unity in the region in the new context, consistent with Ho Chi Minh's ideology.

The research findings may serve as a valuable reference to support research, communication, education, and the enhancement of efforts to build the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta. They also provide practical grounding for the work of the Fatherland Front, mass mobilization, and political organizations in the region today.

6. Theoretical and Practical Significance

6.1. Theoretical Significance

The thesis contributes to advancing scientific understanding of Ho Chi Minh's ideology on great national unity, and reaffirms its value and significance for building the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta today.

It also supplements scientific and practical arguments for provincial Party committees, local authorities, and political organizations in implementing great national unity in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's ideology under current conditions.

6.2. Practical Significance

The research outcomes provide data and materials for in-depth studies by Party committees, government bodies, mass organizations, and socio-political institutions engaged in building the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta and in other localities.

The thesis may also be used as reference material for teaching and studying Ho Chi Minh's ideology on great national unity and the construction of the great national unity bloc in universities, academies, and research institutes.

7. Structure of the Thesis

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

Chapter 1

OVERVIEW OF THE RESEARCH RELATED TO THE THESIS

1.1. RESEARCH SITUATION RELATED TO THE TOPIC

1.1.1. Studies on Building the Great National Unity Bloc

Building the great national unity bloc constitutes a key component of Vietnam's socio-economic development strategy, national defense and security assurance, and the consolidation of political and social stability. This topic has attracted extensive scholarly attention. Numerous scientific works have examined the theoretical foundations, assessed the current situation, and proposed solutions aimed at strengthening great national unity. Research outcomes have been published in monographs, reference books, academic journals, scientific research projects, and doctoral dissertations. Representative works include those by: To Lam, Pham Tat Thang, Mach Quang Thang, Phan Xuan Son, Luu Van Quang, Truong Minh Duc, Tran Hau, Hoang Chi Bao, Nguyen Dinh Tan, Tran Thi Bich Hang, Hoang Xuan Luong, Song Thanh, Huynh Dam, Nguyen Viet Thao, Duong Trung Y, Nguyen Dinh Minh, Nguyen Sy De, Dao Dinh Hieu, Vi Thi Huong Lan, Do Xuan Tuat, Tran Le Thanh, Nguyen Phu Trong, Pham Ngoc Hung, Duong Thi Ha, Nguyen Hong That, Le Thi Thanh Ha, Bui Duc Dung, and others.

These studies provide in-depth analyses of great national unity, emphasizing its role, significance, and indispensable importance in the revolutionary struggle for national liberation as well as in the construction and defense of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. They elucidate fundamental principles, core contents, and methods to mobilize and promote the strength of the entire people. At the same time, they underscore the long-standing tradition of unity among Vietnam's ethnic groups, considering it a solid foundation for national development.

1.1.2. Studies on Ho Chi Minh's Ideology Regarding the Construction of the Great National Unity Bloc

Prominent studies on Ho Chi Minh's ideology on building the great national unity bloc include works by: Nguyen The Thang, Phan Minh Hien, Dang Van Thai, Tran Thi Loi and Nguyen Kim Dung; Phung Huu Phu, Vu Duong Ninh, Le Mau Han, Pham Xanh, Nguyen Khanh Bat, Le Ngoc Thang, Nguyen Duc Ngoc, Dinh Tien Dung, Van Thi Thanh Mai, Do Thanh Hai, Nguyen Van Siu, Nguyen Anh Quoc, Vu Thi Thanh Thao, Duong Van Manh, Nguyen Hong Chuyen, Phan Thi Anh Tuyet, Dang Thi Mai Anh, Nguyen Trong Phuc, Phan Thi Lien, Bui Dinh Bon,

Lai Quoc Khanh, Tran Thi Vui, Duy Thi Hai Huong, Tran Nghi, Dang Kim Oanh, Pham Hong Chuong, and others.

These studies conduct comprehensive analyses of the construction of the great national unity bloc from multiple perspectives within Ho Chi Minh's ideological framework. They clarify several theoretical and practical issues related to the current state of great national unity, forming an essential scientific basis for subsequent research, particularly those examining the realities of building the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta in the present period. Moreover, these works identify emerging challenges in this process, thereby proposing viewpoints and solutions to enhance the combined strength of great national unity in the Mekong Delta in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's ideology.

1.1.3. Studies on the Application of Ho Chi Minh's Ideology on Building the Great National Unity Bloc in Practice and in the Mekong Delta

Representative studies applying Ho Chi Minh's ideology to the construction of the great national unity bloc in practice and in the Mekong Delta include works by Son Song Son, Dinh Vi, Pham Van Bua, Huynh Thanh Quang, Hua Khanh Vy, Nguyen Phan Dau, Bach Thanh Sang, Nguyen Van Sy, Ha Thi Thuy Duong, Doan Trung Dung, Le Thi Diem Trinh, Nguyen Thanh Son, Phan Thuan, Pham Phuong Lan, Dao Thi Hoan, Nguyen Thi Tuyet Loan, and others.

Although numerous studies have examined the application of Ho Chi Minh's ideology to building the great national unity bloc, differences in research objectives mean that no work has yet provided a comprehensive analysis specifically focused on constructing the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta. Nevertheless, these earlier studies play an important role in supplying essential scientific foundations for further, more in-depth exploration of core issues. Building on this foundation, the formulation of innovative viewpoints and solutions contributes to realizing Ho Chi Minh's ideology on great national unity within the contemporary context of the Mekong Delta. The application of this thought not only strengthens ethnic community cohesion but also promotes the region's development across various sectors, aligning with current practical requirements.

1.2. EVALUATION OF EXISTING RESEARCH AND ISSUES REQUIRING FURTHER INVESTIGATION

1.2.1. Evaluation of Existing Research

The aforementioned works related to Ho Chi Minh's ideology on great national unity, which is also the thematic orientation of this dissertation, may be synthesized as follows:

First, these studies demonstrate that scholars have provided relatively in-depth and detailed analyses of the foundations, formation, content, role, significance, and importance of Ho Chi Minh's ideology on great unity in building the national great unity bloc. Several works clarify key concepts such as nation, great unity, great national unity, building the great national unity bloc, and building the great national unity bloc according to Ho Chi Minh's ideology, as well as theoretical issues related to the content of great national unity. Overall, the studies have initiated more systematic inquiry into Ho Chi Minh's ideology on national unity and have contributed additional valuable theoretical arguments. They further illuminate the theoretical foundations and affirm the theoretical and practical value of Ho Chi Minh's ideology on great national unity in the Vietnamese revolutionary process. Some authors also underscore that constructing the great national unity bloc is both a goal and a driving force - an essential requirement for national development. It is considered a strategic issue that enables the promotion of national strength and patriotic spirit in national construction and development. However, these studies mainly address fundamental aspects of Ho Chi Minh's ideology and have yet to examine the formation, development, and practical application of this thought in constructing the great national unity bloc in a distinctive region such as the Mekong Delta.

Second, many works analyze the actual situation of ethnic affairs and the Party's efforts to build the national great unity bloc during the renovation period. Through assessments of achievements, limitations, and their causes in implementing national unity policies, these studies identify emerging issues and propose general solutions to strengthen the unity bloc. Nevertheless, most research remains at the level of general analysis for the national context. They do not propose region-specific solutions tailored to the distinctive characteristics of localities - particularly the Mekong Delta - nor do they offer comprehensive, long-term remedies for addressing major limitations.

Third, the studies affirm the importance of applying Ho Chi Minh's ideology on great national unity to national development in the renovation era. Drawing on analyses of socio-economic factors, natural conditions, demographic characteristics, and cultural traits of different ethnic groups, many works clarify the theoretical basis for formulating policies and measures to consolidate the unity bloc. Some studies go further, providing empirical analysis, data examination, and objective assessments of the process of "building the unity bloc" in practice. However, from a theoretical perspective, these studies still do not fully elucidate the decisive role

of Ho Chi Minh's ideology in ensuring success in building the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta. Nor do they offer in-depth analyses of recent positive transformations in strengthening the unity bloc based on Ho Chi Minh's ideology in this region. Notably, specialized research proposing breakthrough, context-appropriate, and practically sustainable solutions to address the region's specific challenges in building the great national unity bloc - both in the present and in the future - remains lacking.

In summary, the existing body of research demonstrates that scholars have begun to clarify several aspects and values of Ho Chi Minh's ideology on building the great national unity bloc. Although these works approach the topic from various perspectives, differences in scope and objectives mean that no study has yet undertaken a systematic and comprehensive examination of building the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta. Nevertheless, these studies serve as an important theoretical and practical foundation for the author to conduct a deeper investigation into building the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta today in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's ideology.

1.2.2. Issues for Continued Investigation

Deriving from the urgent demands of practice and the gaps identified in previous studies, this dissertation establishes a clear research orientation aimed at further clarifying the construction of the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta today in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's ideology. Specifically:

First, the dissertation continues to examine and supplement theoretical issues concerning Ho Chi Minh's ideology on building the great national unity bloc. It focuses on analyzing the formative factors, core components, and guiding principles within Ho Chi Minh's ideology on great national unity, particularly in the context of deep international integration and the development of a socialist-oriented market economy in Viet Nam. The dissertation emphasizes affirming the theoretical and practical value of Ho Chi Minh's ideology in guiding policy formulation and practical implementation of national unity across regions- especially the Mekong Delta, which holds strategic significance in political, economic, national defense, security, and socio-cultural dimensions.

Second, the dissertation investigates and analyzes the practical application of Ho Chi Minh's ideology in constructing the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta in recent years, thereby providing an accurate assessment of achievements, limitations, and their underlying causes. On this basis, it clarifies the pressing issues currently emerging, including declining public trust among certain segments of the

population; widening socio-economic disparities among ethnic groups; challenges arising from external factors (such as social media, peaceful-evolution strategies, and ethnic-religious issues); as well as endogenous constraints within the grassroots political system. This analysis helps identify the direct factors influencing the effectiveness of unity-building efforts in the region.

Third, the dissertation examines and forecasts domestic and international developments likely to impact the construction of the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta in the coming period. It analyzes new requirements arising in the context of national development as outlined in the Party's 13th National Congress Resolution and relevant Central Committee resolutions on Party-building, political system consolidation, and regional development. On this foundation, the dissertation proposes guiding viewpoints and a system of feasible, long-term, and region-appropriate solutions aimed at enhancing the effective application of Ho Chi Minh's ideology in building the great national unity bloc. These solutions contribute to safeguarding socio-political stability, strengthening endogenous capacity, and promoting sustainable development in the Mekong Delta under new conditions.

Chapter 2

BUILDING THE GREAT NATIONAL UNITY BLOC IN THE MEKONG DELTA IN THE CURRENT PERIOD BASED ON HO CHI MINH'S THOUGHT - SOME THEORETICAL ISSUES

2.1. BASIC CONCEPTS

2.1.1. Concept of "Nation"

A nation refers to a national community, distinguishing one nation from another within the international context. A nation is a human community, regardless of its level of development, population size, or the territory it inhabits. At its core, a nation has four essential characteristics: a common language, shared history and origins, similar cultural life, and collective self-identification. In summary, *a nation is a community of people living within a state, sharing a unified government, territory, economy, political and social system, language, and culture.*

2.1.2. Concept of "Unity"

Unity is the cohesion and consensus in awareness, will, and action, forming a close alliance of individuals within a nation, working together to create synergistic strength to overcome difficulties and challenges. This ensures stability and

development in pursuit of the common goal: a peaceful, unified, independent, democratic, and prosperous Vietnam.

Great national unity refers to a high degree of cohesion and close alliance across a broad spectrum of people within a nation - regardless of ethnicity, class, political affiliation, religion, culture, wealth, or gender - aimed at creating a synergistic force for achieving the common purpose of building a solid, strong, peaceful, unified, prosperous, democratic, equitable, and civilized nation.

2.1.3. Ho Chi Minh's Ideology on National Unity

The “people” or “citizens” are simultaneously a large mass of the population and individual Vietnamese, each serving as a subject in constructing national unity in the Vietnamese revolution. Based on theoretical and practical analysis. *Ho Chi Minh's thought on national unity is a system of views on the position, role, subject, principles, forms, and methods of building national unity to gather and organize revolutionary forces on the basis of unity in common goals and fundamental interests, equality, without distinction of ethnicity, religion, class, gender, region, etc., creating strength to serve the cause of national liberation revolution and the cause of national construction of Vietnam.*

2.1.4. Concept of Building the Great National Unity Bloc in the Mekong Delta According to Ho Chi Minh ideology

Building the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta according to Ho Chi Minh's ideology is the process of applying his system of viewpoints, principles, and methods to mobilize, unite, and consolidate all classes, social strata, ethnic groups, and religions into a cohesive bloc. This bloc is unified in will, trust, and action under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam, grounded in people-centered governance, safeguarding citizens' legitimate rights and interests, promoting social consensus, reinforcing political trust, advancing economic and socio-cultural development, and ensuring national defense and security in the Mekong Delta. This process contributes to the solid construction and defense of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

2.2. CONTENT OF HO CHI MINH'S IDEOLOGY ON BUILDING THE GREAT NATIONAL UNITY BLOC

2.2.1. Position and Role of Building the Great National Unity Bloc

- Position of Building the Great National Unity Bloc

Building the great national unity bloc is one of Hồ Chí Minh's major ideas and occupies a foremost position within his system of thought.

- Role of Building the Great National Unity Bloc

In both the national liberation revolution and the socialist revolution, building the great national unity bloc has always played a crucial role, serving as a strategic objective and as a driving force to ensure the success of the revolution.

2.2.2. Core Content of Building the Great National Unity Bloc

- Recognizing the people as the foundation of the national unity bloc.
- Broadly uniting all social strata, classes, ethnic groups, and religions, both domestically and abroad.
- Centering the goal of national independence in conjunction with socialism.
- Practicing tolerance, magnanimity, and eliminating prejudice to expand the unity bloc.
- Constructing the unity bloc in alignment with the Party and State's policies as well as the aspirations of the people.

2.2.3. Subjects in Building the Great National Unity Bloc

Building the national unity bloc according to Hồ Chí Minh involves uniting all social strata, classes, ethnic groups, religions, organizations, political-social institutions, and patriots living abroad. Specifically:

- The Communist Party of Vietnam serves as the “core” leadership for constructing the unity bloc.
- The State institutionalizes the Party's guidelines, policies, and laws regarding national unity.
- The Vietnam Fatherland Front plays a pivotal role in widely mobilizing the people and strengthening the relationship between the population, the Party, and the State in building the unity bloc.
- The people hold a central role as the primary subject participating in the construction of the unity bloc.

2.2.4. Principles of Building the Great National Unity Bloc

- Construct the unity bloc based on ensuring the supreme interests of the nation, the rights and interests of the working people, and harmonizing national interests with those of the people.
- Trust in the people, rely on the people, and strive for the people's welfare in building the unity bloc.
- Build the unity bloc consciously and in an organized manner; ensure it is broad, long-term, sustainable, democratic, and consensual.

- Ensure equality in the rights and obligations of the people in constructing the unity bloc.

- Respect, assist, and promote mutual development while resisting the divisive schemes of hostile forces.

2.2.5. Forms of Building the Great National Unity Bloc

To transform the great national unity bloc into a powerful and cohesive force, it must first be successfully organized into a unified national front. The United National Front serves as a convergence point for all patriotic organizations and individuals, mobilizing all strata of the population, both domestically and among overseas Vietnamese. Ho Chi Minh emphasized the mobilization of the people through appropriate patriotic organizations, including friendly associations, mutual aid societies, trade unions, peasant associations, youth unions, women's unions, children's and elderly groups, as well as Buddhist and Catholic patriotic organizations, and various professional associations. The overarching framework for these efforts is the United National Front.

2.2.6. Methods of Building the Great National Unity Bloc

- Conduct effective mass mobilization work by actively propagating, educating, and encouraging the public to participate in building the national unity bloc.

- Strengthen and maintain a clean and robust Party and State, which serve as the “core” in constructing the unity bloc.

- Manage social and political relationships strategically: expand the revolutionary front to the maximum and narrow the hostile front to the minimum.

Chapter 3

BUILDING THE GREAT NATIONAL UNITY BLOC IN THE MEKONG DELTA TODAY ACCORDING TO HO CHI MINH'S IDEOLOGY - CURRENT SITUATION AND EMERGING ISSUES

3.1. BASIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MEKONG DELTA AND THE SITUATION OF BUILDING THE GREAT NATIONAL UNITY BLOC

3.1.1. Geographic Location, Natural Conditions, and Population

The Mekong Delta is located in the southern region of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Following administrative boundary adjustments (July 1, 2025) and pursuant to the Conclusion of the Party Standing Committee of the Government as announced in Notice No. 65-TB/DU, dated June 4, 2025, regarding regional planning and socio-economic development, the Mekong Delta now comprises one

city and four provinces: Can Tho City, and the provinces of Dong Thap, Vinh Long, An Giang, and Ca Mau. After the administrative reorganization, the region consists of 495 commune-level units, including 399 communes, 93 wards, 3 special administrative units, 14 mountainous units, and 8 island units. The total natural area of the region is 34,839.8 km², with a population of 19,723,792.

In recent years, the population of the Mekong Delta has experienced fluctuations and instability, primarily due to labor migration to more developed provinces and cities such as Ho Chi Minh City and Dong Nai. Most migrants are households with low economic incomes seeking better living conditions in urban or developing areas. Overall, the geographic location, natural conditions, and population characteristics of the Mekong Delta provide favorable factors for building the great national unity bloc. At the same time, the region faces many inherent challenges and difficulties that must be addressed in this process.

3.1.2. Characteristics of the Economic, Political, Cultural, and Social Situation

3.1.2.1. Economic Characteristics

The Mekong Delta is the country's largest rice granary, aquaculture, and fruit production center, contributing 31.37% of the agricultural sector GDP and over 50% of national rice and other key outputs such as aquaculture and fruit production. It plays a crucial role in ensuring national food security and export capacity.

3.1.2.2. Political Characteristics

Strategically located in the far south of the country, the Mekong Delta exhibits distinctive political features, combining long-term stability with complex, latent challenges. Overall, the region maintains political stability, secures national defense and security, and ensures basic social order.

3.1.2.3. Cultural and Social Characteristics

Culturally and socially, the Mekong Delta has a rich and diverse heritage shaped by land reclamation, ethnic intermingling, and adaptation to unique natural conditions. The region is home to multiple ethnic communities, predominantly the Kinh, alongside Khmer, Cham, and Hoa, creating a diverse yet harmonious cultural landscape.

3.1.3. Ethnic and Religious Characteristics

3.1.3.1. Ethnic Characteristics

The Mekong Delta is ethnically diverse, with cultural exchanges among the Kinh, Khmer, Hoa, and Cham peoples. Each ethnic group preserves its unique identity while coexisting harmoniously, contributing to the region's socio-economic

development. This diversity is reflected not only in lifestyles and customs but also in traditional livelihoods, making the region culturally distinctive and rich.

3.1.3.2. Religious Characteristics

The Mekong Delta hosts the highest number of religions in Vietnam, with thirteen legally recognized faiths, including Buddhism, Catholicism, Protestantism, Islam, Cao Dai, Hoa Hao Buddhism, Minh Su, Pure Land Buddhist Association of Vietnam, Tu an Hieu nghia, Buu Son Ky Huong, Adventist Christianity, Hieu nghia Ta Lon Buddhism, and the Baha'i Faith. Within these, Buddhism, Protestantism, and Cao Dai have multiple sects. Specifically, the region's Khmer Theravāda Buddhist community has about 1.1 million followers, 446 pagodas, and approximately 9,000 monks. Overall, the Mekong Delta has 4,611 religious establishments, 47,334 clerics, and 6,675,718 followers, accounting for approximately 37% of the population.

3.2. CURRENT SITUATION OF BUILDING THE GREAT NATIONAL UNITY BLOC IN THE MEKONG DELTA ACCORDING TO HO CHI MINH'S IDEOLOGY

3.2.1. Advantages and Underlying Causes

3.2.1.1. Advantages

- Party committees, government authorities, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, and mass organizations in the Mekong Delta have continuously raised awareness of the position, role, and importance of building the great national unity bloc according to Ho Chi Minh's ideology in the process of national renewal.

- The Vietnam Fatherland Front and its member organizations have actively diversified forms of mass mobilization, engaging all social classes, ethnic groups, religions, and overseas Vietnamese in constructing a comprehensive national unity bloc.

- Economic, cultural, and social development programs and projects are closely linked to the building of the national unity bloc.

- The principle of equality among ethnic groups is consistently applied across all sectors in constructing the national unity bloc.

- The tradition of national solidarity is promoted, actively countering attempts by hostile forces to undermine or divide the national unity bloc.

- Annual National Great Unity Day (November 18) is regularly observed.

3.2.1.2. Causes of Achievements

- Consistent and correct leadership by the Communist Party of Vietnam in building the great national unity bloc.

- Effective mobilization of the State's organizational and social management functions in constructing the unity bloc.
- Adoption of practical and context-appropriate forms and methods of building the national unity bloc suited to the Mekong Delta.
- Presence of a capable, dedicated, responsible, and proactive cadre workforce engaged in the construction of the unity bloc.
- Consciousness and consensus among the people regarding participation in building the national unity bloc.

3.2.2. Limitations and Their Causes

3.2.2.1. *Limitations*

- Some cadres, Party members, and citizens in the Mekong Delta lack a full, deep, and comprehensive understanding of the significance and importance of building the national unity bloc according to Ho Chi Minh's ideology.
- Issues of integration and solidarity among ethnic and religious communities in certain localities remain incomplete, affecting socio-economic development.
- A portion of the population remains vulnerable to manipulation, provocation, or divisive activities by hostile or reactionary forces.
- Certain economic, cultural, and social development policies, programs, and projects are not fully effective, limiting their impact on improving people's livelihoods and building the national unity bloc.

3.2.2.2. *Causes of Limitations*

- Political theory education and dissemination of Ho Chi Minh's ideology on national unity in some localities remain formalistic, shallow, and insufficiently linked to practical realities.
- Cultural, educational, and healthcare systems in some areas do not adequately meet the requirements for improving material and spiritual living standards in the construction of the national unity bloc.
- Infrastructure and technical facilities in certain locations are uneven and underdeveloped, slowing economic development and stabilizing people's lives.
- The rights and interests of ethnic and religious communities in some areas are not fully balanced, and some citizens lack confidence in the Party's and State's policies and guidelines.
- The qualifications and skills of certain cadres responsible for building the national unity bloc are insufficient, lacking the capacity for implementation and management.

- Propaganda, mobilization, and public opinion guidance in some localities remain slow and inadequate for preventing, detecting, and handling threats to the national unity bloc.

3.3. ISSUES IN BUILDING THE NATIONAL UNITY BLOC IN THE MEKONG DELTA ACCORDING TO HO CHI MINH'S IDEOLOGY

First, Awareness among certain Party committees, authorities, the Fatherland Front, and the populace regarding the importance of building the national unity bloc remains insufficient to meet practical requirements.

Second, Methods for propaganda and constructing the national unity bloc have been slow to innovate relative to practical demands.

Third, Professional qualifications and capacity of some mass mobilization cadres are not yet sufficient to meet the increasingly complex requirements of building the national unity bloc.

Fourth, Educational and cultural levels of a segment of ethnic communities in the Mekong Delta are low, affecting the implementation of policies and guidelines for building national unity.

Fifth, Resolution of issues related to the interests of various ethnic groups remains unbalanced, impacting the cohesion of the national unity bloc.

Sixth, Identification of and response to hostile forces' schemes to divide the national unity bloc remain untimely, insufficiently sensitive, and suboptimal in effectiveness.

Chapter 4

DIRECTION AND SOLUTIONS FOR BUILDING THE NATIONAL UNITY BLOC IN THE MEKONG DELTA ACCORDING TO HO CHI MINH'S IDEOLOGY IN THE A NEW ERA OF DEVELOPMENT

4.1. NEW CONTEXT AFFECTING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NATIONAL UNITY BLOC IN THE MEKONG DELTA

4.1.1. Global Context

First, Dual impacts of peace and cooperation versus conflict and war pose potential risks to international cooperation relations.

Second, Deepening globalization and international integration across multiple domains.

Third, Influence of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (Industry 4.0) on building the national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta.

4.1.2. Domestic Context

First, the impacts of climate change, salinity intrusion, and land erosion on the livelihoods and production of the population and ethnic communities are affecting the construction of the national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta.

Second, the effects of administrative boundary mergers and streamlining of local government apparatus at provincial/city and commune/ward levels on national unity bloc construction.

Third, the impacts of ethnic and religious issues and the manipulative schemes of hostile forces on building the national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta.

4.2. DIRECTION ON BUILDING THE NATIONAL UNITY BLOC IN THE MEKONG DELTA ACCORDING TO HO CHI MINH'S IDEOLOGY IN THE NEW CONTEXT

First, building the national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta according to Ho Chi Minh's ideology is a strategic and consistent objective, representing both an urgent and long-term task in the new context.

Second, such construction is essential for the rapid and sustainable development of the Mekong Delta.

Third, it must be aligned with the cultural, ethnic, and religious characteristics of the region's communities.

Fourth, the roles of the Party, the State, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, mass organizations, and political-social organizations must be fully promoted in building the national unity bloc according to Ho Chi Minh's ideology.

4.3. SOLUTIONS FOR BUILDING THE NATIONAL UNITY BLOC IN THE MEKONG DELTA ACCORDING TO HO CHI MINH'S IDEOLOGY IN THE NEW CONTEXT

4.3.1. Continuing to enhance awareness and strengthen the leadership of the Party, the political system, and the people in building the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's ideology, thereby meeting the requirements of the new era of development

Efforts should focus on enhancing awareness and reinforcing leadership of the Party, the political system, and the populace in constructing the national unity bloc according to Ho Chi Minh's ideology.

Overall, elevating understanding of Ho Chi Minh's ideology among Party committees, authorities, mass organizations, and the people is a key factor in ensuring sustainable development and steady progress in the Mekong Delta within the process of integration.

4.3.2. Innovating the Content and Methods of Propaganda and Mobilization, and Expanding and Diversifying Forms of Mass Engagement in Building the Great National Unity Bloc in the Mekong Delta in Accordance with Ho Chi Minh's ideology

Renewing propaganda content and methods, and diversifying mechanisms for mobilizing and uniting the population, constitute a strategic solution for consolidating the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta. To enhance the effectiveness of propaganda and mobilization, it is essential to simultaneously improve the qualifications and competencies of mass mobilization cadres. When professionally trained, this workforce is capable of effectively disseminating information, engaging the populace, and fostering solidarity, patriotism, and civic responsibility - particularly among ethnic minority communities. They also serve as a core force in countering divisive schemes by hostile actors. Building a contingent of mass mobilization cadres with strong expertise, integrity, and responsibility is not only an immediate necessity but also a long-term strategy that contributes to ensuring the region's sustainable development in the future.

4.3.3. Promoting the role of local authorities, political system at all levels and socio-political organizations in building the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's ideology

Promote the role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front.

Promote the role of the Veterans Association.

Promote the role of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union.

Promote the role of the Vietnam Women's Union.

Promote the role of the Vietnam Farmers' Union.

4.3.4. Paying due attention to addressing ethnic and religious issues in building the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's ideology

Promoting the strength of religious solidarity in building the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta, in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's ideology, requires harmonizing national and religious interests, reconciling "secular" and "spiritual" values, and translating the aspiration for development into concrete actions of religious communities, dignitaries, and followers. This constitutes an endogenous driving force that ensures political and social stability and serves as a "key" to strengthening the durability of the great national unity bloc in the region.

Harmonizing the interests of ethnic and religious groups and promoting the people's right to mastery, as emphasized in Ho Chi Minh's ideology, carries strategic significance for building the great national unity bloc. Such an approach not only provides a solid foundation for socio-economic development and improved living standards but also mitigates conflicts, enhances stability, and fosters community cohesion. When policies are implemented fairly and transparently, all social groups unite and contribute to building a prosperous, peaceful, and sustainably developing Mekong Delta.

4.3.5. Caring for economic, cultural-social development and environmental protection in close association with ensuring national defense and security constitutes a crucial requirement for building the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's ideology

Socio-economic and cultural development policies play a pivotal role in this process. Effective implementation of these policies contributes to improving material and spiritual well-being, preserving national cultural identity, and strengthening public trust and social consensus - thereby providing a practical foundation for consolidating the great national unity bloc in line with Ho Chi Minh's ideology.

4.3.6. Strengthening Theoretical Research and Practical Synthesis in Building the Great National Unity Bloc in the Mekong Delta in Accordance with Ho Chi Minh's ideology

In the face of current challenges, the Mekong Delta needs to continue theoretical research and practical synthesis to draw lessons for consolidating the great national unity bloc. This is of critical importance for the stability and sustainable development of the region. When effectively implemented, such measures provide a solid foundation for community cohesion and promote long-term growth in the Mekong Delta.

4.3.7. Timely Counteraction of Hostile Forces' Schemes to Divide the Great National Unity Bloc in the Mekong Delta

Enhancing the capacity to identify and counter attempts to divide the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta is both an urgent task and a long-term strategy. This is not only crucial for ensuring regional stability but also contributes to strengthening nationwide unity, meeting the demands of nation-building and defense in the new era. When authorities and the people act in unison with vigilance and proactive measures, divisive schemes are thwarted, creating conditions for sustainable development and maintaining cohesion among ethnic communities.

CONCLUSION

The great national unity represents a precious tradition, crystallized throughout Vietnamese history from the founding and defense of the nation to the present day. The positive values of national unity were elevated by Ho Chi Minh to a new level, becoming a foundational ideology for both the national liberation revolution and the socialist revolution.

During the research process, the author systematically reviewed and synthesized related studies, clarified the theoretical foundations, analyzed the current situation, and identified key issues in building the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta. This has highlighted existing limitations that need to be addressed.

Based on the identified issues, the author conducted an in-depth analysis to highlight both positive and negative influencing factors, forming the basis for developing orientations and proposing solutions suitable to the practical conditions of the Mekong Delta. The specific solutions include: Continuing to raise awareness and strengthen the Party's leadership in building the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's ideology, meeting the demands of the new era of development; Innovating the content and methods of propaganda and mobilization, and expanding and diversifying forms of mass engagement in building the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta, according to Ho Chi Minh's ideology; Promoting the role of local authorities, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at all levels, and socio-political organizations in building the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta in line with Ho Chi Minh's ideology; Paying due attention to addressing ethnic and religious issues in building the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's ideology; Ensuring economic, socio-cultural development, and environmental protection in close association with national defense and security in building the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta based on Ho Chi Minh's ideology; Strengthening theoretical research and practical synthesis in building the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's ideology; Timely identifying and countering the schemes and tactics of hostile forces aiming to divide the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta.

If the proposed solutions are implemented comprehensively and sustainably under the leadership of Party committees, authorities, and all stakeholders involved in building the great national unity bloc, they will make significant contributions to the overall development of the region. Relations among ethnic groups will be increasingly strengthened, and public trust in the Party's leadership and the State's governance will be enhanced. This is essential for promoting rapid and sustainable development across all sectors in the Mekong Delta, positioning it as a key economic region of the country, and for thwarting any sabotage or distortive schemes by hostile forces.

Based on research, analysis of the current situation, and the issues identified in constructing the national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta now and in the future, the dissertation provides the following recommendations:

First, it is necessary to continue raising awareness among stakeholders about building the great national unity bloc in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's ideology; this effort must be sustained and long-term. Propaganda and education should enable ethnic communities to clearly recognize the importance of national unity in the current period. The content of such propaganda and education must be practical, aligned with the region's realities, and widely disseminated among all ethnic groups.

Second, it is necessary to innovate both the content and methods of building the great national unity bloc in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's ideology. Propaganda activities should be conducted flexibly, creatively, and practically. In addition to traditional methods, social media and digital communication should be leveraged to widely disseminate messages on fostering national unity.

Third, it is essential to promote the role of stakeholders in building the great national unity bloc, with the Vietnam Fatherland Front playing a central role in connecting and maintaining relationships with ethnic communities. It serves as a bridge between the people and the Party and State, consistently safeguarding the legitimate rights and interests of all social strata and ethnic groups.

Fourth, efforts should be strengthened to propagate Hồ Chí Minh's thought on religious solidarity, promote the role of religious dignitaries and followers, and ensure the harmonious balance of interests among ethnic and religious groups through fair and transparent policies. Dialogue with the people should be enhanced,

listening to their concerns and aspirations, to timely resolve disputes and prevent minor issues from escalating into conflicts. At the same time, policies guaranteeing freedom of belief should be improved, and the misuse of religion to divide the great national unity bloc should be prevented.

Fifth, it is necessary to develop reasonable socio-economic policies, particularly for regions facing significant difficulties, to provide ethnic communities with better development opportunities, reduce income disparities, and ensure equitable development opportunities among ethnic groups. Attention should be given to improving living standards, enabling access to quality education, healthcare, and recreational activities.

Sixth, Party committees, authorities, and the Vietnam Fatherland Front should continue to conduct theoretical research and practical synthesis to timely adjust strategies and policies for building the great national unity bloc in accordance with the specific context.

Seventh, it is essential to enhance awareness and capacity to counter schemes aimed at dividing national unity, and to cultivate knowledge and skills for identifying tactics that undermine the great national unity bloc, particularly with respect to harmful, negative, or malicious information circulated in cyberspace.

The above recommendations are expected to contribute to the comprehensive implementation of solutions for building the great national unity bloc in the Mekong Delta in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's ideology, both at present and in the future, ensuring high effectiveness.

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