

HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS

LE CHI CONG

**IDEOLOGICAL WORK OF PARTY
ORGANIZATIONS OF THE NORTHWEST
PROVINCES IN THE CURRENT CONTEXT**

SUMMARY OF DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

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Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vu Hoang Cong



Reviewer 1:
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Reviewer 2:
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Reviewer 3:
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INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale for the Study

Ideological work constitutes a particularly important component of the leadership activities of the Communist Party of Vietnam. Through education, persuasion, orientation and implementation, ideological work contributes to disseminating, safeguarding and developing the Party's ideology; building political trust; and creating unity within the Party and social consensus. Resolution No. 35-NQ/TW of the Politburo identifies safeguarding the Party's ideological foundation and combating and refuting erroneous and hostile viewpoints as an important and regular task of the entire Party, people and armed forces.

As Vietnam enters a new stage of development, globalization, international integration, the development of a socialist-oriented market economy, national digital transformation, and the rapid expansion of the Internet and social media are profoundly changing the information environment, patterns of information reception, and political and social life. Regulation No. 19-QD/TW dated 8 April 2026 on political and ideological work within the Party requires stronger leadership and direction by Party committees and organizations, proactive monitoring of ideological developments, guidance of public opinion, and protection of the Party's ideological foundation under new conditions. Resolution No. 25-NQ/TW dated 22 August 2026 of the Politburo on the Strategy for Ideological Work in the New Context further establishes the principle of being “Proactive - Sharp - Persuasive - Effective”, shifts the focus from information management to shaping social awareness, consolidates public trust, builds social consensus, and inspires national development aspirations. These orientations require comprehensive renewal of the content, modes, organization of forces, data, forecasting and impact evaluation of ideological work.

In the Northwest, these requirements are particularly urgent because the region's mountainous and borderland setting and multi-ethnic population are not merely geographical conditions; they directly shape the content, actors and modes of ideological work. During 2021-2025, the research area comprised Lai Chau, Dien Bien, Son La, Lao Cai and Yen Bai; following the 2025 reorganization of provincial-level administrative units, this area corresponds to the four provinces of Lai Chau, Dien Bien, Son La and Lao Cai. The region has a

large, fragmented territory and dispersed population; many ethnic minority communities differ in language, customs, community institutions and access to information. Together with the requirements of safeguarding sovereignty and border security, the region is frequently affected by natural disasters, vulnerable livelihoods and unequal access to services. Ideological work must therefore connect political orientation with the resolution of practical interests, organize dialogue, provide accurate and timely information, and promote the role of reputable community members and grassroots forces.

During 2021-2025, the Party organizations of the Northwest provinces strengthened their leadership and direction of ideological work, thereby helping consolidate the Party's ideological foundation, improve political awareness, build unity within Party organizations and consensus among the People, and maintain political and social stability. Nevertheless, amid digital transformation and the requirements of operating a two-tier local government system, communicating public policy, and safeguarding the Party's ideological foundation, ideological work continued to reveal limitations in the depth of its content, audience segmentation, digital methods, coordination mechanisms, personnel capacity, data and enabling conditions.

From a scholarly perspective, numerous studies have examined ideological work, Party building, protection of the Party's ideological foundation, political trust, social consensus, and the development of the Northwest. However, no systematic and in-depth study has investigated the ideological work of the Party organizations of the Northwest provinces from a Political Science perspective. Existing research has not fully clarified its mechanisms of influence, regional specificities, or relationships with political trust, social consensus, and political and social stability; nor has it developed an analytical framework and evaluation criteria suited to a mountainous, borderland and multi-ethnic setting. The doctoral candidate therefore selected the topic “Ideological Work of Party Organizations of the Northwest Provinces in the Current Context” for this doctoral dissertation in Political Science.

2. Research Aim

By clarifying the theoretical issues concerning the ideological work of a provincial Party organization and assessing the current state of ideological work of the Party organizations of the Northwest provinces, the dissertation proposes viewpoints and solutions for ideological work in the new context.

3. Research Tasks

- To review domestic and international research related to the dissertation topic.
- To develop the fundamental theoretical issues concerning the ideological work of a provincial Party organization from a Political Science perspective; and to clarify its concept, characteristics, actors, target groups, objectives, content, modes, evaluation criteria, mechanisms of influence, and specific features in the mountainous, borderland and multi-ethnic setting of the Northwest.
- To survey, analyze and assess the current state of ideological work of the Party organizations of the Northwest provinces during 2021-2025; and to identify its achievements, limitations, causes and emerging issues.
- To analyze the new context, identify requirements, and propose viewpoints and solutions for the ideological work of the Party organizations of the Northwest provinces amid digital transformation, organizational restructuring and the operation of the two-tier local government model.

4. Object of the Study

The object of the dissertation is the ideological work of the Party organizations of the Northwest provinces.

5. Scope of the Study

In terms of content, the dissertation examines leadership, direction and implementation; five content groups; and the actors, target groups, modes, effectiveness and factors affecting the ideological work of a provincial Party organization. Spatially, during the 2021-2025 research period, the study covers the five provinces of Lai Chau, Dien Bien, Son La, Lao Cai and Yen Bai. Following the 2025 reorganization of provincial-level administrative units, this area corresponds to the four provinces of Lai Chau, Dien Bien, Son La and Lao Cai, with the former Yen Bai Province now forming part of Lao Cai Province. Questionnaire surveys were conducted in 40 communes and wards in the four post-reorganization provinces, with ten units in each province. Temporally, the study covers 2021-2025; documents, 2025 review reports and materials from early 2026 are used to establish the end-period situation and update the new context.

6. Methodology and Research Methods

The dissertation is grounded in the worldview and methodology of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought, as well as the Party's viewpoints

on Party building, ideological work, and safeguarding its ideological foundation. From a Political Science perspective, the ideological work of a provincial Party organization is approached as a mode of political leadership exercised through education, persuasion, exemplary conduct, orientation and the organization of action. Its effectiveness is identified through changes in awareness, trust, consensus and behavior, as well as results in the performance of political tasks.

The dissertation employs analysis and synthesis, logical and historical methods, systems-structural analysis, comparison, statistics and sociological survey methods. From a sampling frame of 257 commune-level units across the four provinces, each province was treated as a separate stratum; ten communes or wards per province were selected by controlled systematic random sampling without replacement, taking account of locality types. The 600 valid questionnaires were equally allocated: 150 per province and 15 per selected commune or ward, comprising 300 officials and Party members and 300 residents. Respondents were selected through purposive and quota sampling. Accordingly, the data are used for descriptive statistics and within-sample comparisons, not for extrapolating proportions to the entire population of the Northwest.

The dissertation also conducted ten in-depth interviews with five researchers and five leaders or managers. Questionnaire data were processed using frequencies, percentages, means, standard deviations, ranks and composite indices. Results were cross-checked against in-depth interviews, official documents and local reports in accordance with the principle of triangulation. Indicators that were not comparable across provinces or years were neither mechanically aggregated nor used to rank localities.

7. New Contributions of the Dissertation

First, the dissertation contributes to the theory of the ideological work of a provincial Party organization from a Political Science perspective by conceptualizing it as a mode of political leadership and an exercise of political power through education, persuasion, exemplary conduct, orientation, and the construction of social consensus.

Second, it develops an analytical framework structured around objectives, actors, target groups, content, modes and effectiveness; clarifies the mechanisms

of influence and the specific features of the Northwest; and establishes criteria for evaluating the ideological work of a provincial Party organization.

Third, it provides a relatively comprehensive empirical assessment of the ideological work of the Party organizations of the Northwest provinces during 2021-2025 by combining official documents and reports from the five provinces within the research area, 600 survey questionnaires collected in the four post-reorganization provinces, and ten in-depth interviews. On that basis, it identifies emerging issues and proposes three viewpoints and seven groups of solutions for ideological work in the new context.

These contributions connect the theoretical framework with empirical evidence while making explicit the scope of generalization and the limitations of the sampling design, thereby ensuring that the conclusions remain verifiable.

8. Theoretical and Practical Significance of the Dissertation

Theoretically, the dissertation advances a Political Science approach to the ideological work of a provincial Party organization and clarifies the mechanism through which ideological orientation is transformed into trust, consensus and action, particularly under the mountainous, borderland and multi-ethnic conditions of the Northwest.

Practically, the findings provide a basis for Provincial Party Committees, advisory bodies, and forces within the political systems of the Northwest to identify ideological issues and select content and modes appropriate to each locality. They also support linking ideological work with the resolution of practical interests, border protection, disaster response, digital transformation, and the consolidation of public trust. The dissertation may also serve as a reference for research and teaching.

9. Structure of the Dissertation

In addition to the Introduction, Conclusion, List of the Author's Published Works Related to the Dissertation, References and Appendices, the main body comprises four chapters and fourteen sections.

Chapter 1

REVIEW OF RESEARCH ON THE IDEOLOGICAL WORK OF PROVINCIAL PARTY ORGANIZATIONS AND PARTY ORGANIZATIONS OF THE NORTHWEST PROVINCES

1.1. Domestic Studies

Domestic studies have clarified many dimensions of ideas, ideology and ideological work from the perspectives of philosophy, Political Science, political sociology, leadership studies and Party building. Textbooks, monographs and studies published by Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics and numerous scholars have examined the concept, functions, principles, content, modes and requirements for renewing ideological work. They affirm that it is not merely communication in a narrow sense, but also a process of education, persuasion, the cultivation of trust, the orientation of action, and the protection of the Party's ideological foundation.

Studies of ideological work within local Party organizations, information and education work, political trust, social consensus, and the safeguarding of the Party's ideological foundation have identified achievements in the study of Party resolutions, political theory education, press and media activities, and public-opinion monitoring. They have also identified limitations in the practical relevance of content, forecasting capacity, digital communication, intersectoral coordination and effectiveness evaluation.

For the Northwest, studies on regional development, ethnicity, religion, national defense and security, mass mobilization, grassroots political systems, and the role of reputable community members provide important evidence on the region's mountainous, borderland and multi-ethnic conditions. Materials from Lai Chau, Dien Bien, Son La and Lao Cai show that ideological work is closely intertwined with the resolution of livelihood issues, the maintenance of grassroots security, and the effective use of community institutions.

However, most domestic studies adopt a sectoral or locality-specific approach. They have not examined the ideological work of the Party organizations of the Northwest provinces as a distinct object from a Political Science perspective, nor have they integrated mechanisms of influence and evaluation criteria with empirical evidence from the research area.

1.2. International Studies

International research on ideology, power, legitimacy and social consensus suggests ways of explaining the role of ideology in orienting cognition, organizing trust, and maintaining political and social order. Theories of political communication, agenda-setting, framing, persuasion and digital communication help identify the mechanisms by which information is transformed into political attitudes, trust and behavior.

Research on local governance, public communication, misinformation, polarization and interaction on digital platforms emphasizes information transparency, dialogue, policy feedback, audience segmentation and impact evaluation. These findings offer valuable methodological and mechanistic insights, but they must be applied selectively and in accordance with the nature, objectives and principles of the ideological work of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

1.3. Assessment of the Research Review

Existing studies provide foundations concerning the concept, functions, content and modes of ideological work; the relationships among ideology, power, trust and consensus; and the requirement to combine “building” with “combating” and grassroots engagement with digital communication. They also clarify many socioeconomic, ethnic, religious and security characteristics of the Northwest.

The principal research gaps are the absence of a sufficiently developed conception of the ideological work of a provincial Party organization as a mode of political leadership; limited analysis of its mechanisms of influence and Northwestern specificities; the lack of a criteria framework linking content and modes with changes in awareness, trust, consensus and behavior; and insufficient comparative data and cross-source verification.

1.4. Issues for Further Investigation in the Dissertation

First, to formulate the concept, political characteristics and structure of the ideological work of a provincial Party organization.

Second, to clarify the effects of the political and information environment, socioeconomic conditions, interests, actor capacity and enabling conditions; and to identify the specific mountainous, borderland and multi-ethnic features of the Northwest.

Third, to establish outcome- and impact-oriented evaluation criteria without equating the number of activities with effectiveness.

Fourth, to examine the situation in Lai Chau, Dien Bien, Son La, Lao Cai and Yen Bai during 2021-2025 by combining official documents and reports with a sociological survey and in-depth interviews.

Fifth, to analyze the new context and identify requirements, viewpoints and solutions for ideological work amid digital transformation, the two-tier local government model, and the region's specific conditions.

Chapter 1 Summary

Chapter 1 systematizes domestic and international studies and clearly identifies the contributions that can be built upon, their limitations and gaps, and five issues for further investigation in the dissertation.

Chapter 2

FUNDAMENTAL THEORETICAL ISSUES CONCERNING THE IDEOLOGICAL WORK OF A PROVINCIAL PARTY ORGANIZATION

2.1. Key Concepts and Political Characteristics of the Ideological Work of a Provincial Party Organization

Ideas are products of cognition that reflect objective reality in human consciousness while also expressing viewpoints, beliefs, attitudes, ideals and orientations for action. Ideology is a system of viewpoints, values and ideals generalized at the theoretical level and associated with the interests, objectives and modes of organizing power of social forces. Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought constitute the ideological foundation of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

Ideological work is the purposive and organized activity of political actors intended to influence cognition, emotions, beliefs, will and behavior; disseminate, safeguard and develop an ideology; and create unity for the attainment of political objectives. The Party's ideological work is a particularly important component of its leadership activities, encompassing theoretical research, political theory education, communication and education, public-opinion guidance, culture and the arts, and protection of the Party's ideological foundation.

The ideological work of a provincial Party organization is the purposive and systematic leadership, direction and organization of implementation by that Party organization and other actors in the local political system in order to disseminate, educate, safeguard and develop the Party's ideological foundation;

concretize its lines, guidelines and policies; orient the awareness, emotions, beliefs, will and actions of officials, Party members and the People; create unity within the Party organization and social consensus; and thereby contribute to the performance of political tasks and the protection of the Party's ideological foundation.

The ideological work of provincial Party organizations has four political characteristics. It is a principal mode of political leadership exercised through education, persuasion, exemplary conduct, orientation and the organization of action. It is a locally embedded mode of exercising political power through ideological and cultural influence and the cultivation of trust. It contributes to constructing legitimacy and social consensus and is undertaken by multiple actors under a single center of leadership. It is also a component of local political governance whose effects are indirect and cumulative and must be assessed both qualitatively and quantitatively. The first characteristic concerns the transformation of Party lines and development objectives into conscious awareness, trust and action. The second requires combining a common ideological foundation with province-specific adaptation to demographic composition, interests, culture, religion and information environments. The third indicates that trust derives not only from the soundness of policies but also from dialogue, policy implementation, exemplary responsibility and the protection of legitimate interests. The fourth requires evaluation along the sequence of access, accurate understanding, trust, action and political outcomes, rather than equating activity counts with social impact.

2.2. Constituent Elements of the Ideological Work of a Provincial Party Organization

The immediate objectives are to create unity of awareness, ideology, will and action within provincial Party organizations; strengthen the political steadfastness, trust and revolutionary ethics of officials and Party members; and consolidate public consensus and participation. The long-term objectives are to safeguard the Party's ideological foundation, enhance leadership capacity, promote great national unity, and maintain political and social stability.

The actors include Party committees, heads of Party committees, the Provincial Party Committee's Commission for Information and Education, advisory bodies, government authorities, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, socio-political organizations, armed forces, press agencies, provincial political schools,

rapporteurs, grassroots communicators, officials and Party members. Target groups comprise officials, Party members and population groups within the province, including online audiences. The Provincial Party Committee is the leading body of the provincial Party organization between two provincial Party Congresses; it is not synonymous with the provincial Party organization as a whole. The Provincial Party Committee's Commission for Information and Education serves as the core advisory body, while other actors coordinate implementation under the leadership of the Party committee.

The actors include Party committees and their heads, the Provincial Party Committee's Commission for Information and Education, advisory bodies, government authorities, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, socio-political organizations, armed forces, press agencies, provincial political schools, rapporteurs, grassroots communicators, officials and Party members. The target groups comprise officials, Party members and population groups in the locality, including online publics. Throughout the dissertation, the advisory body is referred to collectively as the Provincial Party Committee's Commission for Information and Education: before 1 March 2025, this was the Commission for Information and Education; from 1 March 2025 through 31 August 2026, the Commission for Information, Education and Mass Mobilization; and from 1 September 2026 onward, once again the Commission for Information and Education, with mass mobilization functions transferred to the Party Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and provincial mass organizations. This distinction accurately reflects organizational changes over time while preserving conceptual continuity. In actor relationships, the Party committee is the center of leadership and the Commission for Information and Education is the core advisory body; state management agencies address sector-specific causes; and socio-political and community forces organize mobilization, dialogue and feedback. Broad coordination must not obscure the responsibility of the Party committee and its head.

The five principal content groups are: education in Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh Thought and the Party's lines; communication of guidelines, policies and law; education in revolutionary ethics, the cultivation of trust and exemplary responsibility; the monitoring, analysis, forecasting and orientation of public opinion and the building of consensus; and the safeguarding and development of the Party's ideological foundation and the combating and refutation of erroneous and hostile viewpoints.

The principal modes comprise leadership through resolutions and programs and through inspection; political theory education; communication, political communication and the provision of authoritative information; dialogue, persuasion, mobilization and the promotion of democracy; exemplary conduct and influence through practical action; ideological struggle; and the application of technology, digital data and multiplatform communication.

2.3. Criteria for Evaluating the Ideological Work of a Provincial Party Organization

The criteria system is derived from the objectives and political functions of ideological work; its objective-actor-target group-content-mode structure; political and legal requirements; and the observability of empirical data. The criteria cover actor capacity, implementation processes, immediate outcomes and effects on political tasks. Counts of documents, conferences or news items are not treated as substitutes for effectiveness. Inputs are identified through leadership capacity, personnel, coordination, resources and data. Processes are assessed in terms of accuracy, sufficiency, timeliness and suitability for target groups. Immediate outcomes are reflected in access, understanding, trust and participation. Ultimate impacts are reflected in unity within the provincial Party organization, social consensus, the capacity to address ideological issues, and contributions to development, national defense and security, and local stability.

The evaluation framework comprises four dimensions: content, modes, effectiveness and influencing factors. Specific criteria focus on the quality of public-opinion monitoring, forecasting and orientation; the relevance and innovation of content and modes in the digital environment; changes in awareness, trust, exemplary responsibility, consensus and behavior; the effectiveness of safeguarding the Party's ideological foundation; and contributions to stability and the performance of political tasks.

2.4. Mechanisms of Influence and Specific Features of the Ideological Work of a Provincial Party Organization in the Northwest

The effectiveness of ideological work is produced through three closely interconnected mechanisms. The political and information environment and cyberspace affect the speed, scope and manner of information reception and the formation of public opinion. Socioeconomic conditions, interests and governance outcomes exert influence through perceptions of opportunity, fairness, participation and benefits. The capacity of Party committees and personnel,

coordination among forces, infrastructure, data, inspection and feedback determines whether orientations are transformed into trust, consensus and action. The digital environment creates opportunities to broaden reach and increase interaction, but it also shortens the time available for verification and amplifies false information. Authoritative information must therefore be accurate, early, verifiable and linked to a clear feedback channel. Development outcomes and the quality of public service are both conditions for and practical evidence of ideological work. Trust is strengthened when policies are clearly explained, fairly implemented and produce tangible benefits; when land, livelihood, social security or disaster-related problems are addressed slowly, the gap between messages and lived experience may widen. Actor capacity affects the entire cycle of identifying problems, selecting messages, coordinating, organizing interaction, and using feedback to adjust leadership.

The Northwest's specific features arise from its mountainous, borderland and fragmented geography; multi-ethnic, multilingual and multi-religious composition; disparities in development and access to services; vulnerability to natural disasters and livelihood shocks; and requirements of sovereignty and border security. Accordingly, content must address ethnicity, religion, borders, livelihoods and disasters; actors must coordinate political, armed, border-sector and community forces; modes must emphasize grassroots engagement, culturally and linguistically appropriate communication, exemplary conduct, dialogue and digital capacity; and effectiveness must be verified through trust, consensus, information handling, development-oriented action and community security. Four distinct theoretical requirements follow. Regarding content, political orientation must be connected with ethnicity, religion, borders, livelihoods, production transformation and disaster prevention and response. Regarding actors, coordination is required among Party committees, government authorities, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, public security forces, local military forces, border guards, militia and self-defense forces, customs, forest rangers, quarantine services and community actors. Regarding modes, appropriate language and cultural forms must be used; village elders, village heads and reputable community members must be engaged; and direct dialogue must be combined with multiplatform communication. Regarding effectiveness, results must be verified through information reception, consensus, behavioral change, security maintenance and community development.

Chapter 2 Summary

Chapter 2 establishes the concept, four political characteristics, constituent elements, criteria system, three mechanisms of influence, and specific features of the Northwest, thereby providing the direct theoretical benchmark for the survey and assessment in Chapter 3.

Chapter 3

CURRENT STATE OF IDEOLOGICAL WORK OF PARTY ORGANIZATIONS OF THE NORTHWEST PROVINCES AND EMERGING ISSUES

3.1. Local Conditions, Organizational Arrangements and Objectives of Ideological Work during 2021-2025

Lai Chau, Dien Bien, Son La and Lao Cai share mountainous and borderland conditions, fragmented terrain, dispersed populations, multi-ethnic communities and uneven development. Each province also has particular focal issues: ethnic minority areas and the elimination of outdated customs in Lai Chau; education in historical traditions, borders, migration, ethnicity and religion in Dien Bien; commodity agriculture, community culture and disaster prevention in Son La; and border-gate economic activity, tourism, urban-highland relations and the development space following administrative reorganization in Lao Cai. These characteristics directly shape the content, forces and modes of ideological work. During the study period, all four provinces were affected by organizational restructuring, digital transformation, disasters, cross-border information flows and demands for better public services, although the degree and manifestations differed. The dissertation therefore compares common task groups rather than treating a single locality-specific statistic as representative of the entire region. Reports from 2025 and early 2026 are used only to verify the end-period situation; conclusions for the full period are based on documentary series and convergence among multiple sources.

Cultural, ethnic and religious diversity and community institutions are both conditions of influence and resources for ideological work. Village elders and heads, reputable community members, religious dignitaries, village conventions and community activities help communicate policies in forms close to the People. Differences in language, educational attainment, livelihoods, information

access and digital skills, however, require audience segmentation rather than a uniform approach.

The actor network comprises Party committees, Provincial Party Committees' Commissions for Information and Education, government authorities, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, mass organizations, armed forces, the press, provincial political schools, rapporteurs, grassroots communicators, public-opinion collaborators, Steering Committees 35 and community forces. Under the two-tier local government model, the provincial level assumes a stronger role in orientation, coordination, support and inspection, while communes and villages are the frontline for policy explanation and the reception of public concerns. The advantage of close local engagement is accompanied by pressures related to workload, digital skills, data and enabling conditions.

During 2021-2025, ideological work consistently aimed to safeguard the Party's ideological foundation, strengthen unity within Party organizations and consensus among the People, and contribute to implementing provincial Party Congress resolutions. The five principal tasks were political theory education and the study and dissemination of resolutions; communication on development, ethnic and religious affairs, national defense and security; ethical education and exemplary conduct; public-opinion monitoring, orientation and dialogue; and protection of the Party's ideological foundation and struggle in cyberspace. Performance was assessed at three levels: correct and sufficient implementation; suitability for target groups and localities; and changes in awareness, trust, consensus and action.

3.2. Implementation of Ideological Work by Party Organizations of the Northwest Provinces

Throughout 2021-2025, the Party organizations of the Northwest provinces maintained leadership and direction, the study of Party resolutions, and political theory education through combined in-person and online formats. They mobilized rapporteurs, grassroots communicators, press agencies, bulletins, Party-cell meetings and grassroots information channels. Lai Chau expanded its videoconference network and ethnic-language communication; Dien Bien combined political theory education with the historical tradition of the Dien Bien Phu Victory; Son La linked it to studying and following President Ho Chi Minh and to development tasks; and Lao Cai emphasized political communication and the consolidation of consensus in a newly configured development space.

Implementation generally achieved broad coverage and was maintained regularly throughout the term, but the practical relevance of content, opportunities for two-way exchange and digital application remained uneven across localities and target groups. The 600 questionnaires from 40 communes and wards were allocated equally, with 150 responses per province, comprising 75 officials and Party members and 75 residents, thereby limiting bias toward any one province or respondent group.

The balanced survey across the four provinces shows that the study of Party resolutions achieved a mean score of 4.19; education in Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought, 4.12; and revolutionary ethics education, 4.09. The “building” content index reached $CI_XAY = 3.99$ and the composite ideological-work content index reached $ICTT = 3.84$. By contrast, the application of digital technology in studying resolutions scored only 3.39, indicating that digital innovation in modes of delivery had not kept pace with results in foundational content.

Policy communication addressed issues directly relevant to the four provinces, including poverty reduction, ethnicity, religion, new-style rural development, production, tourism, cultural preservation, disaster prevention and response, digital transformation, the elimination of outdated customs, organizational restructuring and the two-tier local government model. It combined conferences, oral communication, press, radio and television, social media, community activities and the participation of reputable community members.

Period reports and end-2025 evidence show that each province developed practices suited to its local setting. The value of such evidence lies in explaining implementation structures, not in aggregating incomparable units of measurement or ranking localities. Results are sustainable only when communication is tied to specific problems, includes dialogue and community participation, and is verified by changes in awareness and behavior. In-depth interviews indicate markedly better effectiveness where Party committees exercised direct leadership, heads of agencies engaged in dialogue, information was supplied early, and specialized agencies simultaneously addressed practical causes. Conversely, merely repeating documents, lacking an authorized respondent, or failing to communicate the results of problem resolution tends to reduce persuasiveness.

Communication on ethnic policies achieved a mean score of 4.09; practically relevant socioeconomic development, 3.91; religious policy, 3.90; poverty reduction and new-style rural development, 3.86; and the inspiration of development aspirations, 3.80. These relatively high results nevertheless indicate a need for deeper communication on development, the digital economy, public services, prevention of online fraud, and the translation of Party guidelines into motivation for self-reliant advancement.

Revolutionary ethics education was connected with Party building and rectification, studying and following Ho Chi Minh's thought, morality and style, exemplary responsibility, and the quality of public service. Experience in the four provinces shows that ethical standards become more persuasive when embodied in conduct, concrete models and tangible problem-solving outcomes.

Exemplary conduct and practical action achieved $CI_NG = 4.09$, the highest among the four mode groups. The model of officials maintaining close contact with the grassroots achieved a mean score of 4.20, and exemplary responsibility 4.04. The ideological-work effectiveness index HQCTT reached 3.92, including political awareness at 4.02, political trust at 3.99 and social consensus at 3.96. These findings show that communication is sustainable only when validated by exemplary conduct, implementation quality and responsiveness to legitimate interests.

The provinces maintained public-opinion reports, press briefings, rapporteur conferences, voter meetings, citizen-reception mechanisms, and information channels through the Vietnam Fatherland Front, mass organizations, the press and social media in order to monitor and guide public opinion and build consensus. These mechanisms supported the handling of organizational restructuring, disasters, security, ethnic and religious matters; however, early detection, trend analysis, information provision and post-dialogue feedback remained uneven.

The four provinces consolidated Steering Committees 35, expert and collaborator networks, expanded positive information, and strengthened skills for identifying harmful information. Nevertheless, struggle in cyberspace achieved a mean score of 3.32 and the refutation of erroneous viewpoints 3.52, significantly lower than the “building” content. This reflects a gap between the requirements of safeguarding the Party's ideological foundation in the digital environment and implementation capacity in some localities, especially at the grassroots level.

3.3. Assessment of the Ideological Work of Party Organizations of the Northwest Provinces

The main achievements are stronger leadership by Party committees; the maintenance of political education, the study and dissemination of resolutions, and communication on local tasks; a broad actor network; and the effective use of grassroots engagement, exemplary conduct, reputable community members and community institutions. Political trust, solidarity and consensus have generally been consolidated. All ten in-depth interviewees agreed that more evident change occurred where heads directly led, engaged in dialogue and linked communication with the resolution of livelihood issues. Direct channels remained prominent but needed to be combined with digital channels. Quantitatively, ICTT = 3.84, PCTT = 3.85 and HQCTT = 3.92 were all high. Exemplary conduct and direct mobilization outperformed digital political theory education and online communication. Convergence among survey data, reports and interviews confirms the advantages of political education, grassroots engagement and the credibility of community actors, while showing that outcomes varied across content, modes, localities and time.

The principal limitations arise not from a lack of activities but from insufficient depth, adaptability and impact. Content remains weighted toward one-way dissemination; the combination of “building” and “combating,” dialogue, policy feedback and audience segmentation is uneven; data capacity, forecasting, digital communication and the refutation of false information remain weak; and personnel, inter-force coordination, infrastructure and evaluation are still oriented toward activity completion. Objective causes associated with geography, disasters, development disparities and the information environment interact with subjective causes related to awareness, leadership capacity, officials' skills, allocation of responsibility, investment and feedback mechanisms. Leaders and managers emphasized information delays, concurrently held duties among grassroots officials, coordination responsibilities, and the absence of systematic post-communication monitoring. Experts highlighted the gap between digitizing tools and transforming processes, and limitations in data analysis, information verification, and the evaluation of changes in awareness and behavior. Their shared conclusion was the need to move from reporting quantities to identifying problems, causes, responsible focal points, deadlines and feedback outcomes.

Six interrelated issues emerge: (1) strengthening the leadership responsibility of Party committees and their heads; (2) renewing content so that it is practical and tailored to target groups; (3) combining grassroots engagement, dialogue and exemplary conduct with digital communication; (4) enhancing forecasting, public-opinion governance and protection of the Party's ideological foundation; (5) developing personnel, delineating responsibilities, sharing data and coordinating forces specific to the region; and (6) mobilizing cultural and social resources, ensuring infrastructure, livelihoods and social security, and renewing impact evaluation. These issues are directly linked with Chapter 4: leadership responsibility corresponds to Solution 4.3.1; content and audience segmentation to 4.3.2; modes, data and public opinion to 4.3.3 and 4.3.4; personnel and coordination to 4.3.5; and region-specific resources and enabling conditions to 4.3.6 and 4.3.7.

Chapter 3 Summary

Chapter 3 assesses the ideological work of the Party organizations of the Northwest provinces throughout 2021-2025 using data balanced across the four surveyed provinces, two respondent groups and 40 localities; data from 2025 and early 2026 are used to establish the end-period situation. The achievements, limitations, causes and six emerging issues provide the direct basis for identifying the new context, viewpoints and solutions in Chapter 4.

Chapter 4

NEW CONTEXT, VIEWPOINTS AND SOLUTIONS FOR THE IDEOLOGICAL WORK OF PARTY ORGANIZATIONS OF THE NORTHWEST PROVINCES

4.1. The New Context and Requirements for Ideological Work

The ideological environment will continue to shift rapidly into digital space and be shaped by algorithms and artificial intelligence. Misinformation, fraud and localized information crises may increase, making data, forecasting, verification and rapid response essential capacities. As the two-tier local government system operates, the focus will shift from organizational stabilization to validation through the quality of public service; social attitudes will become more closely associated with people's experiences of administrative procedures, officials, land, livelihoods and resource allocation.

Extreme natural disasters, population movements, cross-border crime, ethnic and religious issues may combine to produce complex ideological situations. Border-gate economic development, tourism, commodity agriculture, digital transformation and population rearrangement will create new drivers while also altering interests and potentially creating vulnerable groups. Ideological work must inspire development aspirations while identifying emerging interest gaps and protecting legitimate rights and interests at an early stage.

The new requirements are to maintain Party character, scientific rigor and combativeness while strengthening the capacity to explain policies to different target groups; shift from reaction to forecasting, early warning and data-based public-opinion governance; combine grassroots engagement with mastery of cyberspace; connect communication with exemplary conduct and service quality; coordinate across sectors, levels and border forces; translate breakthrough resolutions into action programs; and evaluate results through changes in awareness, trust, consensus and behavior, together with political-task outcomes.

4.2. Viewpoints on the Ideological Work of Party Organizations of the Northwest Provinces in the New Context

First, ideological work must be placed under the direct leadership of Party committees, with primary responsibility resting on their heads; public trust, consensus and service outcomes should be the measures of effectiveness. Second, renewal must be comprehensive across “building” and “combating,” grassroots engagement and mastery of cyberspace, and communication, exemplary conduct, dialogue and the resolution of practical interests. Third, mobilizing the combined strength of all forces must be accompanied by clear responsibilities, data sharing and coordination among forces specific to border areas.

The three viewpoints form a unified orientation: Party committees exercise leadership and bear responsibility; content and modes must be verified through trust, action and practical benefits; and the strength of the entire system can be realized only when coordination centers, procedures, data and responsibilities are clearly established.

4.3. Solutions for the Ideological Work of Party Organizations of the Northwest Provinces in the New Context

First, strengthen the leadership and direction of Party committees. Every major policy on ethnicity, religion, land, livelihoods, digital transformation, organizational restructuring and the two-tier local government model must be

accompanied by a plan for ideological work, communication and feedback. Heads must directly monitor developments, conduct dialogue and provide explanations. Leadership results in ideological work and consensus building should be incorporated into evaluation criteria. The Provincial Party Committee's Commission for Information and Education should provide advice through a cycle of forecasting, problem identification, implementation, inspection, evaluation and adjustment.

Second, renew content to consolidate the ideological foundation, political trust and social consensus. Education in Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh Thought and the Party's lines must be connected with national unity, border protection, poverty reduction, production development, digital transformation, cultural preservation and the elimination of outdated customs. Resolutions should be translated into clear messages, question-and-answer materials, situations and tasks tailored to each level and locality.

Policy communication should focus on the two-tier local government system, public services, ethnicity, religion, land, livelihoods, poverty reduction, health care, education, disasters, online fraud, and national defense and security. It should be designed for officials and Party members, ethnic minority people, residents of remote and border areas, young people, reputable community members and religious dignitaries.

Third, renew modes toward digital political communication, policy dialogue and public-opinion governance. Develop an ecosystem comprising channels operated by Provincial Party Committees, government authorities and Commissions for Information and Education; press agencies; information portals; commune-level pages; official social-media accounts; grassroots broadcasting and community groups. Combine oral communication, officials maintaining close contact with the grassroots, and reputable community members with video, infographics, podcasts, digital materials and public-opinion data.

Policy communication must take place before, during and after policy issuance. Public concerns should be classified, transferred for resolution, and followed by the disclosure of appropriate results. Public-opinion governance must move from recording opinions to detection, analysis, forecasting, orientation and resolution. Grassroots reports, the press, social media, citizen

reception, public services and rapid surveys should be connected to provide early warning, rapid verification, accurate information and timely feedback.

Fourth, strengthen protection of the Party's ideological foundation and the refutation of erroneous viewpoints in cyberspace. Combine “building” with “combating”; develop repositories of arguments organized around local issues; establish graduated response mechanisms; consolidate Steering Committees 35 and core forces; and provide verified information, causal explanations and guidance for action. Officials and the People should also be equipped to check sources, recognize manipulation, refrain from sharing unverified information, and report information through the correct channels.

Fifth, develop personnel and strengthen inter-force coordination. Personnel must possess political steadfastness, practical knowledge, mobilization skills, and competence in policy communication, dialogue, data analysis, forecasting and situation handling; commune-level personnel should be prioritized in the immediate term. Establish regular and situation-specific coordination between the Provincial Party Committee's Commission for Information and Education and government authorities, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, press agencies, provincial political schools, public security, military and border-guard forces, militia and self-defense forces, customs, forest rangers, quarantine services and communities; define focal points, data, authority and response deadlines. Competency standards should be measured by post-training application, communication products, dialogue, situation handling and feedback from employing agencies, not merely by certificates. Coordination regulations must function in border, border-gate, disaster, epidemic, ethnic and religious situations and clearly identify verification forces, spokespersons, community-access channels and arrangements for drills.

Sixth, mobilize region-specific cultural and social resources. The cultures of ethnic groups, village institutions, reputable community members, village elders and heads, and religious dignitaries should be regarded as an environment, means and co-actors of ideological work. Party guidelines should be explained through appropriate languages, symbols, stories, community activities and ethnic languages where necessary, and connected with cultural preservation, the

elimination of outdated customs, poverty reduction, forest and border protection, and exemplary responsibility.

Seventh, ensure mechanisms, resources and socioeconomic conditions. Improve coordination regulations between the Provincial Party Committee's Commission for Information and Education, the mass-mobilization advisory body under the Party Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and Provincial Mass Organizations, and other relevant forces. Ensure information infrastructure, data, equipment, funding, training and digital-content production capacity; and connect ideological work with livelihood development, social security, public-service quality and the resolution of livelihood concerns. The reassignment of mass mobilization functions from 1 September 2026 requires shared data and coordination procedures to prevent gaps among ideological orientation, the monitoring of public concerns and sentiments, mobilization and feedback. Resources should prioritize communes and remote and border areas, including investment in broadcasting, digital connectivity, multilingual products and public-opinion monitoring tools. Development, social security and livelihood outcomes should simultaneously be treated as the material basis of trust.

Renew inspection, supervision and evaluation by combining qualitative and quantitative approaches and measuring content, modes, changes in awareness, trust and consensus, the capacity to safeguard the Party's ideological foundation, and contributions to political tasks. Evaluation results must be used to adjust policies, messages, modes, personnel and resources. The seven solution groups should be implemented in order of priority, with clear actors, timelines, outputs, indicators and risks.

Chapter 4 Summary

Chapter 4 forecasts four trends and identifies seven new requirements, three viewpoints and seven groups of solutions. The solutions form an integrated cycle encompassing leadership, content, modes, protection of the ideological foundation, personnel and coordination, region-specific resources and enabling conditions. They directly address the limitations, causes and issues identified in Chapter 3.

CONCLUSION

The ideological work of a provincial Party organization is a mode of political leadership exercised through education, persuasion, exemplary conduct, orientation and the organization of action. It contributes to building the ideological foundation, consolidating trust, creating unity within the Party organization and building consensus among the People. In the Northwest, ideological work is simultaneously influenced by mountainous and borderland conditions, multi-ethnicity, natural disasters, livelihoods, national defense and security, and the digital environment.

The dissertation has addressed four research tasks within a coherent logic: the literature review identifies the research gaps; Chapter 2 develops the concept, characteristics, structure, criteria, mechanisms of influence and specific features; Chapter 3 uses the period's objectives and the criteria framework to assess the current state; and Chapter 4 transforms the achievements, limitations, causes and emerging issues into forecasts, viewpoints and solutions.

Research covering the five provinces of Lai Chau, Dien Bien, Son La, Lao Cai and Yen Bai during 2021-2025, combined with surveys in the four post-reorganization provinces, shows that the provincial Party organizations have developed broad actor networks, maintained political theory education and policy communication, monitored public opinion, and promoted exemplary conduct and community forces, thereby contributing to political and social stability. However, the pattern of results is uneven: “building” content performs better than “combating” content; grassroots engagement is stronger than digital communication; and political trust and consensus are stronger than the capacity to identify, verify and refute false information.

The main limitations concern depth, adaptability and the capacity to generate impact: content remains weighted toward dissemination; dialogue, feedback and audience segmentation are uneven; data, forecasting and digital response remain weak; and personnel, coordination, infrastructure and evaluation methods have not kept pace with requirements. On that basis, the dissertation proposes three viewpoints and seven groups of solutions for the ideological work of the Party organizations of the Northwest provinces. These solutions implement the orientations of Resolution No. 25-NQ/TW and emphasize the responsibility of Party committees; renewal of content and modes; safeguarding

the ideological foundation; personnel and coordination; cultural resources and exemplary conduct; infrastructure and data; and livelihoods and social security.

Reliability is supported by the convergence of local reports, 600 questionnaires from 40 communes and wards, ten in-depth interviews and contextual analysis. A sample balanced across the four provinces and two respondent groups supports descriptive comparison and limits the dominance of any one locality. Differences are used only to identify influencing conditions, not to rank provinces. Because respondents were selected through quota and purposive procedures, the value of the data lies in describing patterns, making within-sample comparisons and cross-validating multiple sources, rather than extrapolating sample proportions to the entire population of the Northwest.

The study's practical value lies first in the possibility of using its criteria framework for self-assessment of ideological work by province, locality and target group. While maintaining a common logic of objectives, actors, content, modes and effectiveness, each locality can select suitable indicators, establish baselines, monitor change and adjust priorities; a rigid dataset need not be imposed everywhere. Implementation should begin with the responsibility of heads, coordination mechanisms, personnel, data and infrastructure, and subsequently expand to digital products, multilingual content and impact evaluation. Each plan must clearly identify the lead agency, resources, schedule, outputs, risks and an appropriate mechanism for disclosing results.

The dissertation also recognizes its limitations. Respondents were selected by quota and purposively within randomly selected localities; reporting indicators were not fully consistent across provinces and years; and some interview data could not be fully disclosed because of confidentiality requirements. Conclusions are therefore presented according to the degree of evidentiary convergence, without treating data from a single point in time or locality as a general trend. Future research may expand probability sampling at the individual level, standardize indicators over time, increase behavioral and digital data, and conduct before-and-after evaluations of selected interventions. Continued verification along these lines would strengthen the scientific basis for providing leadership in ideological work and for consolidating trust, consensus and political and social stability in the Northwest region.

LIST OF THE AUTHOR'S PUBLISHED WORKS RELATED TO THE DISSERTATION

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