

HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS

NGUYEN THI DIEM MY

**TRA VINH PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEE'S LEADERSHIP IN
IMPLEMENTING ETHNIC POLICIES FROM 2010 TO 2020**

SUMMARY OF DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

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Academic Supervisors:

1. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tran Thi Vui



2. Dr. Vu Trong Hung



Reviewer 1:

Reviewer 2:

Reviewer 3:

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INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale for the Study

Ethnic policy represents the concretization of the Party and State's lines and guidelines regarding ethnic affairs, directly impacting relations among domestic ethnic groups and international relations with nation-states during the process of national development and global integration. The goal of ethnic policies pursued by the Party and State is to exploit and leverage the country's full potential to serve, improve, and elevate the quality of people's lives, while creating optimal conditions for ethnic minorities to escape poverty and backwardness, successfully implementing the strategy of great national unity, and building a unified, strong national community.

Deeply cognizant of the significance of this matter, since its inception, the Party and State have consistently maintained fundamental principles of ethnic policy: great national unity is the overarching strategy of the Vietnamese revolution; all ethnic groups are equal, united, respectful, and mutually supportive in their joint development; and ethnic relations must be harmoniously resolved while strictly prohibiting any act of ethnic discrimination or division. This principle has been manifested through a comprehensive system of ethnic policies that have positively influenced socio-economic development and all facets of ethnic minorities lives, contributing to ensuring political, economic, cultural, and social equality among ethnic groups, continually fostering the strength of the great national unity block, preserving the fine identity of each ethnic group, and harmoniously resolving inter-ethnic relations.

Tra Vinh is a province situated between the Tien and Hau rivers and bordering the East Sea, occupying a strategic socio-economic and national

defense-security position, inhabited mainly by three ethnic groups: Kinh, Khmer, and Hoa. The province's population exceeds 1 million, with the Kinh accounting for 67.76%, the Khmer accounting for nearly 31.53% (in several localities within the province, the Khmer population constitutes a high proportion; for instance, Tra Cu district has a population of 146,399, of which the Khmer account for 92,729 people or 63.34%), the Hoa accounting for 0.66%, and other ethnic groups making up the remaining 0.05%.

The ethnic community in the province possesses a rich tradition of unity in conquering nature and resisting foreign aggression. Entering the period of national construction and development, continuing to promote the spirit of “All people rising up, united in achieving feats”, the Tra Vinh Provincial Party Committee consistently identified building upon the great national unity block among ethnic communities in the province as a top-priority factor and a vital driver for local development in the new context. Based on the Communist Party of Vietnam's perspectives on ethnic minority policies, the Tra Vinh Provincial Party Committee concretized these into specific directives, resolutions, action programs, and plans tailored to local conditions.

During the 2010–2020 period, the implementation of the Party's ethnic policies in Tra Vinh province achieved substantial accomplishments: the material living standards of ethnic minorities were enhanced; cultural and artistic activities steadily expanded; and political security was firmly maintained. These achievements fostered strong consensus and solidarity across all social strata, particularly among local ethnic minorities, enhancing their trust in the Party's leadership and State management, consolidating the great block of national unity, driving socio-economic progress, and maintaining political security and social order across the province. However, despite these major achievements, the ethnic

minority regions in Tra Vinh still faced a high rate of poor households relative to the province's total (the total number of poor households in the province was 5,404, accounting for 1.88% of total households, among which ethnic minority poor households numbered 3,239, accounting for 59.94% of all poor households); livelihoods remained heavily dependent on agriculture; the capacity of ethnic minority cadres was uneven; and a segment of the ethnic population remained vulnerable to exploitation regarding ethnic and religious issues. These issues underscore the necessity of conducting an in-depth scientific study on the leadership capacity, direction, and policy adjustment of the Provincial Party Committee regarding ethnic policy implementation locally.

From the aforementioned context, researching the leadership of the Provincial Party Committee in implementing ethnic policies for ethnic minorities in Tra Vinh is an imperative task. It does not merely address social welfare but directly impacts political stability, socio-economic development, domestic and foreign affairs, and national defense-security in the Southwestern region of the Fatherland. Therefore, the PhD candidate selected the topic “**Tra Vinh Provincial Party Committee's Leadership in Implementing Ethnic Policies from 2010 to 2020**” for the doctoral dissertation in History, majoring in History of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

2. Research Objectives and Tasks

2.1. Research Objective

The dissertation aims to clarify the leadership process of the Tra Vinh Provincial Party Committee in executing ethnic policies from 2010 to 2020, thereby drawing lessons learned to refine ethnic policies during the operation and reorganization of new administrative units effective from July 1, 2025.

2.2. Research Tasks

Synthesizing and reviewing existing research works related to the dissertation topic.

Clarifying factors impacting the implementation of the Party's ethnic policies in Tra Vinh from 2010 to 2020.

Analyzing and elucidating the guidelines and leadership process of the Tra Vinh Provincial Party Committee in directing ethnic policy implementation from 2010 to 2020.

Offering objective assessments regarding strengths and limitations, and systematically deriving primary lessons learned from the leadership of the Tra Vinh Provincial Party Committee in ethnic policy execution during 2010-2020 and subsequent periods.

3. Research Object and Scope

3.1. Research Object

The research object of the dissertation is the leadership activities of the Tra Vinh Provincial Party Committee in implementing ethnic policies within the locality from 2010 to 2020.

3.2. Research Scope

Spatial scope: The research scope is bounded within the administrative geographic boundary of Tra Vinh province prior to July 1, 2025, comprising 7 districts, 1 district-level town, and 1 city, focusing on districts and communes with a large concentration of ethnic minority residents and challenging socio-economic conditions.

Temporal scope: The research covers the leadership of the Provincial Party Committee in ethnic policy implementation over a 10-year period (2010-2020). The year 2010 marks the 9th Provincial Party Congress; from 2011, ethnic policy

implementation was framed under the key legal framework of Government Decree No. 05/2011/ND-CP dated January 14, 2011 on 'Ethnic Affairs'. The year 2020 marks the 11th Provincial Party Congress of Tra Vinh, alongside the continued implementation of Politburo Conclusion No. 65-KL/TW dated October 30, 2019 on “Continuing the implementation of Resolution No. 24-NQ/TW of the 9th Party Central Committee on ethnic affairs in the new situation”.

Content scope: The Party’s ethnic policy system spans multiple dimensions across all aspects of ethnic minorities lives. Within its scope, the dissertation focuses on: economic development and living standard improvement; educational advancement, raising public intellectual standards, and preserving/promoting traditional cultural values; building the cadre team; and ensuring defense and security in ethnic minority regions in Tra Vinh province, particularly for the Khmer people.

4. Theoretical Foundations, Data Sources, and Research Methods

4.1. Theoretical Foundations

The dissertation relies on the methodological foundation of dialectical materialism and historical materialism, Marxist-Leninist theory, Ho Chi Minh Thought, and the Communist Party of Vietnam’s viewpoints on ethnic policies.

4.2. Data Sources

The primary data sources comprise official documents of the Party Central Committee, legal acts of the National Assembly, Government decrees/decisions, and directives/resolutions from the Party Committee, local authority, departments, and agencies of Tra Vinh province. Additionally, the dissertation selectively references scientific works on ethnic policies in other Mekong Delta provinces.

4.3. Research Methods

Historical and Logical Methods: These serve as the two main scientific methods. The historical method is used to reconstruct and describe the chronological progression of the Tra Vinh Provincial Party Committee's leadership from 2010 to 2020. The logical method is applied to synthesize events, analyze, evaluate, and compare leadership processes, thereby deriving essential lessons learned.

Interdisciplinary Method: Incorporating findings from related scientific disciplines to enrich and refine content relevant to the dissertation.

Analytical, Synthetic, and Comparative Methods: Used to assess current realities and highlight emerging issues regarding ethnic policy execution.

Secondary Data and Document Analysis: Collecting comprehensive information, cross-referencing diverse perspectives to select objective, authentic data to highlight the research subject.

5. New Scientific Contributions of the Dissertation

Providing a rich, reliable system of scientific data on the Party and State's guidelines and policies regarding ethnic affairs.

Objectively and authentically reconstructing the leadership process of the Tra Vinh Provincial Party Committee in executing local ethnic policies from 2010 to 2020.

Delivering comprehensive evaluations on both achievements and limitations of the leadership process, identifying causes, and distilling core practical lessons learned.

6. Theoretical and Practical Significance of the Dissertation

The dissertation provides scientific arguments reaffirming the correctness of the Party's ethnic policy. Furthermore, the leadership experiences of the Tra

Vinh Provincial Party Committee serve as a practical foundation for central ministries, sectors, and local authorities to continue refining policies for ethnic minorities.

The research results reinforce the vital role of the great national unity block as a decisive factor in achieving revolutionary goals. For Tra Vinh, the historical unity among the Kinh, Khmer, and Hoa ethnic groups brought victory in the “All people rising up, united in achieving feats” movement; in the modern era of reform, this inter-ethnic solidarity serves as a key driving force for comprehensive local development.

The dissertation can serve as a reference document for administrative levels and agencies in Vinh Long province as well as other localities in implementing ethnic policies, as well as a pedagogical resource for teaching and research on ethnic policies in the Mekong Delta region.

7. Structure of the Dissertation

Apart from the Introduction, Conclusion, References, and Appendices, the dissertation is structured into 4 chapters and 8 sub-sections.

Chapter 1: OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH LITERATURE RELATED TO THE DISSERTATION TOPIC

1.1. Scientific Works Related to the Dissertation Topic

1.1.1. Research works on ethnic issues and ethnic policies in Vietnam

Studies by scholars such as Le Ngoc Thang, Tran Huu Tien, Phan Van Hung, Phan Huu Dat, Tran Hau, Tran Thi My Huong, Pham Ngoc Dai, and others have broadly examined ethnic issues and Party ethnic policies from diverse perspectives, particularly during the Reform (Renovation) era. Key highlights include:

Elucidating theoretical foundations regarding ethnicity, ethnic policy, and inter-ethnic relations to orient policy formulation, emphasizing the comprehensiveness and concretization of Party and State lines.

Clarifying the socio-economic realities of ethnic minorities, evaluating policy-making procedures, and pointing out shortcomings in policy formulation and implementation.

Directly proposing policy recommendations, including poverty reduction, building political systems, and safeguarding defense-security in ethnic minority and mountainous areas.

1.1.2. Research works on ethnic minorities and ethnic policies in the Mekong Delta region

Works by Phan Thi Yen Tuyet, Nguyen Khac Canh, Phan An, Tran Duc Cuong, Dinh Khac Thuan, etc., summarized historical features and socio-economic life in the Mekong Delta. Authors such as Vo Van Sen, Nguyen Quoc Dung - Vo Thi Kim Thu, Le Quoc Ly, Ho Xuan Mai, etc., addressed policy execution across poverty alleviation, education, and culture, analyzing achievements and limitations to propose policy improvement orientations. Research by Nguyen Thanh Thuy, Lam Van Rang, Le Van Dien, etc., systematized historical guidelines from feudal eras to the present, deriving lessons for policy refinement.

1.1.3. Research works on ethnic policies in Tra Vinh province

Studies published by the Tra Vinh Provincial Party Executive Committee and authors such as Ngo Phuong Lan, Do Thi Ngan, Le Thi Thuy An, etc., outlined the material and spiritual life of ethnic minorities in Tra Vinh and evaluated policy implementation in economic, cultural, and educational domains, proposing solutions for local enhancement.

1.2. Literature Overview Results and Key Focus Areas of the Dissertation

1.2.1. Research results of overviewed works

Data: Overviewed literature systematized historical sources regarding Mekong Delta ethnic characteristics and Party/State directives, supplying theoretical and practical foundations that enhance the dissertation's academic rigor.

Content: Prior works provided a complete systematization of national ethnic policies and community characteristics, serving as essential reference benchmarks for analyzing the Provincial Party Committee's leadership in Tra Vinh.

Methodology: Previous studies utilized historical and logical methods to clarify policy formulation and implementation, offering valuable methodological insights.

1.2.2. Key issues focused on by the dissertation

While the Kinh, Khmer, and Hoa constitute the main ethnic groups in Tra Vinh, and the Khmer population in Tra Vinh is among the largest in the Mekong Delta - a region of strategic defense-security significance targeted by hostile forces regarding ethnic and religious matters - no existing study has systematically and comprehensively investigated the Tra Vinh Provincial Party Committee's leadership in ethnic policy implementation. The dissertation addresses this research gap by focusing on:

Clarifying factors impacting ethnic policy implementation in Tra Vinh from 2010 to 2020, including domestic/international contexts and local socio-economic characteristics.

Systematizing Central directives and Provincial Party Committee guidelines via resolutions and plans.

Concretizing the leadership process across economic development, education, cultural preservation, cadre training, and political security.

Evaluating strengths, limitations, and key lessons learned from 2010–2020 as a reference for future periods and other localities.

Sub-conclusion of Chapter 1

The overview indicates that while general research on Mekong Delta ethnic policies exists, no specialized study from a Party History perspective has comprehensively examined the Tra Vinh Provincial Party Committee’s leadership in ethnic policy execution in a locality with unique ethnic and religious characteristics. This literature review provides the necessary foundation for the dissertation to address existing gaps and offer practical scientific contributions.

Chapter 2: GUIDELINES AND LEADERSHIP OF TRA VINH PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEE ON IMPLEMENTING ETHNIC POLICIES FROM 2010 TO 2020

2.1. Impacting Factors and Guidelines of Tra Vinh Provincial Party Committee

2.1.1. Factors impacting the leadership of Tra Vinh Provincial Party Committee

These include global and domestic contexts, Party/State policies on ethnic affairs, geographic-natural and socio-economic features, and the baseline reality of ethnic policy implementation in Tra Vinh prior to 2010.

2.1.2. Guidelines of Tra Vinh Provincial Party Committee on ethnic policy implementation

The 9th Tra Vinh Provincial Party Congress (2010) established the objective: “Continue elevating the leadership capacity and combat strength of the Party Committee, uniting all ethnic groups; accelerate industrialization and

modernization for rapid, sustainable development, steering Tra Vinh out of poverty and underdevelopment”. The Resolution emphasized: “Fostering the traditional unity among the Kinh, Khmer, and Hoa ethnic groups in the reform cause (...) Combating bad elements exploiting religion and ethnicity for unlawful acts that disrupt social order or harm national and ethnic interests”.

2.2. Tra Vinh Provincial Party Committee's Direction in Implementing Ethnic Policies

2.2.1. Directing economic development and improving material living standards

Implementing the National Target Program on Sustainable Poverty Reduction, the Provincial Party Committee, People’s Council, and People’s Committee enacted decisions and resolutions to enhance ethnic living standards. The Provincial People’s Committee established a Steering Committee, formulated an Action Program through 2015, and enacted annual plans to accelerate socio-economic progress in ethnic-majority areas.

2.2.2. Developing education, raising public intellectual standards, and preserving ethnic culture

The Provincial Party Committee directed the execution of the Project on Consolidating and Developing the Ethnic Minority Boarding General School System (2011-2015) under Decision No. 34/QD-UBND dated January 7, 2013, while expanding support policies for ethnic minority students. Cultural preservation was prioritized by directing departments and media outlets to invest in cultural institutions, foster sports and arts movements, and respect traditional customs.

2.2.3. Ensuring political security stability in ethnic minority regions

The Provincial Party Committee prioritized defense and security in ethnic minority regions, linking socio-economic development with national defense. It effectively implemented Politburo Resolution No. 28-NQ/TW on building defense zones and Government Decree No. 152/2007/ND-CP, strengthening grassroots military and police forces to resolve complex local security issues.

2.2.4. Building the cadre team of ethnic minority origin

The Provincial Party Committee issued leadership directives to build a strong, pure grassroots political system. It prioritized planning, training, fostering, and utilizing ethnic minority cadres to meet immediate and long-term governance requirements.

Sub-conclusion of Chapter 2

From 2010 to 2015, the Tra Vinh Provincial Party Committee institutionalized Central policies into local practices, improving material and spiritual living standards and maintaining regional security. However, limitations persisted: high poverty rates among ethnic minorities, inadequate infrastructure, uneven human resource quality, and underlying security risks, necessitating more decisive leadership during 2015-2020.

Chapter 3: TRA VINH PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEE'S LEADERSHIP IN PROMOTING ETHNIC POLICY IMPLEMENTATION FROM 2015 TO 2020

3.1. New Impacting Factors and Guidelines of Tra Vinh Provincial Party Committee

3.1.1. New impacting factors

The 2015-2020 period witnessed complex global dynamics, globalization, traditional/non-traditional security challenges, and social media exploitation by

hostile elements to disrupt national unity. Domestically, the 12th National Party Congress reaffirmed ethnic affairs as a fundamental, long-term strategic issue and an urgent priority.

3.1.2. Guidelines of Tra Vinh Provincial Party Committee on promoting ethnic policy implementation

The 10th Tra Vinh Provincial Party Congress (2015) emphasized: continuing effective execution of Party/State policies; strengthening propaganda on religious and ethnic policies; and enhancing vigilance against 'peaceful evolution' plots by hostile forces.

3.2. Direction in Promoting Ethnic Policy Implementation

3.2.1. Economic development and improving living standards

The Provincial Party Committee directed sustainable poverty reduction programs, diversified livelihoods, supported production, and invested heavily in infrastructure in ethnic minority regions.

3.2.2. Developing education, raising public intellectual standards, and preserving culture

Concrete targets were set for 2020: 5% of ethnic nursery children and 85% of kindergarten children attending preschools; net enrollment reaching 99.9% in primary, 98.5% in lower secondary, and 80% in upper secondary education; university/college ethnic students reaching 130–150 per 10,000 ethnic residents by 2020 (200–250 by 2030); and postgraduate training reaching 0.4% by 2020 (0.7% by 2030). Cultural preservation and tourism development in ethnic minority regions were actively promoted.

3.2.3. Firmly ensuring security and order in ethnic minority regions

Provincial police, military, and border guard forces coordinated to prevent anti-Party sabotage, safeguard social order during major ethnic festivals, and

conduct defense education for religious dignitaries, officials, and reputable individuals in ethnic communities.

3.2.4. Building and developing the cadre team of ethnic minority origin

Focus was placed on: recruitment quotas for ethnic minorities; cadre planning; professional and political theory training; and rotating ethnic cadres between provincial, district, and commune levels to enhance practical leadership capacity.

Sub-conclusion of Chapter 3

During 2015–2020, key guidelines were enacted, including Conclusion No. 01-KL/TU, Plan No. 81-KH/TU, and Plan No. 44/KH-UBND regarding Khmer ethnic affairs. Local budget allocation and effective execution of Central programs led to significant socio-economic progress, elevating ethnic living standards and strengthening public trust in Party and State leadership.

Chapter 4: EVALUATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

4.1. Evaluations

4.1.1. Strengths and causes

Strengths: Deep understanding and creative application of Party policies; comprehensive yet focused leadership tailored to local realities; significant improvements in material/spiritual life; political security stability; and strong inter-ethnic unity.

Causes: Clear perception of ethnic policy importance; proactive propaganda; well-organized administrative apparatus; and effective inspection/supervision.

4.1.2. Limitations and causes

Limitations: Inconsistent leadership in certain localities; shortage of specialized ethnic affairs cadres; and uneven policy impact across socio-economic sectors.

Causes: Content gaps in certain policies; provincial resource constraints; and limited policy accessibility/self-reliance mindsets among a segment of ethnic residents.

4.2. Lessons Learned

1) Thoroughly understanding, creatively applying, and focusing implementation on key ethnic policies of the Party and State tailored to specific local conditions.

2) Focusing on enhancing the effectiveness of propaganda and communication regarding policies in ethnic minority areas.

3) Promoting the strength of the great national unity block in formulating and executing ethnic policies.

4) Emphasizing the comprehensive nature of policies, caring for all aspects of material and spiritual life for ethnic minorities.

5) Leveraging the combined strength of the entire political system, with special emphasis on enhancing the capacity of ethnic minority cadres.

6) Firmly safeguarding security in ethnic minority regions.

Sub-conclusion of Chapter 4

Over the 10-year period (2010–2020), the Tra Vinh Provincial Party Committee successfully led ethnic policy implementation, achieving vital accomplishments while identifying areas for ongoing refinement. Lessons learned serve as critical orientations for local leadership in future contexts.

CONCLUSION

Recognizing the paramount role of ethnic policy throughout the revolutionary leadership process, particularly during the reform era, the Tra Vinh Provincial Party Committee effectively directed ethnic policy implementation from 2010 to 2020. Annual poverty rates among the Khmer dropped by 3-4%, education and infrastructure expanded, ethnic cadre development was prioritized, and defense security was maintained against hostile plots.

Challenges such as fragmented resources, inconsistent inter-agency coordination, and policy performance gaps remain to be addressed. The derived practical lessons—spanning policy application, great national unity, communication, comprehensive care, cadre building, and security—provide essential guidance for ethnic affairs administration in merged administrative configurations and across other regions.

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

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