

The role of journalism and communication in achieving the goal of national independence linked with socialism in Vietnam today

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Abstract: National independence associated with socialism is the consistent goal of the Vietnamese revolution. In each historical period, this goal is specified into different tasks. This article mentions the key role of journalism-communication in effectively disseminating information about these important historical tasks.

Keywords: national independence associated with socialism; journalism-communication; President Hồ Chí Minh; Communist Party of Vietnam.

Journalism and communication in Vietnam function as the voice of the Party, State, and people, and is an integral part of the political system that safeguards the regime and upholds the noble and enduring political objectives that generations of forefathers have sacrificed their lives and blood to establish. The political system in Vietnam is rooted in the working class and working people, and to maintain and protect this system, a monistic political framework and people's democracy must be built based on the unification of basic interests among social classes and classes under the leadership of the Party. In light of this political nature, journalism and communication serve as a tool to protect and serve the people's social regime, with the overarching political goal being the preservation of national independence, which our nation has fought and won through persistent sacrifice, including the August Revolution of 1945. Then we continued to fight step by step to unify the country and construct socialism. As such, the socialist ideal serves as a guiding value that builds upon the foundation of national independence, with both concepts representing aspirations and motivations to preserve, construct, and strive for a better future.

The Party and President Hồ Chí Minh have determined national independence and socialism as fundamental values and goals since the early days of the revolution, even before the government was established. This was reflected in the Party's initial political platform in the spring of 1930.

National independence and socialism have remained the consistent choice of the Party, President Hồ Chí Minh, and the Vietnamese people, regardless of

the circumstances of the revolution. This is because it is the only right choice that meets the needs of the Vietnamese revolution and aligns with the laws and trends of the current times. It can be affirmed that true independence for the nation and sustainable development can only be achieved through the transition to socialism, which will lead to the prosperity, freedom, and happiness of the people and the achievement of the goals of *prosperous people, strong country, and democratic, equitable, civilized society*.

The revolutionary press has been integral to the Party's political line since its inception, with the establishment of the first newspaper *Thanh niên* (Youth)⁽¹⁾ to popularize the Party's political guidelines and the revolution. This marked a milestone in the struggle for national independence and the building of the country: journalism and the revolution were organically attached to each other to realize the goals of the resistance war, national construction which was to gain national independence and construction. As society develops, globalization and the industrial revolution 4.0 are transforming traditional values, while the explosion of media and social networks has resulted in a deluge of information with varying intentions. In this complex environment, the crucial role of journalism as a source of reliable and accurate information cannot be overstated. The press must lead public opinion, expose fake news and malicious information, and protect the political regime of the people. By doing so, it helps the community distinguish what is true and false and encourages people to have trust in the Party leadership, which is crucial for achieving the noble and enduring goal of national independence associated with socialism. In our current context, journalism and communication play a crucial role in realizing this goal through the following means:

1. Journalism and communication propagate the Party's guidelines, the State's policies and laws towards the goal of national independence associated with socialism

Journalism and communication play a vital role in promoting the revolutionary values and principles that uphold the goals of national independence and socialism, with an unwavering spirit of steadfastness. By disseminating Marxism-Leninism, Hồ Chí Minh Thought, the Party's platform and policies, journalism and communication create a shared sense of purpose and concerted action throughout society. This fosters a broad consensus among all social classes and inspires the people to strive for the noble political objective of national independence and socialism, which are inseparable.

The field of journalism and communication fulfills the crucial role of disseminating the Party and State's policies on national independence

and socialism to Party members and the general public, enabling them to comprehend and engage actively in their production and work responsibilities.

Journalism and communication disseminate articles, speeches, and research papers by scholars and politicians on the topics of national independence and socialism. They widely spread these values to the people and society to instill a deep belief in the immutability of these values: *Firstly*, the association of national independence with socialism is the choice of Vietnamese history, is the strategy and the steps taken by the Vietnamese revolution. *Secondly*, the association of national independence with socialism is the political orientation and overarching goal of the Vietnamese revolutionary process. *Thirdly*, there is a dialectical relationship between national independence associated with socialism, which becomes the driving force and source of strength of the Vietnamese revolution in each historical period. *Fourthly*, national independence associated with socialism is consistent with the will of the Party and the people.

Journalism and communication have played a vital role in shaping the political and spiritual life of the people by promoting Marxism-Leninism and Hồ Chí Minh Thought as the guiding principles. They have also encouraged the public to adopt a scientific view, a correct methodology, and a heightened political awareness, which has contributed to the protection of the country's economy, national independence, and socialism. Therefore, it is crucial to regularly enhance the quality of political and ideological education for party members, cadres, and the general public, with a particular emphasis on disseminating and educating Marxism-Leninism, Hồ Chí Minh Thought, the Party's guidelines, the State's policies and laws. This is the fundamental role and responsibility of the press and media, particularly the revolutionary press.

Journalism and communication are responsible for promoting the formation of a strong national unity bloc. Through their communication efforts, they aim to unify the nation and create a resilient front against any attempts by the enemy to divide and conquer, which would undermine the goal of national independence and the path towards socialism.

The journalism and communication industry also plays a vital role in guiding public opinion to ensure that people have a firm understanding and adherence to the policies and foreign policy views of the Party and State, especially in regards to national borders, territories, and maritime boundaries... given the proliferation of biased and harmful information from various sources that could potentially mislead the public.

Recently, the journalism and communication sector has taken on the task of disseminating information and communication to promote political activities

such as studying and following the ideas, morality, and style of President Hồ Chí Minh in accordance with Directive No. 05-CT/TW of the Politburo; Resolution of the 4th Central Committee (Tenure 11th) on *pressing issues in current Party building*, and the Resolution of the 4th Plenum of the Party Central Committee (12th Tenure) on *strengthening Party building and rectification, as well as preventing and reversing the decline of political ideology, morality, lifestyle, and internal “self-evolution” and “self-transformation” manifestations*. Resolution No. 35-NQ/TW of the 12th Politburo has also emphasized the importance of *strengthening the protection of the Party’s ideological foundation and fighting against wrong and hostile views in the new situation*. These are essential political tasks in the current period, aimed at promoting activities, evaluating and educating the consciousness of the entire Party and society towards the goal of national independence and socialism.

2. Journalism and communication aim to increase awareness, shape and reinforce people’s trust in resolutely pursuing the goal of national independence linked with socialism

The role of journalism and communication is to spread information and promote awareness, changing people’s attitudes and trust into practical actions in their work and business, while steadfastly pursuing the path of national independence and socialism that we have chosen.

It is crucial to raise awareness for all people, including cadres, as part of the building of the Party and political system so that people will understand the socio-economic goals and solutions of the country, the immediate and long-term benefits, and build trust among them. By encouraging people to believe, overcome challenges, and implement the Party’s renovation policy, we can gradually build the material foundation for socialism.

Journalism and communication have successfully promoted information and communication, making the masses deeply aware of the Party’s viewpoints and guidelines, and the State’s policies and laws. This has helped unify actions and promote democracy to turn the Party’s policies into a reality, maintaining national independence and building socialism. The 13th National Congress of our Party’s Resolution affirmed that the concept “*people are the root*” must be grasped thoroughly in all the work of the Party and State. The people’s right to mastery must be respected and promoted, and the motto “people know, people discuss, people do, people check, people supervise, people benefit” should be persistently implemented⁽²⁾.

The role of journalism and communication is to combat the current trend of denying the achievements of Vietnam’s efforts in renovation and national

construction. They play an important role in affirming the path towards continued socialism in the Vietnamese revolution and strengthening the confidence of the people in the Party and State's policies in the revolutionary cause. They also encourage the active participation of people in patriotic emulation movements such as "Practice thrift, fight waste" and "Vietnamese people give priority to using Vietnamese goods" for private economic development, and the promotion of legitimate wealth-building for all organizations and individuals, which is essential for building a strong country and maintaining national independence while gradually building socialism.

The vital role of journalism and communication is to inspire the entire nation to persevere in the goal of national independence and socialism. It involves discovering, forming, and utilizing creative potential while constantly encouraging positivity, self-discipline, dynamism, self-control, and promoting the strength of each citizen. The media not only informs, propagates, and educates the people on the basic principles of Marxism-Leninism, Hồ Chí Minh Thought, and the goal of national independence and socialism but also contributes to raising awareness and inspiring cadres, party members, and the public to have the right attitude, sentiment, revolutionary action, and good civic responsibility. This improves their acumen and political mettle and proactively prevents and fights against the plots and tricks of hostile forces, thus safeguarding the Party's ideological foundation.

3. Journalism and communication combat wrongful and hostile perspectives in order to safeguard the principles and objectives of national independence and socialism

Presently, hostile groups are making considerable efforts to spread false and distorted views, with the intention of eradicating the Party's leadership role, its ideological foundation, and the goal of national independence and socialism that we have adopted. Therefore, it is our most important, crucial, and urgent task to combat these wrong and hostile views and defend Marxism-Leninism, Hồ Chí Minh Thought, and the goal of national independence and socialism, which is also the responsibility of the press agencies, officials, Party members, reporters, and editors.

The role of journalism and communication is crucial in countering the efforts of hostile organizations that seek to undermine the Vietnamese revolution through "peaceful evolution" as well as reactionary elements who aim to deny the importance of Hồ Chí Minh Thought and the Party's stance. These individuals often argue that national independence and socialism cannot coexist in Vietnam, with the following arguments: *First*, they cited the country's

long history of colonialism and feudalism. They contend that after achieving national liberation, the focus should be on implementing people's democracy rather than advancing towards socialism. *Second*, they also maintain that national independence and socialism are distinct categories, with no inherent relationship, and that they have existed in different historical periods and political contexts. At the same time, Vietnam must first achieve national independence and then go through an "intermediate stage" from national independence to socialism. Therefore, it is not possible for Vietnam to have national independence associated with socialism. The identification of national independence with socialism by Hồ Chí Minh and the Communist Party of Vietnam is seen as a stereotypical imitation of the Soviet Union and former socialist countries in Eastern Europe, without any cohesive relationship between the two concepts. *Third*, the Marxist-Leninist doctrine of socialism is considered outdated as the socialist system in the world disintegrated after existing for 70 years and the collapse of communist regimes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Hồ Chí Minh and the Communist Party of Vietnam are criticized for applying socialism to Vietnam, which is seen as a mistake that will lead to the same fate as the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The implementation of a socialist-oriented market economy by the Communist Party of Vietnam is viewed as a capitalist economy, making it impossible for Vietnam to achieve national independence associated with socialism as claimed by the Communist Party of Vietnam. These arguments are often used by the enemy to attack the Vietnamese people. The journalism and communication sector has the responsibility of clarifying the intentions of hostile forces, educating the public to recognize the nature of the enemy, and encouraging them to remain faithful in pursuing the goal of national independence and socialism, which is the choice of the Party and the people.

Throughout the years, the field of journalism and communication has made significant contributions to combating false and hostile perspectives. They have safeguarded the Party's fundamental ideology, thwarted subversive schemes by antagonistic organizations aimed at disrupting the unity of the nation, preserved political stability and social order, and reinforced the people's confidence in the Party and the government.

In the current age of information overload, journalism and communication have a crucial role to play in guiding public opinion towards the right direction, staying true to the essence of the matter, and avoiding being manipulated by hostile forces who may seek to distort the truth. It is important to be proactive rather than reactive, and attack instead of just resisting. As such, news agencies and the press must ensure the regular, timely, and accurate dissemination of

official information from the Party and State to cadres, Party members, and the general public. Protecting ideological security requires a focus on proactive prevention and keeping internal affairs in order. Additionally, it is imperative to take an active stance in combating “peaceful evolution,” sabotage, disorderly conduct, and riots by hostile forces while effectively addressing non-traditional security threats and curbing the rise of crime in society.

4. Journalism and communication play an important role in promoting and acknowledging exemplary individuals and actions in the pursuit of national independence and socialism through emulation movements

Journalism and communication connect the Party’s policies and directives to the dissemination of experience, scientific knowledge, and technological advancements in production to every region and social group. This helps enhance productivity, boost economic growth, alleviate poverty, and improve both material and spiritual well-being, which are essential factors for fostering and achieving the values of socialism.

The role of journalism and communication is to work with social forces in promoting and disseminating examples that embody the values of national independence and socialism. These examples include acts of dedication and sacrifice made for the sake of the nation’s freedom and the people’s well-being. In addition, journalism and communication must quickly and accurately report on exemplary individuals and groups, highlighting the good deeds and heroism that characterize the Vietnamese revolutionary spirit.

Journalism and communication also identify and publicize exemplary individuals, organizations, and businesses that demonstrate excellence in various areas such as production, business, and social contributions. By doing so, these examples are promoted and emulated by the masses, leading to extensive and profound movements. These efforts form the bedrock for protecting national independence and socialism.

Thus, journalism and communication have played a critical role in safeguarding the Party, the government, the people’s interests, and the hard-won national independence. These efforts have paved the way for the gradual construction of socialism./.

(1) *The Vietnam Revolutionary Youth Association had its voice heard through Thanh Niên (Youth) newspaper, which was established by President Hồ Chí Minh, the 1st issue was released on June 21st, 1925.*

(2) *Documents of the 13th National Congress (2021), National Political Publishing House, H., Vol.1, p. 27.*