

Criticizing wrongful and distorted views on socialist orientation in the market economy in Vietnam

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tuan Nghia NGO

Abstract: *The socialist-oriented market economy in Vietnam, the Vietnamese economy's general development model, has gradually created a sustainable premise for the prosperity and happiness of the Vietnamese people. However, hostile and reactionary forces still attempt to spread wrong and distorted views about the socialist orientation of the market economy at many different levels. Therefore, it is an urgent requirement to resolutely fight, criticize and refute these wrong views.*

Keywords: *market economy in Vietnam, socialist orientation.*

The sophistication and complexity of wrong views and distortions about socialist orientation in the market economy in Vietnam

Currently, wrongful and distorted allegations about the socialist orientation of the market economy in Vietnam are being actively sown, spread and infiltrated into social strata and people by hostile and reactionary forces through various forms and measures, openly, secretly, and drastically. Those false and hostile allegations can be generalized into the following three main groups:

The first group: wrongful views that distort and deny the reality of a socialist-oriented market economy in Vietnam

Hostile forces have actively spread the argument that it is impossible to have a socialist-oriented market economy in Viet Nam. They use distortions to justify their arguments. For example, they distort that what socialism is still remains vague, thus, socialist orientation is unclear, and the socialist-oriented market economy is even more obscure (?!); that Viet Nam does not yet have a true market economy while it orients towards a socialism which is unclear, thus starting from the “nothing” to the “knowing nothing” is impossible. Furthermore, hostile forces continue to distort that socialism collapsed in the late 1980s, there is no longer socialism to follow; and the ideology of socialism was the past, it is impossible to keep clinging to the past to guide the way to the future (?!)... Those are wrongful and hostile views that happen every day,

every hour, crept into forums on social networks, forums of “the patriotic”, “consultation”, “for injustice people”, and such. These are very sophisticated and malicious ways that hostile and reactionary forces use to distort and deny the socialist orientation in the market economy in Vietnam.

The second group: wrongful views that distort the market economy and socialist orientation are contradictory and cannot be compatible in a true market economy.

To justify this, hostile and reactionary forces attempt to make people confused about the socialist orientation of our country. According to hostile definitions, the market economy is free, while the socialist orientation is authoritarian; market economy is pluralistic, while socialism is monistic; market economy is democratic, while socialist orientation is authoritarian; market economy is private ownership, while socialist orientation is ownership by the entire people; market economy is about equal competition, while the socialist orientation establishes the leading role of the State economy, and so on. Therefore, the market economy itself is contradictory with the social orientation and vice versa. Thus, they are unable to coexist in a market economic model (?!).

The third group: wrongful views that distort the socialist-oriented market economy has no scientific theoretical basis, that it is a forced association of market economic theory with Marxist- Leninist theory

Wrongful views and arguments of hostile and reactionary forces not only aim to distort and reject our socialist-oriented market economy but also to mislead members of society. They misrepresent that only private ownership and the private economy are the driving forces of the market economy; then by citing the theoretical views of Western economists, they claim that the private sector must be the dominant force in the market economy. Therefore, it is coercive to place the public sector as a dominant force in the market economy, instead of the private sector (?!). More sophisticated, those hostile views often emphasize that the market economy must be based on civil society, while socialist orientation is based on the single-party political system; and that the market economy must be based on free economic theories, while the socialist orientation is based on “imported Marxism-Leninism”(?!). Furthermore, wrongful and hostile views also cite individual manifestations to attribute the nature of the market economy in Vietnam. They claim that, because of this coercion, a series of major corruption cases occurred in Vietnam due to the lack of a solid theoretical basis in the market economy in Vietnam. Those

hostile views have been increasingly enhanced in many reactionary forces' propaganda programs.

The three groups of arguments mentioned above are typical views to distort and deny the socialist-oriented market economy in our country which hostile and reactionary forces are actively spreading through various sophisticated and cunning ways. Their dangerous plot is to eliminate the leading role of the Communist Party of Vietnam on the development path of our country. Those distorted views have become effective propaganda for hostile forces' attempts to gain political power. They are eager to find ways to infiltrate social life, gradually causing division, conflict, and ambiguity among cadres, Party members and the people, gradually exerting political influence and disrupting stability in Vietnam. Hostile and reactionary forces are aware that the ideological and theoretical foundation of the socialist orientation in the market economy in Vietnam is Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought. Socialist orientation in the market economy in our country can only be implemented under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam; therefore, they try to distort the socialist-oriented market economy in Vietnam, then indirectly rejecting the leadership role of the Communist Party of Vietnam. At the same time, when distorting the awareness of officials, Party members and people about the socialist orientation in the market economy in Vietnam, hostile and reactionary forces want to distort, deny the great, historically significant achievements that our country has achieved under the Party's leadership, especially the achievements of nearly 40 years of renovation.

Behind the wrongful and hostile views are the plot not to recognize Vietnam's correct and appropriate development path; deliberately smear, try to sabotage on every front, trying to derail Vietnam's development path from socialism in many different forms. They apply and take advantage of many channels and information fronts to carry out the "small rains lay great dust" plot, causing confusion in social strata, in order to sway the ideology of cadres, Party members and people; creating doubts and internal divisions, making a part of officials, party members and people lose faith in the Party's ideological foundation, then gradually disintegrate the socialist orientation in the cause of Viet Nam construction and development.

Identifying the theoretical errors in hostile views

Theoretically, hostile forces' arguments about the incompatibility, contradiction, lack of solid theoretical basis above are not convincing at all, they are just wrong and distorted arguments aimed to disperse and mislead

public opinion. *On the one hand*, the history of human development shows that the market economy is a product of human civilization. Wherever there is a division of labor and a relative economic separation between people, there is a push leading to the emergence of commodity relations, and market relations. Such development takes place objectively, beyond any subjective human will. In essence, the market economy is a universal value, not exclusively for capitalism. Therefore, to uniform the market economy with capitalism, and the market economy with the capitalist private economy are completely wrong. Using an incomplete understanding to loudly say that only on a capitalist basis, only the private economy can form a market economy is a childish and foolish view!

On the other hand, in turn, in whatever country it develops, the market economy always have common characteristics, the indispensable elements such as market factors and types of markets; besides, it is subject to regulations and reflects the level of development, historical, cultural, economic, social, political and institutional conditions in specific country. There is no abstract, general, ahistorical market economy. In fact, the American market economy model is different from the German market economy, the French market economy is different from the Japanese market economy, the British market economy is different from the Swedish market economy. This is because, in addition to the common foundation of market factors, all types of markets in today's modern market economy all have the role of the State. This means, no market economy exists solely with the pure meaning of the market. Because the market mechanism itself also has "defects" that cannot be corrected by itself. The role of the State in correcting market defects is objectively inevitable. As long as there is objective State intervention, there are inevitably different characteristics in those market economies besides the common characteristics. There is no anarchic, free market economy. The socialist-oriented market economy in Vietnam is no exception to that popularity. Therefore, it is unhistorical and unscientific of wrongful and hostile views to use an illusive, general, abstract, and ahistorical market economy image to attribute it to a specific, existing market economic model.

It is even more incorrect to misrepresent that the market economy is pluralistic, the socialist orientation is monistic; market economy is freedom, socialist orientation is tyranny, authoritarian, etc. These are hostile arguments, deliberately not distinguishing between economic institutions and political institutions, between social regimes and market economic institutions, using

the superficial manifestations and some aspects of the market economy to equate the entire overall structure of a market economic model, as well as not understanding the good nature of socialist society. Theoretically, there is no such thing as a “monist market economy”, nor is there an “abstract free market economy”, nor is there any “market economy that is authoritarian or totalitarian”. The deliberate equivocation and confusion of economic categories with political categories is a false argument and a dangerous conspiracy of hostile and reactionary forces.

Furthermore, it is not convincing to take advantage of some limitations to exaggerate the nature of the market economy, for example, by arguing that socialist oriented market economy in which the State economy plays a leading role will foster corruption and loss, this once again shows the dishonesty and bad intentions of the above wrong views. In fact, temporary manifestations and shortcomings are not the consistent nature of a market economy. A socialist-oriented market economy is a modern, internationally integrated market economy, fully operating according to the rules of a market economy, with the management of a socialist law-governed State, led by the Communist Party of Vietnam; ensuring socialist orientation for the goal of “wealthy people, powerful country, democratic, equitable and civilized society” appropriate to each stage of the country’s development. Thus, in essence, fully realizing those values is what the Vietnamese people truly desire. It also demonstrates the creative application of Marxism-Leninism to Vietnam’s development reality. Marxism-Leninism is a doctrine for freedom, aiming at people’s desire for freedom, and the pursuit of liberation for humanity. However, hostile and reactionary forces distort economic development based on Marxism-Leninism. Corruption, loss, and waste do not stem from the nature of a socialist-oriented market economy; Therefore, deliberately using a single phenomenon to attribute to nature, using temporary manifestations to attribute to the entire process is a completely unwarranted way of reasoning. However, hostile forces deliberately mislead and confuse the public by using such type of reasoning to distort and refute all achievements that our country has gained under the Party’s leadership.

Development achievements are convincing objective evidence to refute all wrongful views and distortions on socialist orientation in the market economy in Vietnam

The achievements of the socialist-oriented market economy in Vietnam today are the most objective and authentic evidence to uncompromisingly refute wrongful and hostile views on socialist oriented market economy.

First, the successful transition from an economy operating under a planned mechanism to the market mechanism under socialist orientation is the strongest argument against all false allegations, distortion on the socialist-oriented market economy in Vietnam. From a poor, under crisis economy which was heavily damaged by war caused by colonialism, imperialism, and their lackey administration, Vietnam's economy now has full market elements, types of markets with rich, vivid reality and participation of various economic relationships; the quantity of goods and services is rich and diverse, meeting and satisfying the needs of the people, from urban to rural areas, from plains to mountainous areas, from developed areas to remote areas; commodity and services have spread to all geographical areas and all types of terrain. This reality means that socialist-oriented market economy is correct and appropriate. This is exactly what is happening in Viet Nam's economy now and no force can deny this reality.

Second, the achievements in developing a socialist-oriented market economy in Vietnam have brought outstanding results in both economic growth and social progress, sustainable poverty reduction at high speed and efficiency. Those achievements are being recognized and objectively published by mass media around the world, once again demonstrating the realism of a socialist-oriented market economy in Vietnam. Those results have been recognized worldwide. In particular, when the whole world had to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic, the superiority of the socialist-oriented market economy in Vietnam was demonstrated even more evidently and effectively.

Besides the achievements in poverty reduction, many other achievements in the human development index, the social welfare network, the growth of per capita income, the development of education, healthcare, and other fundamental services in all fields are highlighted in statistics of international organizations around the world. This proves that the political, economic and social achievements in our country are recognized by the progressive world and become a sharp argument to expose the dark scheme and vicious attitudes of the hostile and reactionary forces.

Third, Vietnam's market economy is increasingly linked to the world market, when Vietnamese goods have joined more than 200 markets across the world; and in turn, the flow of goods and services from those markets have participated in the market economy in Vietnam. What does this mean? This means the smooth operation of the socialist-oriented market economy in

Vietnam. Those achievements stem from the steadfast implementation of the socialist orientation that our Party, our people and President Ho Chi Minh have chosen. It is the socialist regime that has brought stability and prosperity to our country, and the trust of the business community and political parties, states, and international organizations around the world. That fact has proven the correct decision to choose socialist-oriented market economy in Vietnam. At the same time, reality also shows that the more our country achieves, the more hostile and reactionary forces frenziedly oppose and refute, trying to eliminate the Party's leadership role and the State's governance. However, the achievements that Vietnam has achieved under the Party's leadership are the strongest and most convincing arguments against all schemes and vicious tricks of hostile and reactionary forces. At the same time, it is the basis and driving force to promote our country to achieve new, higher and more solid achievements in the next stage./.