

Brilliant Vietnam

Journal of Political Theory and Communication respectfully introduces to readers the article “Brilliant Vietnam” by General Secretary To Lam on the occasion of the 95th anniversary of the establishment of the Communist Party of Vietnam (February 3, 1930 - February 3, 2025).

On the afternoon of January 19, 2025, at the Headquarters of the Party Central Committee, General Secretary To Lam received a delegation of outstanding overseas Vietnamese who returned to celebrate the traditional Lunar New Year and attend the “Homeland Spring” program in 2025.

A new spring is coming, bringing joy and new vitality to all parts of the country. This spring becomes even more meaningful when the whole Party, people and army celebrate the 95th anniversary of the establishment of the Communist Party of Vietnam (February 3, 1930 - February 3, 2025), marking a brilliant milestone for the whole country as it enters a new stage of development, on the way towards a bright future.

Throughout the last 95 springs, our Party - the vanguard of the working class, working people and the Vietnamese nation - has led the country to overcome countless hardships and challenges to achieve great victories and accomplishment, leaving a deep mark in the glorious history of the nation.

In 1930, the Communist Party of Vietnam came into being in a special historical context with a special mission. From the middle of the 19th century, the French colonialists invaded our country and imposed brutal domination, causing the people to suffer slavery and misery. With a tradition of patriotism and an unyielding spirit, the people continuously rose up to fight with many different ways and tendencies, from the Can Vuong movement to the Yen The uprising, and from the movements of Dong Du, Dong Kinh Nghia Thuc, Duy Tan to the Yen Bai uprising. Although the people fought bravely and made many sacrifices, we were all unsuccessful because of the lack of a correct guideline, the failure to gather and promote the strength of the whole nation, the lack of a suitable method of struggle, and especially the lack of a leadership organization and a political party that met the requirements of the nation and of the times.

Subsequently, the development of the workers' movement around the world and the victory of the October Revolution in Russia in 1917 opened a new horizon, lighting up hope for oppressed and exploited peoples and strongly encouraging the independence movements on all continents.

In face of the demands of history and with a burning desire for national liberation, the patriotic young man Nguyen Tat Thanh set out to find a way to save the country. He traveled across continents, and set foot on hundreds of cities in nearly 30 countries. He overcame numerous hardships, obstacles and did many jobs to make a living, to learn the “wisdom” of mankind. It was this journey that helped the Vietnamese youth understand clearly the source of the suffering of the working class - the oppression and exploitation of imperialist capitalism, which helped him form a clear class consciousness. With the determination to strive for: “Freedom for my compatriots, independence for my Fatherland”, Nguyen Tat Thanh came to Marxism-Leninism naturally, as a historical necessity, and found there the fundamental issues of the policy of national liberation associated with class liberation and human liberation; and national independence aligned with socialism.

In the face of historical demands and under the light of Marxism-Leninism, the young man Nguyen Tat Thanh - Nguyen Ai Quoc carried out many activities, painstakingly preparing ideologically, theoretically and humanly for the birth of a pioneering political organization in charge of leading the Vietnamese revolution. He spread Marxism-Leninism to Vietnam through works such as *The Indictment of the French Colonial Regime* (1925), and *The Revolutionary Path* (1927). He also trained revolutionary cadres and promoted the domestic struggle movement.

On February 3, 1930, in Kowloon (Hong Kong, China), a conference, presided over by Nguyen Ai Quoc, was held to unify three communist organizations in Vietnam and establish the Communist Party of Vietnam. This was a decision of great historical significance, merging Vietnamese communist organizations into a single force with a clear and united revolutionary line. The first platform of the Party, approved at its founding conference, determined the basic path of the Vietnamese revolution, meeting the urgent demands of history and becoming the flag to rally and unite communist organizations, revolutionary forces and the whole nation. This historical event ended the crisis of competing lines and organizations of the Vietnamese revolution, and opened a new era in the history of the country - the era of struggle for national independence and advance to socialism.

Since its establishment in 1945, with sound policies, appropriate and creative methods, organizational capacity, tenacious fighting spirit and heroic sacrifice of generations of cadres and party members, along with the trust, support, and wholehearted protection of the people, the Communist Party of Vietnam has led the country to achieve great victories of epoch-making significance.

In 15 years of its establishment, the Party continuously developed to lead the struggle for national liberation and achieve the victory of the August Revolution, to found the Democratic Republic of Vietnam on September 2, 1945, abolishing the semi-feudal colonial regime in Vietnam and opening a new chapter in the history of the nation. The Vietnamese people have transformed themselves from slaves to masters of their country and of their own lives.

Immediately after the success of the August Revolution, the country had to face countless difficulties and challenges; at the same time, it had to confront “famine, ignorance and foreign invaders”. In such a critical situation, the Party led the people to steadfastly protect and build the young government, while actively preparing all aspects of the resistance war against the French colonialists. With the sound policy to promote the strength of the entire nation, the Party led the people to successively defeat all the enemy’s plots and invasion plans during nine years of arduous and heroic resistance. Its peak was the historic victory of Dien Bien Phu that forced the French colonialists to sign the Geneva Agreement (1954) on peace in Indochina.

During the following twenty years, the country remained divided and peace had yet to be achieved. Under the leadership of the Party and President Ho Chi Minh, with an iron will and unshakable determination, the people overcame numerous hardships and sacrifices to carry out a great resistance war, which successively defeated the war strategies of the US imperialists, completely liberated the South and unified the country. Vietnamese people wrote one of the most heroic pages of the nation’s history, an event of international stature and profound epoch-making significance. This is the actualization of the vision and determination of the Party, which was put forward in the 3rd Congress (September 1960): *“Vietnam is one, the Vietnamese people are one. Our country will certainly be unified on the basis of independence and democracy, our people will certainly be reunited in peace, freedom and happiness. Rivers may dry up, mountains may erode, but the will to unify the Fatherland of our people will never waver and in the end we will definitely gain victory.”*

While urgently overcoming the extremely serious consequences of the war, the country continued to face new challenges. The Party kept leading the whole army and people to restore the socio-economy and improve people’s lives, simultaneously to fight steadfastly to maintain every inch of the sacred land of the Fatherland, and to protect independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and the living space of the nation. At the same time, we fulfilled our noble international duty to the Cambodian people.

In face of new requirements in the nation’s development, in order to overcome the shortcomings of the centralized bureaucratic planning mechanism and

subsidies, which resulted in the socio-economic crisis in the post-war years, on the basis of summarizing initiatives and creativity in the leadership and direction of the Party and the implementation of the entire political system and people, the Party has proposed and implemented the comprehensive renovation policy of the country, marking an important turning point on the path of transition to socialism in Vietnam. The renovation policy has met the practical requirements of the process of economic construction, national defense, security, and foreign affairs of the country, demonstrated the steadfastness and creative thinking of the Communist Party of Vietnam and opened a new era for the development of the country.

After nearly 40 years of implementing the renovation process under the leadership of the Party, the country has overcome all difficulties and achieved great and historic achievements. From a poor, war-ravaged, besieged and isolated country, Vietnam has now become a middle-income developing country, extensively integrated into world politics, the global economy and human civilization. It has also assumed important international responsibilities, and promoted its active role in many important international organizations and multilateral forums. Independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity have been maintained and national and ethnic interests have been guaranteed. The scale of the economy in 2024 reached over 470 billion USD, ranking 32nd in the world and among the top 20 economies in terms of trade and foreign investment attraction. People's lives have been improved significantly, the poverty rate has decreased sharply, now only 1.93% (according to multidimensional standards) compared to 60% in 1986. The potentials of politics, economy, culture, society, science-technology, defense and security have been constantly improved. The scope of foreign affairs has been ceaselessly broadened and the country's position and prestige have been continuously improved. The country has made positive contributions to solving regional and global issues, and performed many tasks as a member of ASEAN, the United Nations and other international organizations and institutions, which have been recognized and highly appreciated by the international community.

The great achievements of the Vietnamese revolution over the past 95 years stem from many factors, of which the sound and wise leadership of the Party is decisive, along with the sacrifices, fighting and creative labor of the entire people and army, and the support and assistance of international friends. In difficult and challenging times, the Party has clearly demonstrated its mettle and solidarity, being a unified bloc in will and action, thereby leading and directing the entire political system to strive to attain great and comprehensive

achievements in all fields. At the same time, through the process of leading the revolution, the Party has been tempered and increasingly matured, strengthened, and worthy of its role and mission of leading the revolution and fulfilling the trust and expectations of the people. That reality has affirmed that in Vietnam, there is no other political force than the Communist Party of Vietnam that has enough capacity, courage, intelligence, experience and prestige to lead the country to overcome all difficulties and challenges, and the revolutionary cause of our nation from victory to victory.

Looking back on the 95-year journey of building, fighting and growing up of the Communist Party of Vietnam, we express our boundless gratitude and respectfully commemorate the great President Ho Chi Minh - the genius leader, the hero of national liberation, who opened the revolutionary path, and made the country illustrious. We also respectfully commemorate the Party's predecessors, heroic martyrs, compatriots and comrades who fought unyieldingly and sacrificed themselves in the glorious revolutionary cause for independence and freedom of the Fatherland, for socialism, for a peaceful, happy and prosperous life of the people.

The Party, State and people of Vietnam will forever remember the contributions of those who have rendered service to the country, including families of martyrs, Vietnamese heroic mothers, armed forces heroes, labor heroes, wounded and sick soldiers, comrades who were imprisoned in colonial and imperialist prisons, soldiers who fought on all fronts and fulfilled noble international duties, veterans and those who worked hard and created material wealth for society. We are also forever grateful to our international friends who have steadfastly accompanied, supported and helped the Vietnamese people in the past struggle for national independence, as well as maintaining continued cooperation and support in the cause of national construction and development today.

Looking back at the history, and glorious and proud tradition of the Party over the past 95 years, we realize the responsibility of today's generation of leaders and Party members in the historical process of the nation. The Party's current mission is to lead and bring the country into an era of development, an era of prosperity, and to successfully build a strong socialist country of Vietnam with rich people, democracy, fairness, and civilization, walking abreast with the world powers; ensuring all people have a prosperous and happy life, are supported to develop and get rich; to contribute more and more to the peace, stability, and development of the region and the world, for the happiness of mankind and global civilization. The top priority is to successfully implement

the strategic goals by 2030, so that Vietnam will become an upper middle-income developing country with modern industry and by 2045 it will become a developed socialist country with a high income.

In order to continue to shoulder that historical responsibility, the Party must constantly grow in strength, maintain its revolutionary nature, improve its leadership and governance, fighting strength and close ties with the people. The Party must always renew itself, self-rectify, promote internal democracy, and build a strong, clean cadre team, consistent with the goals and ideals of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh thought. At the same time, the Party must ceaselessly perfect its theory, improve the quality of ideological work, and create a solid foundation to lead the country to develop rapidly and sustainably. In face of new requirements of the revolutionary cause, especially in the context of extensive international integration and challenges from the world situation, the Party building work needs to be paid more attention, innovated and implemented more drastically, focusing on the following key groups of issues:

First, staying committed to the Party's goals and ideals. The Party came to being with the mission of leading the revolution, representing the interests of the working class, the laborers and the entire Vietnamese nation. The Party, right from the early days of the struggle for independence until it became the ruling Party, has always adhered to the goal of national liberation, socialist construction, and bringing prosperity and happiness to the people. It does not exist for its own benefit but operates for the benefit of the whole people. The Party's leadership power does not come from itself, but is empowered and delegated by the people. The Party has no other purpose than to fight for the interests of the people and the entire nation. President Ho Chi Minh once emphasized: "The Party is not an organization to make its members rich. It must fulfill the task of national liberation, making the Fatherland rich and strong, and the people happy." Therefore, the Party must always be closely attached to the people, consider the people's interests as the highest goal, and maintain its revolutionary nature and pioneering role. In the current context, the Party must remain steadfast in its ideological foundation, continue to creatively apply Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh thought into practice, and firmly defend the path to socialism. At the same time, the Party must constantly innovate, self-rectify, improve its leadership, and build a clean and strong Party to continue leading the nation on the path of development in the new era, realizing the goal of a rich people, a strong country, democracy, fairness, and civilization.

Second, constantly perfecting the Party's theoretical system. A solid theoretical foundation is the compass for the Party's actions, which determines

the correctness of its guidelines and development strategy of the country. Over more than 95 years of revolutionary leadership, the Party has drawn many lessons and gradually developed theoretical thinking on the path to socialism, the model of socialist-oriented market economic development, the construction of a socialist rule-of-law state, national defense, security and foreign affairs, and many other important areas. The perfection of the theoretical foundation is an urgent requirement for the Party to continue leading the country in the context of today's world, with profound changes in all aspects of life. However, in the process of development, practice always raises new issues, requiring the Party to constantly summarize practices and supplement and develop theories.

The summary of practices needs to look straight at the truth, accurately assess the results achieved, frankly and objectively point out the limitations, weaknesses, shortcomings and causes; clearly identify the bottlenecks that are hindering the development of the country, thereby proposing breakthrough solutions and creating strong momentum for the development process in the coming time. Research work also should specify great opportunities that need to be taken advantage of, great challenges that need to be overcome, and what are the new elements of practice that need to be supplemented. Frankness, objectivity, science, honesty, steadfastness and caution are necessary to avoid mistakes and rashness. These issues need to be clarified in the process of drafting documents to be submitted to the 14th National Party Congress. This is not only the work of the Party's specialized agencies but also requires the participation of the entire political system, intellectuals, theoretical research agencies and each cadre, party member and people nationwide.

Third, continuing to build and rectify a clean and strong Party. This is a task of decisive significance to the existence and development of the Party. It is necessary to continuously consolidate solidarity and unity within the Party, improve the leadership and fighting spirit of each Party organization; build a truly clean and strong grassroots Party organization, act as the core of the political system and closely connect with the people. At the same time, it is necessary to continue to strengthen the work of inspection, supervision and Party discipline; promote self-criticism and criticism, resolutely punish cadres and Party members who have degraded in political ideology, ethics and lifestyle, and show signs of "self-evolution" and "self-transformation" and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of inspection and supervision to maintain discipline and rules in the Party. Preventing and combating corruption, negativity and waste need to continue to be implemented resolutely, synchronously, comprehensively and systematically, without any forbidden

areas or exceptions, in order to create deterrence and warning, and contribute to cleaning up the apparatus and strengthening people's trust in the Party. Cadres and Party members, especially leaders of Party committees at all levels, have to set a good example for the people, always listen to people's opinions, promptly resolve people's legitimate aspirations, and create social consensus. At the same time, it is necessary to promote the people's supervisory role over cadres and Party members, ensuring that the Party is always a loyal leading force for the interests of the nation and for the happiness of the people.

Fourth, determining to streamline the political system apparatus so that it operates effectively and efficiently, and overcomes the cumbersome situation. In many recent congresses, the congress documents have emphasized specific tasks on streamlining the organizational apparatus or researching and building a comprehensive model of the political system's organizational apparatus in the new period. The Party has also continuously issued many resolutions and conclusions to lead the implementation of the policy of innovation and reorganization of the political system's apparatus. However, a number of Party committees, Party organizations, and leaders of some agencies, organizations, units and localities have not had enough awareness and determination, to take bold actions that are transformative, and the arrangement of the organizational apparatus has not been synchronous, comprehensive, and downsizing has not been linked with restructuring. Therefore, up to now, the organizational structure of the political system is still cumbersome, with a large number of focal agencies; the effectiveness and efficiency of operations have failed to meet the requirements and tasks; the functions, tasks, powers, organizations and working relationships between agencies and departments have been overlapping; the division of responsibilities and decentralization still lacks being both synchronous and reasonable, and there are places where excuses are made, and where there are omissions and inadequate investment. Compared to the great changes of the country after 40 years of renovation, the development of the socialist rule of law state and scientific and technological achievements, the organization of the political system apparatus of Vietnam is basically still following the model designed decades ago, many issues are no longer suitable for new conditions, which is contrary to the law of development; creating a situation of "Speaking one way and acting another". Therefore, the key task in the current period and the coming time is to build and organize the implementation of a comprehensive model of the political system's organizational apparatus of Vietnam to meet the requirements and tasks in the new revolutionary period.

Fifth, taking care of building the cadre team, especially key cadres at all levels. In face of increasingly high requirements for development and integration, the cadre team, especially key cadres at all levels, must meet important criteria. They must have strong political will, pure ethics, a high sense of responsibility, exemplary behavior, honesty, and devotion to serving the people. They are not self-interested, not corrupt, and not negative. They should have innovative and creative thinking; know how to seize opportunities, dare to think, dare to do, dare to take responsibility for the common good, not avoid, stagnate, or be passive in the face of newly arising problems. They must have practical capacity, leadership and management ability. To do this, it is necessary to strongly innovate thinking in cadre work. The processes of personnel work must become a mechanism for selecting the best and most deserving people, not a mechanism to legitimize the selection, appointment and promotion of people who do not meet the standards, are not truly representative, and are not truly for the people. In addition to making staff appointment and rotation become transparent, and strengthening inspection and supervision, it is necessary to build a mechanism to detect, protect and promote talented people, and have a clear mechanism for handling responsibilities, in which anyone who introduces or appoints officials who do not meet the standards, lack qualities, or are weak in capacity must be held responsible. At the same time, it is necessary to resolutely fight against the practice of seeking positions, power, and group interests in the work of planning, appointing and using officials.

Sixth, strengthening the application of science and technology and digital transformation in Party building. Advances in information technology, artificial intelligence, big data and digital transformation are strongly impacting all aspects of social life. The application of scientific and technological achievements in Party building is not only an urgent requirement but also a breakthrough to improve the leadership and fighting strength of the Party in the new situation. Information technology and artificial intelligence will contribute to modernizing the management of Party members and the operation of Party organizations. Building a Party member management system on a digital platform helps increase transparency, accuracy and efficiency in managing records, working processes, and evaluating and classifying Party members. This helps Party committees at all levels accurately grasp the situation of the team, thereby having a reasonable mechanism for training, fostering and rotation, and overcoming bureaucracy and impracticality. Digital technology also helps improve the effectiveness of propaganda work, and political and ideological education. Digital platforms and social networks can be used to

disseminate the Party's policies and guidelines to a large number of cadres, party members and people quickly, vividly and effectively. New technologies also help improve the ability to detect problems early, analyze, forecast, and propose appropriate solutions. Digital technology provides accurate, objective data, helping the Party committees make the right decisions, based on scientific analysis instead of emotions.

Seventh, the urgent key task in 2025 of the Party committees at all levels, each Party cell, and each Party member is to summon up their strength and intelligence together with the people to strive to complete and exceed the targets stated in the Resolutions of the Party committees at all levels, especially focusing on the socio-economic development targets; organize and conduct Party congresses at all levels, towards the 14th National Congress of the Party, which focuses on contributing opinions to the content of Party documents; introduce and select truly exemplary people, for the country and the people, in order to participate in the political system at all levels; and create a truly democratic, united, enthusiastic atmosphere of labor, production, construction, and development of the country among all classes of people.

Looking back at the 95 years of the Party's development, we have the right to be proud and have complete confidence in the bright future of the Party and the nation. In 1945, when leading the entire people to successfully carry out the August Revolution, the Party still had fewer than 5,000 members, but with the right guidelines, steadfast spirit, indomitable will and patriotism, the Party led the people to glorious victory, establishing the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. By 1960, when the country entered the period of long-term resistance against the US to save the country, the number of Party members increased to about 500,000 people, becoming the nucleus leading the entire nation to fight for independence and national unification. Today, with more than 5.4 million Party members, our force is constantly growing in both quantity and quality, capable of shouldering the responsibility for advancing the country in the new era. Each party member is a symbol of the faith, intelligence and solidarity of the entire nation. The Communist Party of Vietnam, under the light of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh thought, will continue to successfully fulfill its historic mission. With confidence in the strength of the Party and the solidarity of the whole nation, we affirm that the whole Party, people and army will unite to overcome all difficulties and challenges so that the country will develop rapidly and sustainably in the new era, and build a glorious and bright future for the Vietnamese people./.