

To Continue the Mission of the Vietnamese Revolutionary Press in the New Context

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Abstract: *Under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the Vietnamese revolutionary press has made extremely important contributions to the historical struggle for independence, national unification and socialist construction. The Vietnamese revolutionary press has become a sharp weapon contributing to the cause of national liberation, construction and defense, protecting the ideological foundation of the Party, encouraging and consolidating the great solidarity of the people, and becoming a bridge between the Party, the State and the people. In the context of globalization and international integration, the Vietnamese revolutionary press will continue to promote its tradition, and successfully fulfill the mission as a professional, humane and modern press, making a significant contribution to the development of a prosperous and civilized nation.*

Keywords: *revolutionary press; political communication; ideal education.*

1. The Vietnamese revolutionary press began with the birth of *Thanh Nien* newspaper on June 21, 1925, founded by leader Nguyen Ai Quoc (later known as Ho Chi Minh). *Thanh Nien* newspaper marked an important turning point in the history of Vietnam's press. This was not only the birth of a newspaper, but also the beginning of a revolutionary press, carrying a noble mission in the cause of fighting for national independence and socialist construction. *Thanh Nien* newspaper not only aimed to disseminate revolutionary ideas but also served as a forum for gathering and exchanging new ideas and methods of struggle, as a revolutionary weapon to mobilize the masses to participate in the revolutionary movements, to call for international solidarity, and to publicize the struggles of colonial peoples against colonialism. *Thanh Nien* and later revolutionary newspapers were sharp weapons in disseminating patriotism and revolutionary ideals, educating communism, training and raising political and cultural awareness for the masses; educating the spirit of national solidarity and arousing the will to fight against feudalism, colonialism and imperialism

for independence and freedom. President Ho Chi Minh affirmed: “For us journalists, the pen is a sharp weapon, the article is a revolutionary appeal to encourage the masses to unite to fight”⁽¹⁾.

During the struggle against French colonialism, American imperialism and reactionary forces, the revolutionary press played an important role in the glorious revolutionary cause of the Party and the nation. The newspapers, magazines and publications of the Party became powerful means of political communication as well as a source of spiritual encouragement for the army and people in the resistance wars. Information on the resounding victories and heroic sacrifices of revolutionary soldiers was deeply reflected in the newspapers, thereby creating the strength of national unity, strengthening the belief and determination of the Vietnamese people.

Although generations of revolutionary journalists faced numerous hardships and dangers, they always maintained their ideals and missions. A large number of reporters, editors and journalists sacrificed their lives while working on the battlefield, but their spirit remains a model of courage and devotion.

The press has continuously promoted its noble mission in each historical period, contributing to the revolutionary cause, the national construction and defense, and meeting the requirements of the time. The achievements of the Vietnamese revolutionary press throughout the revolutionary process are clear evidence of its unceasing contribution to the cause of national liberation and national unification. After the country gained independence, the Vietnamese revolutionary press continued to make great contributions to educating and disseminating the Party’s guidelines and viewpoints, the State’s laws and policies, building and consolidating people’s trust, and the economic and social development.

2. The press is one of the important tools of modern society, playing a special role in connecting State organizations, agencies with the community, especially in a democratic society where the supreme power belongs to the people. For Vietnam, the press is not only a regular communication tool but also an indispensable part of the political system, an important bridge between the Party, the State and the people. Since its inception, the press has always sided with the revolutionary cause, the struggle for national liberation, the protection of independence and sovereignty and the national construction, while helping the people better understand the Party’s guidelines and policies, and creating social consensus in implementing Vietnam’s major goals.

In the national construction and development process, the press is not only a tool for the Party to inform the masses but also a means for the masses to understand the Party's guidelines and the State's policies. The press helps the people to clearly understand the country's development goals and major strategies, thereby being able to accompany and implement the policies and decisions of the Party and the State.

The press provides information on economic and social issues, typical examples, good methods in areas such as economic development, environmental protection, or socio-cultural issues. This creates a strong spread in the community, arouses the aspiration for development, and motivates people to participate in the country's development process. The press also plays an important role in political education for the people. Through programs, articles, and analytical topics, the press contributes to raising political awareness in the community, helping people better understand the history, the Party's guidelines and viewpoints, and the revolutionary ideals. Through the press, people's opinions and reflections on issues such as administrative reform, education, health care or environmental protection are made public and transparent, which help people understand the necessity of reforms and their direct impacts on social life, and contribute to creating a democratic and consensual social environment.

One of the greatest uses of the press as a bridge between the Party, the State and the people is to provide timely and accurate information on the State's policies and laws, thereby raising people's awareness of their rights and obligations. The press is also a bridge between the Party's ideology and real life, helping people fully understand the importance of the Party's guidelines and decisions, as well as promoting the core values of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought. Thereby, the press contributes to forming the political awareness and responsibility of each citizen towards the cause of national construction and defense.

In addition to political dissemination and education, the press also plays a particularly important role in reflecting the people's thoughts, aspirations, and concerns regarding social and political issues. The press has become a "public forum" where people can express their opinions and views, and it is also a place for the Party and the State to listen to feedback, thereby making appropriate adjustments. The press can reflect issues that people are concerned about, such as difficulties in life, shortcomings in policy implementation, acts of corruption, waste, or negative manifestations in society. This not only helps the Party and the State promptly detect and handle problems, but also helps

create a democratic, fair, and transparent society. The press helps the Party, the State, and the people maintain close relationships, while enhancing mutual trust in the process of implementing policies.

The press, as part of the political system, has a great responsibility in building a democratic and civilized society. The press not only reflects reality, but also proactively contributes to social reform, building a healthy living environment, and promoting humane, fair and democratic values. The press also proactively contributes to creating space for citizens to participate in social dialogues, raising the level of social consensus. The press creates a bridge for people to participate in the process of deciding important issues of the country through public discussions and debates. Through the press, the relationship between the Party, the State and the people is firmly consolidated. This not only enhances the transparency of policies but also contributes to consolidating the democratic foundation in society. The press both strengthens people's trust in the government and helps the government listen, promptly adjust and improve policies when necessary.

The revolutionary press also actively participates in promoting the image of Vietnam and the Vietnamese people to the world, creating the image of a strong and self-reliant Vietnam in the process of national construction and development. The Vietnamese revolutionary press plays an important role in building and developing culture. The press has the task of arousing national pride, while aiming at progressive cultural values, in accordance with the general trend of the world. In the context of international integration and globalization, the press is a powerful tool in educating the community about culture. It is not only an information tool but also a core element in preserving, developing and disseminating national cultural values, and aiming to the construction of a modern culture, rich in tradition and in accordance with the development trend of the world.

In the integration period, the development of electronic press and digital media has expanded the influence of the press, and created conditions for people to access information more quickly and accurately. Online press agencies, electronic newspapers, and new television channels have contributed to enhancing the role of the press in connecting the community, disseminating knowledge and information on international and national issues. They are important tools to raise awareness and civic responsibility, helping them participate in the process of national construction and defense.

3. The Vietnamese revolutionary press, as the “fighting pen” of the society, has a particularly important task in protecting the ideological foundation of

the Communist Party of Vietnam, especially in disseminating, protecting and clarifying the values of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought. This task is not only to protect political principles but also to build, develop and clarify the theoretical foundations and models selected by the Party, while protecting and ensuring the purity of the Party's ideological foundation in the face of challenges and changes of the times.

The press helps to disseminate and explain basic theoretical issues of socialism, the Party's policies and guidelines in national construction and defense, and makes people understand and agree with the Party's decisions. In particular, in the process of innovation and development of the socialist-oriented market economy, the press has the responsibility to clarify the Party's guidelines on economic, political, cultural and social development with a view to ensuring that these policies are truly suitable for the country's context and the people's aspirations. In the article "It is necessary to read the Party newspaper" published in Nhan Dan newspaper on June 24, 1954, President Ho Chi Minh pointed out: "The Party newspaper is like a simple, practical and widespread training course. It teaches us what we need to know and work on communication, organization and leadership. Every day, it helps to improve our political level and work productivity"⁽²⁾.

The press plays a strategic role in the struggle against erroneous, distorted views and reactionary arguments from hostile forces. Through articles, reports and special features, the press can clarify issues related to socialism, analyze and point out the errors of reactionary views that distort history and deny the achievements of the Vietnamese revolution.

Globalization and international integration have created a vast information environment, where information flows from all over the world can easily access and influence public opinion in the country. In addition, the strongly developing social networks, online media and digital technology have become an indispensable part of information life. This poses many challenges for the Vietnamese revolutionary press. The press is both a communication tool and an important component in the political system, where the Communist Party of Vietnam plays the supreme leadership role, and the principle of the Party's press leadership is one of the decisive factors for the effectiveness of press activities in all periods of history. President Ho Chi Minh pointed out: "Politics must take the command of the press. If the political line is correct, then other things can be correct. Therefore, all our newspapers must have the correct political line"⁽³⁾.

The media in today's era has great international influence. It can spread views and information which are incorrect or do not reflect the true nature of the problem, affecting the people's and the international community's perception of Vietnam. The development of social networks and online media has helped false, hostile and reactionary information spread rapidly, threatening the political and social stability in the country. As society increasingly develops, people's need for information becomes more diverse and complex. What can the press do to meet this need while still upholding the Party's political and ideological mission?

In the social context of today, the press plays an increasingly important role in the national construction and development. The Communist Party of Vietnam is the sole leading force of the Vietnamese revolution. All political, social and economic activities must follow the leadership of the Party. The press, as an important part of the political system, cannot be separated from the leadership of the Party. Therefore, the principle of the Party leading the press in Vietnam means that serving the revolutionary cause and disseminating the Party's guidelines, lines and policies are the most important task of the press. It also acts as a bridge between the Party and the people. One of the most important requirements for the press is to obey and accurately reflect the Party's guidelines and viewpoints. The press agencies must disseminate, educate and raise the masses' awareness of communist ideals, socialism and revolutionary lines. The Party must directly lead the press in developing communication programs and strategies to orient public opinion and create social consensus.

The principle of the Party's leadership of the press in Vietnam is a fundamental and consistent one in the political system. The Communist Party of Vietnam has built, perfected and implemented this principle throughout the process of the revolutionary leadership, from the period of struggle for national independence and unification to the socialist construction and international integration. The Party's leadership of the press is not only in policymaking but also in the organization, management and supervision of the press. This helps the press not only maintain its role as a communication tool of the Party, but also fulfill its mission of serving the people, which contribute to building a strong, sustainable and developed country. The press must be a tool to serve the interests of the Party and the State, as well as accurately reflect the needs and aspirations of the people. It means that the press must play an important role in creating social consensus, contributing to clarifying social issues, and

protecting the legitimate rights of the people, especially in the fight against social evils, corruption, waste and other negative manifestations.

To ensure the Party's leadership of the press, the Party must participate in the organization, leadership and management of press agencies. Press agencies need to have a team of cadres and reporters with steady political qualities, high professional qualifications and strict compliance with the Party's leadership. The Party must also pay attention to training and cultivating press cadres, while creating conditions for the press to develop in all aspects. The Party must carry out supervision and inspection of press activities to ensure that press agencies do not go astray, do not commit political violations, and do not allow the press to be exploited by hostile forces to distort the truth and cause social disorder. The Party also needs to encourage the press to perform its counter-argument well, but must ensure that this counter-argument goes in the right direction and does not affect the political stability and development of the country. The Communist Party of Vietnam regularly issues resolutions and directives on press work, requires press agencies nationwide to closely follow the Party's policies and guidelines, and promotes the dissemination of the country's policies and achievements, as well as orients public opinion.

The press plays an extremely important role in political education, building a democratic, transparent and modern society, creating social consensus, and strengthening people's trust in the leadership of the Party. Press agencies in Vietnam must operate under the direct or indirect direction of Party agencies. Each press agency has a governing body, from the central to local levels, where there is strict direction, supervision and inspection. The press in Vietnam has a certain freedom in expressing opinions, but this freedom must be within the framework of the law and the leadership of the Party. The press can reflect all issues in society, but those issues must not go against the interests of the Party, the State and the people.

4. In modern society, the press plays an extremely important role in the process of building and developing the socio-economic fields. Not only is it a means of communication, the press is also a tool to speed up social change, enhance the accountability of authorities, and more importantly, it is a tool to promote progress and social justice. It is the press that helps people and leaders recognize and face urgent problems from reality, thereby proposing satisfactory solutions.

During the development process of Vietnam, the revolutionary press has played an important role in monitoring the activities of the Party, the State, and

functional agencies. The press not only reflects achievements but also points out shortcomings and inadequacies in management and administration. One of the most important roles of the press in the process of social construction and development is to foster accountability of State agencies. In a democratic society, accountability is an indispensable factor in maintaining people's trust and consensus in the government.

By providing accurate and objective information on policies and guidelines, the press helps people understand the goals and benefits of these policies to the national development. On the one hand, the press plays an important role in orienting public opinion, helping to create unity in people's perception and action on major issues such as economic, political, educational reform, environmental protection, security and defense. On the other hand, the press also contributes to strengthening people's trust in the Party and the State, acts as a bridge between the Party, the State and the people, helping to reflect the people's aspirations and contribute opinions to policy making, thereby making policies always closely linked to reality and people's aspirations.

The press is also an important tool for the government to listen to people's opinions. Many sensitive issues are mentioned in articles and reports reflecting people's opinions on the government's policies and decisions such as land management, compensation for site clearance, or issues related to people's rights in socio-economic development projects, helping to create a space for dialogue between the government and the people, while also enhancing the accountability of authorities.

The press also actively reflects hot social issues, such as corruption, waste, and negative phenomena in the political and social systems. Reporters, journalists, and press agencies have courageously exposed wrongdoings and negative phenomena, which contributes to speeding up reform and innovation in the country. One clear evidence is the strong development of investigative journalism and critical journalism in recent years, especially in major corruption cases.

The press is a tool to help check, monitor and reflect the activities of the government. Press agencies are responsible for reflecting the implementation of State policies, providing analysis and comments on the results of programs and projects implemented by the government, pointing out the strengths and weaknesses of policies and calling on authorities to review and adjust if necessary. The press also plays an important role in promoting the transparency

of State agencies' operations, especially in the management of public finance, public investment, and other state resources. Articles about corruption, waste in State financial management, or negative aspects in the activities of civil servants will put pressure on authorities to improve their management and accountability.

5. To meet the requirements of the new era, the Vietnamese revolutionary press needs to continue to innovate both content and form, determines to "build a professional, humane, and modern press and communication" ⁽⁴⁾. Newspapers and media need to apply digital technology and multimedia to improve information efficiency, while maintaining the quality, reliability, and authenticity of press products. To build a strong Vietnamese revolutionary press that meets the requirements of the globalization era, the Vietnamese press needs to carry out the following fundamental tasks:

To strengthen cultivation and education for press staff: Vietnamese journalists need to be equipped with firm professional knowledge and skills, and must have professional ethics as well as strong political will to be able to work in a challenging and complex environment. Journalists need to clearly understand the Party's views and guidelines, constantly learn and improve their professional qualifications to master modern information tools.

To ensure honesty and objectivity: In the context of multi-dimensional information, the press needs to resolutely protect the truth, fight against false and distorted information. At the same time, the press also needs to promote its role as a social critic, state pressing issues of the people, and contribute to perfecting the policies and laws of the Party and the State.

To build a culture of journalism: The Vietnamese press needs to develop a healthy journalism culture with standards of professional ethics, social responsibility, fairness and transparency. Especially, the press needs to protect the diversity of information, and actively contribute to social stability and development.

To apply digital technology and modern media: Press agencies need to invest in digital technology, develop online media platforms, build multimedia journalism products (videos, podcasts, livestreams) to easily approach readers, and improve the effectiveness of communication and education.

The press plays an extremely important role in any society, as a powerful means of communication, reflecting the reality of life, transmitting information and creating connections between social classes. In Vietnam, the press is the leading force in building social trust, encouraging the spirit and aspiration for

development and innovation, while remaining steadfast in the core values of Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh Thought and the path to socialism. The press is not only a tool for transmitting information, but also has a special position in the revolutionary cause, becoming the voice of the Party and the State and a forum for people to express their views and aspirations. This is an important feature of the Vietnamese revolutionary press, built and developed under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam, aiming to serve the interests of the people, protect and promote the people's mastery in the process of national construction and development. The Vietnamese revolutionary press in the era of globalization and international integration must actively contribute to the cause of building a Vietnam with wealthy people, strong country, democracy, fairness and civilization./.

(1) Ho Chi Minh (2011), *Complete Works*, Vol. 14, National Political Publishing House, p. 540.

(2) Ho Chi Minh (2011), *Complete Works*, Vol. 8, National Political Publishing House, p. 514.

(3) Ho Chi Minh (2011), *Complete Works*, Vol. 12, National Political Publishing House, p. 166.

(4) Communist Party of Vietnam (2021), *Documents of the 13th National Congress*, Vol. I, National Political Truth Publishing House, p. 146.