

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.63332/joph.v5i4.998>

The Innovation Philosophy of Leader Ho Chi Minh is An Important Foundation in the Innovation Path in Vietnam Today

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Abstract

Ho Chi Minh's innovation philosophy was formed on the basis of inheriting and selectively absorbing the Eastern, Western, ancient and modern values, along with his creative thinking, sharp reasoning and correct practical understanding. His innovation philosophy, such as: The goal of innovation is a rich people, a strong country; the nature of innovation is the cause of the nation; the soul of innovation is the leadership of the Party; the innovation is for all people; the motto of innovation is "Firm in objectives, flexible in strategies and tactics";... That philosophy has become scientific, comprehensive, revolutionary, humane, has sustainable methodological significance, lays the foundation for theoretical thinking, determines the innovation path and continues to illuminate the cause of comprehensive innovation of the country led by the Communist Party of Vietnam today.

Keywords: Philosophy. Ho Chi Minh philosophy. Innovation. Vietnam.

Introduction

Ho Chi Minh (1890 - 1969) had many different names and pen names, Vietnamese people often called him "Bac Ho", was the leader of the Vietnamese people and the founder of the Communist Party of Vietnam (1930). He wrote and read the "Declaration of Independence" (1945) giving birth to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (now the Socialist Republic of Vietnam). Leader Ho Chi Minh had many years of traveling and studying abroad, until 1941, he returned to the country to directly lead the Vietnamese revolution until his death. He left the Vietnamese people a valuable legacy of ideology, ethics, style and scientific and humanistic methods. In particular, his innovation ideology and innovation philosophy are a comprehensive system of viewpoints on the path of the Vietnamese revolution from national independence to building socialism, reflecting the right laws, in accordance with the people, in line with the times, meeting the aspirations of the Vietnamese people for a prosperous, free and happy life. Ho Chi Minh's innovation philosophies (on goals, tasks, mottos, principles, subjects, implementation organizations, etc.) have been thoroughly grasped, studied, applied and creatively developed by the Communist Party of Vietnam in the comprehensive innovation of the country since 1986, achieving great achievements of historical significance. That continues to affirm Ho Chi Minh's innovation philosophy as an important foundation in the innovation path of the Party and the Vietnamese people.

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Methodology

The purpose of the article is to clarify why Ho Chi Minh's innovation philosophy is the foundation, an important component of the innovation path in Vietnam from the historical milestone of 1986 to the present and to affirm the theoretical and practical values of Ho Chi Minh's innovation philosophy in the future of the nation.

From that goal, the article uses the dialectical materialist method of philosophy to comprehensively and systematically evaluate and clarify each content of Ho Chi Minh's philosophy of innovation: On the nature of revolution is innovation: That is the revolutionary path and the movement of Vietnamese history from the time of colonial invasion to independence (new path); on the philosophical innovation with values: independence, freedom, happiness, peace, unity, democracy, equality, rich people, strong country. The combination of theoretical research methods with practice aims to evaluate the progress of the Vietnamese people since the leadership and direction of leader Ho Chi Minh through viewpoints and arguments to affirm the correctness, revolutionary nature, scientific nature and humanism. Using a combination of specific scientific methods: historical and generalization methods, logical and comparative methods, exemplary methods, analysis, statistics... to clarify Ho Chi Minh's method of innovation with philosophical significance: Having a new leadership organization (Communist Party of Vietnam); having a new institution (State of the people, by the people, for the people) and having a democratic legal foundation; making changes in all areas of life (politics, economics, culture, society, people,...) to change in a positive, progressive direction, bringing material and spiritual life to the people.

The main findings of the article: Research on Ho Chi Minh's inheritance of the good traditional values of the philosophy of innovation and reform of the nation and the world to choose the right path and thoroughly solve for the Vietnamese people: National independence associated with socialism. Ho Chi Minh's philosophy of innovation is in accordance with the law of motion of human social history (from loss of the country to independence, from slavery to freedom, from hardship to happiness), meeting the aspirations of the Vietnamese people, in line with the trend of the times. The article cites comments and assessments of foreign experts and scholars to enhance the persuasiveness of the content of Ho Chi Minh's philosophy of innovation is correct. Ho Chi Minh's innovation philosophy has been tested in practice over nearly 40 years of innovation (1986 - 2026), achieving great achievements in terms of models, paths, subjects, and driving forces, and has been proven by data on the scale of a strongly developing economy, rapidly increasing per capita income, decreasing multidimensional poverty rates, increasingly open international relations, and international prestige. This study also clarifies that Ho Chi Minh's philosophy of innovation is a legacy that continues to illuminate the era of prosperous and powerful development of the Vietnamese people. Although the world today is facing many uncertainties and negative challenges such as natural disasters, storms, floods, epidemics, armed terrorism, military power, ethnic conflicts, populist movements, maritime disputes, political influence, economic competition, etc., the Vietnamese people have and continue to place their trust in the Communist Party of Vietnam with the mission of leadership, with the right strategic vision, with the methodology and philosophy of Ho Chi Minh to guide the way, with the learning and reference of effective innovation models in the world, then inevitably the innovation process in Vietnam will reap many achievements in the future.

Literature Review

Up to now, the study has basically clarified some basic contents of Ho Chi Minh's legacy on innovation from different perspectives, expressed in a variety of approaches (books, magazines, seminars, theses, etc.) with different goals, requirements, and tasks. From the study of the classic "*Hồ Chí Minh toàn tập*" (Ho Chi Minh complete works) and published works (in Vietnam and around the world), the current research has focused on the following main contents:

Firstly, analyze the origin of Ho Chi Minh's thought on innovation: From the practical requirements of the country and the times, He inherited and absorbed the lessons of reform and innovation from the history of the Vietnamese nation; absorbed the ideas of innovation in East Asian countries; absorbed the quintessence of Western culture, especially inheriting and absorbing French enlightenment philosophy; directly inheriting and absorbing Marxism-Leninism. Along with that is the role of Ho Chi Minh's subjective factor: patriotism, love for the people, ambition to save the country, will and courage, superior intelligence, sharp thinking, quick absorption of new and progressive things. Typical as the book: Paul Mus, "*Ho Chi Minh - Vietnam and Asia*", wrote: Cù Hồ emerged as the most Asian of Asia, but the one most easily in contact with the spirit of Europe. The book *Ho Chi Minh's Heritage On Culture And Ethics* (2015) by Tran Van Binh, has clarified that Ho Chi Minh became the "quintessence and spirit, conscience and honor" of the nation and humanity; his ideology is a beautiful, immortal symbol, forever guiding, showing the way, and illuminating our path. The book *Ho Chi Minh - A Outstanding Thinker* (2005) by Song Thanh, affirms that Ho Chi Minh's thought is the ideological foundation of the Party and the nation, and still lives forever in the cultural treasure of humanity.

Secondly, study the contents of Ho Chi Minh's philosophy of innovation: New awareness in the national liberation revolution; His new path to national salvation was chosen to the West; innovation in theoretical thinking; new thinking about the Communist Party, about institutional organization, front and mass organizations - society. Affirm the theoretical and practical value of Ho Chi Minh's thought on innovation for the revolutionary path and the innovation process of Vietnam today. Specifically as follows: The book *Ho Chi Minh - Vision Of The Times* (2017) stated: "With an accurate grasp of the characteristics and trends of the times, Ho Chi Minh determined the path of national development in accordance with the development laws of history - the path of national independence associated with socialism" (p. 20). The article *Ho Chi Minh - The Embodiment Of innovation: His Ideology, Ethics, And Style illuminate the innovation cause of our Party and People* (Phu 2021) deeply analyzed the ideology, ethics, and innovation style of Ho Chi Minh in the process of leading the revolution and pointed out: "Revolution is to destroy the old and change to the new, destroy the bad and change to the good"; innovation must be for the country and the people, "Truth is what is beneficial to the Fatherland and the people".

Thirdly, The works have analyzed and interpreted the basic contents of Ho Chi Minh's thought on innovation associated with the work of Party building and rectification, with the construction of a new type of State that is truly of the people, by the people and for the people; associated with building a pure and people-friendly political foundation, promoting the strategy of great national unity in building and defending the country; building a new culture, new education, new ethics for the new Vietnamese people. Innovation originates from planning new economic development policies, for the goal of improving the material and spiritual life of the people. The book *Ho Chi Minh's Thought On Innovation, Integration And Development* (2018) analyzes the content of Ho Chi Minh's thought on innovation (new awareness in the national liberation

revolution, innovation in theoretical thinking about the revolutionary path, innovation in thinking about organization). *Ho Chi Minh - Creation And Innovation* (2021) by Bui Dinh Phong evaluated Ho Chi Minh's philosophy of innovation on new awareness and innovation in theoretical thinking; on the new revolutionary path and new revolutionary methods; the philosophy of innovation, integration and development is the way to carry out the revolution for the goals and ideals of the Vietnamese people. Lai Quoc Khanh with the book *Ho Chi Minh Political Philosophy* (2024), mentioned Ho Chi Minh's philosophy on the content of political values such as independence, freedom, happiness, unity, peace, rich people, strong country, democracy, equality, fairness; the political subject is the strength of the great national unity bloc, the political institution is a democratic institution.

Fourthly, assess the current situation and propose orientations and solutions to apply Ho Chi Minh's innovation philosophy in the current context: The book *The OSS an Ho Chi Minh Unexpected Allies in the Was against Japan* (Dixee 2006) with the message of 1946: "Vietnam advocates complete independence and comprehensive cooperation with the United States" valuable and suitable for the trend of cooperation and development in the world today. The book *Ho Chi Minh - An Asian Of All Times* (2010) emphasized the values that guide the future of the Vietnamese people and today's era. The book *Renewal And Development In Vietnam - Some Theoretical And Practical Issues* (2006) affirmed the consistency from Ho Chi Minh's thought of renewal and development to the renewal and development policy of the Communist Party of Vietnam. State-level scientific topic of Mach Quang Thang (director: KX.04.01/11-15, 2011-2015), *Creative Application And Development Of Marxism - Leninism, Ho Chi Minh Thought In The Conditions Of Market Economy Development And International Integration*; solutions to creatively apply Ho Chi Minh's legacy: continue to innovate awareness; build an organizational apparatus and theoretical staff; innovate education,...

Overall, the published research works are important documents with useful reference value, providing multi-dimensional perspectives and diverse approaches related to some contents of Ho Chi Minh's innovation philosophy in the current period. However, there has not been any work that systematically and comprehensively researches and evaluates the content of Ho Chi Minh's innovation philosophy as an important foundation in building and perfecting the theory of the current innovation path.

Results and Discussion

Ho Chi Minh's philosophy of innovation is of humanistic scientific nature; it is the foundation and important pillar of Vietnam's theoretical thinking and innovation practice.

Ho Chi Minh's philosophy of innovation is a system of views that is deeply scientific, revolutionary and humanistic, with rich theoretical and practical roots; it is the deep absorption, distillation, application and creative development of the viewpoints, dialectical materialist worldview, and methodology of Marxism-Leninism into Vietnamese practice. The uniqueness and distinctiveness in approach, consistency in theory, systematicity in argument, and creativity in practice of Ho Chi Minh have led to the difference in his legacy. As Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote: "The source of all actions is thinking". Having the right thinking will govern the right thoughts and actions. But thinking does not form itself but originates from practice, inherits, promotes, and develops from previous generations. Leader Ho Chi Minh had a process of searching, testing, analyzing, synthesizing, comparing, inheriting, absorbing, and selecting, not dogmatic, biased, stereotyped, mechanical, or completely scholastic in following a certain theory to find the truth for the nation.

Ho Chi Minh's philosophy of innovation vividly demonstrates the combination of universality and specificity in the creative application of classical theories in Vietnam; based on the foundation of correct theory and the reality of the nation and the times; loyal and consistent thinking with the ideals and goals of socialism; political stance and viewpoint being the stance of the working class; aiming at social reform and for the people. From there, he thoroughly, correctly and realistically explained the problems of the country's "dark and seemingly hopeless" situation from the 1920s and also the victories for Vietnam in the following process. That is, *How to* completely liberate the nation from the brutal and inhumane exploitation of the powerful colonialists and imperialists? *How to* build a political party in a poor, colonial and feudal country with a small working class? *How to* build socialism from an agricultural, poor, backward country? *When* should we start building the transitional period to socialism, bypassing capitalism? *Why* must there be a real state of the people and a team of cadres and party members who are both "virtuous" and "talented"? All of that is expressed by the thinking and intelligence, capacity and temperament, virtue and enthusiasm, will and action of a "wise" Ho Chi Minh.

Leader Ho Chi Minh had an extremely rich career and activities (more than 170 different names and pen names; set foot in 56 countries and territories, 24 years as President, had over 2,000 articles of various genres, 300 poems, 500 pages of memoirs,...). Looking at the contributions of leader Ho Chi Minh clearly shows a continuous process of innovation in his awareness and revolutionary baggage. Accordingly, leader Ho Chi Minh left a valuable legacy of innovation for our Party and people in both theoretical and practical aspects. He affirmed: "Society is now developing day by day. Thoughts and actions are also developing. If we keep holding on to the old without changing, we will not get anywhere" (Minh, 2021, vol. 8, p. 55). Different from the views that are imposed, distorted, and skeptical, He aimed for a humane, realistic social regime, "where no one exploits another, where everyone is happy, glorious, free, and equal, worthy of being a world of humanity" (Minh, 2021, vol. 12, p. 70). It must be a society as He said: "For the sake of 10 years' benefit, we must plant trees; for the sake of 100 years' benefit, we must cultivate people" (Why are Vietnam's schools so good, 2023). That proves that He has made efforts to bring human values - cultural values - social values to the nation and the era.

The Communist Party of Vietnam has affirmed that Ho Chi Minh's thought is "a comprehensive and profound system of viewpoints on fundamental issues of the Vietnamese revolution, the result of the creative application and development of Marxism-Leninism to the specific conditions of our country, inheriting and developing the fine traditional values of the nation, absorbing the quintessence of human culture. It is the thought of national liberation, class liberation, human liberation, of national independence associated with socialism" (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2016, vol. 60, p. 130). And the research results on Ho Chi Minh focus on the following entities: Ho Chi Minh's background, biography, career, life, ideology, morality, style and revolutionary methods. Especially the core issues in his ideology on: National issues and national liberation revolution; on socialism and building socialism in Vietnam; on the Communist Party of Vietnam; on building a State of the people, by the people, for the people; on great national unity, combining national strength with the strength of the times; on culture, morality and humanity;... The stature of Ho Chi Minh's ideology and philosophy is the core, extremely great factor, the value of Ho Chi Minh's ideology is extremely enormous. Throughout the stages of the Vietnamese revolution, Ho Chi Minh's ideology and philosophy are the guiding light, the ideological flag and the compass that guides the Vietnamese revolution from one victory to another, and the victorious practice of the Vietnamese revolution itself proves and affirms the correctness and creativity of Ho Chi Minh's ideology. Therefore, our Party

affirms that, together with Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's ideology “forever lights the way for our people's revolutionary cause to win victory” (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2011, p. 88).

On the basis of steadfastly grasping and creatively applying Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's legacy, the Communist Party of Vietnam is increasingly clarifying the theory of socialism and the path to building socialism in Vietnam. In the current context, Ho Chi Minh's philosophy helps our Party and our people have a theoretical viewpoint and revolutionary methods to correctly perceive major issues related to protecting national independence, developing the socio-economy, ensuring human freedom and happiness, and moving towards a socialist society. Therefore, comprehensively, deeply and systematically studying the process of creatively applying and developing Ho Chi Minh's thought in building and perfecting the theory of the Party's innovation path will continue to provide a methodology and scientific basis for our Party to answer and solve urgent, important and vital issues raised by reality.

The goal of Ho Chi Minh's innovation philosophy is to follow the law, please the people, and be in line with the times.

From the imbibing of the theory of the development of lower-level socio-economic forms to higher-level ones as a historical-natural process of Marx-Lenin, Ho Chi Minh affirmed the inevitability of the progress of human society: “There is no force that can prevent the sun from rising. There is no force that can prevent human history from progressing. There is also no force that can prevent socialism from developing” (Minh, 2021, vol. 11, p. 158). Ho Chi Minh's contribution is a breakthrough in theory and practice of Vietnam's development, which is national independence associated with socialism. Ho Chi Minh's innovation ideology and philosophy were born first of all from the objective need for national liberation, class liberation, human liberation, and the need to build and develop the country. Ho Chi Minh made great contributions to the international communist and workers' movement in the 20th century and has current value in changing the destiny of the entire nation from slavery to an independent, free nation with conditions for development. His innovation philosophy reflects fundamental issues that are regular and have been proven through the victorious practice of the Vietnamese revolution and of humanity in the struggle for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress. Today, that system of regular viewpoints is and will continue to demonstrate its correctness in new historical conditions.

Ho Chi Minh's journey of dedication and devotion to find the light of truth of the times was not only to satisfy himself or his family's need for prosperity and happiness, but it was also the burning desire of the Vietnamese people. He especially valued the issue of life and being human, which is to love the country, love the people, love humanity, which never changes. That is also the philosophy of human morality, living with love, especially the dedication and sacrifice throughout his life for the country to “bloom with independence, bear fruit of freedom”, bringing civil rights, conscience and dignity to people. Including human rights for all skin colors in the world that he said in the early 20s of the 20th century that: Under imperialism “Black lives don't matter” (Pateman, 2021). Independence - Freedom - Happiness is the consistent and core goal of Ho Chi Minh's ideology, aiming at a system of values for the people, and is the philosophy for developing the Vietnamese revolution in the new era. As Serafin D. Quiason (Philippines) assessed: “Rarely any Asian has played such an important role in building a new nation like President Ho Chi Minh. Throughout his career, he always started from the spirit of wholeheartedly serving the people, both with his profound knowledge, experience and talent, as well as with his dedication and integrity, to win the respect and gratitude of the people... He is

truly an Asian of all times in the fullest sense of the word” (Social Sciences Publishing House, 1990, p. 106-107).

For the ruling Party, leader Ho Chi Minh affirmed the political responsibility and conscience of each cadre and party member: “No matter what position we hold or what work we do, we are all servants of the people. The food we eat, the clothes we wear, the materials we use, all come from the sweat and tears of the people. Therefore, we must compensate the people properly” (Minh, 2021, vol. 9, p. 145). People are the masters; truth is what is beneficial to the country and the people; revolutionary cadres must *Know* how to lead and lead *Correctly*. According to Him: “If you don't learn from the people, you can't lead the people. *Only by knowing how to be a student of the people can you become a teacher of the people*” (Minh, 2021, vol. 6, p. 432). Leadership style close to the people but “absolutely should not *follow the crowd*”, Because to be a leader, one must have more qualifications and abilities than the people in order to lead the people. If one follows the people, one cannot lead the people. Innovation associated with his actions brings happiness, humanity, “*national interest, people interest*”. If the Party wants to be worthy of being the offspring of the people and leading the nation, it must have morality; revolutionary morality is the root of a leader, “the duty of a revolutionary cadre is to wholeheartedly serve the Fatherland and the people throughout his life. He must strive to fulfill the following: diligence, thrift, integrity, impartiality, and selflessness” (Minh, 2021, vol. 9, p. 356); “Without morality, no matter how talented, one cannot lead the people. The driving force for progressive development is that each person must train and cultivate morality, must cultivate throughout life and persevere every day like “the more jade is polished, the brighter it becomes, the more gold is refined, the purer it becomes” to reach truth - goodness - beauty.

Leader Ho Chi Minh inherited, combined and creatively developed the quintessence of the nation, humanity and the era, transforming the “exogenous” into “endogenous” factors to realize the Vietnamese revolution. He said: “Patriotism and internationalism are closely linked together” (Minh, 2021, vol. 8, p. 273); “Friendly countries help us and give us capita, we can skillfully use that capital to strengthen our forces and develop our capabilities” (Minh, 2021, vol. 10, p. 56-57). He has skillfully combined the East and the West, history and present, democracy and human rights, the needs of the nation and the trends of humanity, ... combined with the fine traditions of the nation to create “soft power”, “soft power” of Vietnam. Although “soft power” has been mentioned since the early 90s of the 20th century until now, it has not been mentioned by Ho Chi Minh, but it has been deeply imprinted in his legacy through the system of cultural, political, diplomatic and self-reliant values of Vietnam, contributing to creating position, attraction, and spreading to the world. Through this, it also raises the requirement that not every problem of the human world, any proposition can be *Assigned, Named Or Renewed To Ho Chi Minh's Thought*, but it is necessary to have a thorough, accurate assessment, in accordance with the stature of the times to continue to supplement and creatively develop his legacy.

Ho Chi Minh always placed the Vietnamese revolution in the orbit of the world. He wrote many letters and telegrams to the United Nations, governments and other international organizations with the motto “seeking the same, preserving the different” and affirmed that Vietnam wanted equality, cooperation and mutual development. He left the nation a practical lesson: foreign worship or xenophobia are both cognitive errors, leading to stagnation in development. He opened up for humanity a path of integration, autonomy, equality and cooperation, without creating hatred for anyone, “which any modern state must appreciate” (Sophie, 2002, p. 238).

Ho Chi Minh's philosophy of innovation in history up to now still retains its value and is considered appropriate and has a vision of the time:

1. Philosophy on ideological breakthroughs in the process of finding a way to save the country;
2. Philosophy on choosing the path of national liberation;
3. Philosophy on establishing and creating a social model associated with modern institutions;
4. Philosophy on determining the path of revolutionary development;
5. Philosophy on building a comprehensively developed human being;
6. Philosophy on international relations and cooperation and solving global problems;
7. Philosophy on an independent, self-reliant nation and positioning Vietnam's future to stand shoulder to shoulder with the world's great powers;...

The above issues can be called Ho Chi Minh's political philosophy, meaning that his philosophy of innovation is both a product of the era of “national independence and socialism” and reflects the ideals and goals of the era of “Independence - Freedom - Happiness” for all nations and people on our planet. As American scholar - Duiker assessed about him: “Regardless of how people ultimately judge the legacy that Ong Ho left for his people, Ong Ho has taken a place in the pantheon of revolutionary heroes who fought strongly for the suffering people of the world to have their true voice” (Duiker, 2000, p. 576).

Leader Ho Chi Minh not only sought and chose the path for the independent and unified Vietnamese revolution but also for the era of “*a method to awaken hundreds of millions of oppressed people in colonial and backward countries*, whose populations accounted for more than 2/3 of the total human population in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This affirms that Ho Chi Minh was first and foremost a revolutionary who *contributed to the creation of today's world*, a great contribution that humanity will never forget” (Lien, 1993, p. 33). He had unique practical insights that contributed to building international consensus on independence, peace, friendship, cooperation and sustainable development of the world. Therefore, his legacy deserves to be “the most beautiful symbol of Vietnamese patriotism and revolutionary heroism. He is the shining crystallization of morality, intelligence, spirit and conscience of the nation and the era” (Trong, 2021, p. 229).

Ho Chi Minh's philosophy of innovation contributed to the success of the comprehensive innovation of Vietnam.

During his lifetime, President Ho Chi Minh systematically taught scientific arguments on the goals, orientations, nature, methods, principles, subjects, and measures of innovation. Those elements have been and are being tested as correct, appropriate, and decisive for the success of the struggle for national liberation, national construction, and the innovation process initiated by the Communist Party of Vietnam from 1986 to the present. His teachings are both valuable lessons, a handbook, and an important orientation in the comprehensive innovation of Vietnam..

First of all, it is the *Awareness Of When To Innovate And What Is The Nature Of Innovation?* According to Him, in the face of new changes in the objective situation, revolutionaries need to have new awareness to innovate in both guidelines, policies and methods of organization and implementation. He affirmed: “*The New Situation* has set forth *New Tasks*, new mottos, new strategies... Currently, the situation has changed, our tasks have also changed, policies and slogans must also change, to suit the new situation... But in the face of the current new situation,

we cannot keep the old platform” (Minh, 2021, vol. 8, p. 550-551). Applying His ideology, our Party summarized the lessons learned from 30 years of implementing the 1991 Platform and also pointed out that we must “respect objective laws, consider practice as the criterion of truth” (Central Theoretical Council, 2020, p. 361). Thus, his teachings on principles and methods of innovation are valuable practical lessons for the ruling Party to avoid mistakes and losses. Faced with changes in the objective situation, revolutionaries must have new perceptions to innovate in their guidelines, policies and methods of organization and implementation.

Ho Chi Minh's career is a revolutionary career, *The Nature Of Revolution Is Innovation*. He affirmed: “Revolution is to destroy the old and change to the new, to destroy the bad and change to the good” (Minh, 2021, vol. 2, p. 284). “The truth is what is beneficial to the Country and the people”, “Whatever is beneficial to the people, we must do our best”, whatever is harmful to the country and the people, we must avoid at all costs, and innovation must truly be for the country and the people. These are viewpoints that will last forever, are innovative thinking, innovative philosophy, and also his innovative truth that cannot be denied or rejected.

On the content and method of innovation? Ho Chi Minh's thought also contains the content of comprehensive innovation in all fields to completely liberate people; promote all potentials of each person; to create the strength of the whole nation, it is necessary to build a great solidarity bloc: first of all, solidarity within the Party, solidarity of the whole people, international solidarity; promote national strength combined with the strength of the times. In Ho Chi Minh's career, each of his activities and viewpoints also has the meaning of guiding methods. He was a *master of innovative revolutionary methods* (Ky, 1997, p. 38-39). In the revolutionary method, he also used unity and solidarity instead of the exclusion method to create the strength of the whole people in innovation. His method is the way, measure, way of doing, step in solving strategic and tactical issues or to complete specific revolutionary tasks in each period and towards raising ideological awareness, training, comprehensive nurturing to perfect people and develop society.

The characteristic of Western thinking and action is the rule of law, while the “soul” of Ho Chi Minh's thinking is improvisation. This is not contradictory, but shows that Ho Chi Minh's approach is both scientific and flexible, summarizing practice and concluding as a political art. That is the motto “Firm in objectives, flexible in strategies and tactics” to realize the Vietnamese revolutionary path. Therefore, researcher Toshom Kebede (Ethiopia) assessed that “Ho Chi Minh's theoretical views and his ability to creatively use historical and materialistic methods to solve social phenomena are the source of his brilliant thoughts... The value of Ho Chi Minh's thought at the present historical moment is also an important source of motivation for African countries in the struggle for national unity and socio-economic development” (Department of Cultural Diplomacy and UNESCO, 2023, p. 196).

Who is the subject of innovation? In the process of innovation thinking, Ho Chi Minh especially emphasized the organization and institutions of innovation, in which he affirmed that the Communist Party of Vietnam is the soul of innovation, so the Party must constantly innovate itself. The Party's responsibility is to have correct directives and resolutions, “ready, clear, thoughtful plans to avoid passivity, shortcomings and mistakes” (Minh, 2021, vol. 15, p. 616). Party organizations must be truly “clean”, “united” and “pure from top to bottom” (Minh, 2021, vol. 5, p. 75), only then can we lead the people and “no matter how great or difficult the task, we will certainly win”. The Party must well implement its principles of operation: Democratic centralism; collective leadership, individual responsibility; self-criticism and criticism;

operating in accordance with the law; having a spirit of solidarity, discipline, and unity... He demanded that the Party building and rectification in terms of ideology, theory, politics, ethics, and organization must take place regularly and continuously, along with the work of training and educating cadres and Party members, because this is the “Party-run work”, along with the prevention and fight against individualism, corruption, and negativity. On the basis of applying the lasting values of Ho Chi Minh's thought, our Party has summarized the lesson of “paying special attention to the work of Party building and rectification, considering this a key task of vital significance to the Party and the socialist regime” (Trong, 2021, p. 29).

On building a socialist rule-of-law state of the people, by the people and for the people; must truly “serve the people”, be devoted, respect and ensure civil rights and human rights; have a democratic legal system, express the will and interests of the people and govern and manage society in a strict, fair and disciplined manner. On the National United Front and socio-political organizations, must widely unite the entire people into a unified and sustainable bloc; promote the method of unity of “all”; strengthen propaganda, mobilization and persuasion in the spirit of “freedom of belief, solidarity between religions and non-religious people”, and “leniency and generosity” towards people.

He affirmed that the people are the decisive factor of innovation; the people are both the target and the driving force of the revolutionary cause; with the people's strength, no matter how big or difficult the task is, it can be solved; “The work of innovation and construction is the *responsibility of the people*” (Minh, 2021, vol. 6, p. 232). Innovation “is a fight against what is old and corrupt, to create new and fresh things. To win victory in this huge fight, it is necessary to mobilize the entire people, organize and educate the entire people, and rely on the great strength of the entire people” (Minh, 2021, vol. 15, p. 617). He expressed his determination that the innovation process must rely firmly on the people, must learn and understand the people, “follow the people's path”, “so as to win the hearts of the people”; must encourage and motivate the people to compete in labor production, save, eliminate hunger and reduce poverty, eliminate illiteracy and fight against invasion and destruction of the nation. He always required cadres and party members to bring the people's talents, strength, experience and initiatives to benefit the people in the innovation cause. The 13th National Party Congress stated: “Arouse the aspiration to develop a prosperous and happy country, the will to be self-reliant and promote the strength of the great national unity bloc to build and protect the Fatherland. Maximize the human factor, consider people as the center, subject, most important resource and goal of development; take cultural values, Vietnamese people as the foundation, important endogenous strength to ensure sustainable development” (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2021, vol. 1, p. 215-216).

What is the principle of innovation? He said: “Society is developing day by day. Thoughts and actions are also developing. If you keep holding on to the old paper without changing, you will not get anywhere” (Minh, 2021, vol. 8, p. 55). What is old and bad must be abandoned, what is old and not bad but troublesome must be revised to be reasonable, what is old and good must be further developed, what is new and good must be done. Ho Chi Minh's thinking always takes the pulse from reality and acts according to *objective laws*, effectively solving the demands set forth according to the principle that “the truth is concrete, so the revolution must be creative”, to inherit and develop, not to deny it completely, not to speculate or practice blindly. He noted that while implementing innovation in guidelines and policies, “it is necessary to distinguish between immediate and future interests, partial interests and overall interests”, avoiding falling into the state of “leftism” (being isolated, distant and distrusting the people) or “rightism” (being pessimistic, negative, and yielding without principles); renewing thinking, sticking closely to

reality to constantly renew thinking; Regularly summarize and draw experiences to supplement and develop theories in the new era.

After nearly 40 years of renovation (1986-2026), along with steadfastly and creatively applying Marxism-Leninism, especially paying attention to inheriting and concretizing the renovation thought of President Ho Chi Minh, the Party has set out the renovation policy, the Platform for national construction in the transitional period to socialism in 1991, the Platform for national construction in the transitional period to socialism (supplemented and developed in 2011) and documents of Party congresses, Central conferences, and terms from 1986 to present. The country has achieved important achievements, “our country has never had such a foundation, potential, position and international prestige as it does today” (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2021, vol. 1, p. 25), bringing a life of true prosperity, freedom and happiness to the Vietnamese people. In the early years of renovation, from a poor country with more than 3/4 of the population living below the poverty line, the following years the average income per capita increased rapidly, specifically: In 1990 it was 95 USD/year; in 2000, it was 390 USD/year; in 2008, it was 1,149 USD/year, starting to enter the middle-income group; in 2015 it was 2,200 USD/year; in 2021 it was more than 3,373 USD/year; in 2022 it was 4,124 USD/year; in 2023 it was 4,284 USD/year (58 times higher than in the early years of renovation); in 2024 it reached about 4,500 USD/year. In 2012, the economic scale reached about 153.3 billion USD; in 2013, it reached nearly 171.2 billion USD; in 2015, it reached 204 billion USD; in 2020, it reached 342.7 billion USD; in 2023, it reached 430 billion USD; in 2024, it reached 450 billion USD. The country has internal economic accumulation, the economic structure has shifted in a positive direction; from a closed economy, it has become an economy with the 22nd largest trading partner globally; ranked in the top 20 most successful economies in attracting foreign direct investment; the total preliminary import and export turnover of goods reached over 715 billion USD in 2024 (Phong, 2024). The multidimensional poverty rate in 2023 is 2.9%, in 2024 it was only about 1.9%; the national happiness index is increasing. Vietnam is expanding its cooperative relations with 193 countries and territories and is responsible to many large organizations in the world, creating favorable conditions for the potential and scale of the economy to increase rapidly; international prestige is increasingly enhanced; it is among the countries that have improved their rankings in the peace index, in 2023 it increased 4 places to 41/163 countries and territories. This is proof that the steadfastness in the foundation of Ho Chi Minh's ideology and the guiding principle for the cause of innovation in Vietnam is correct, an objective necessity and consistent with the development trend of the times. Therefore, his ideology on innovation and integration always has lasting vitality, creativity and “is of the nature of the times, not only important to Vietnam” - as assessed by Japanese Professor Furuta Moto (National Center for Social Sciences and , 1995, p. 29).

Ho Chi Minh's philosophy of innovation - A legacy that continues to illuminate the era of prosperous and powerful development of the Vietnamese people.

Vietnam's practice during the period when President Ho Chi Minh directly led the revolution until his death in 1969, “was a continuous innovation of the Party and our people following the flag and guidance of the “Chief Engineer” of innovation Ho Chi Minh... Vietnam's revolutionary practice over the past decades affirms that President Ho Chi Minh's ideology is the embodiment of innovation, a model for designing and constructing great works of the Vietnamese revolutionary cause in the spirit and determination of innovation (Phu, 2021). The current innovation is essentially a return to Ho Chi Minh's ideology, following his example and way of doing things to make the people rich, the country strong, democratic, fair, and civilized.

Currently, the Communist Party of Vietnam has determined that the goal of the new era, the era of the Vietnamese people's rise, will realize the aspiration of leader Ho Chi Minh for a prosperous and powerful Vietnam, "standing shoulder to shoulder with the powers of the five continents". Continuing the great achievements of the renovation process over the past nearly 40 years, Vietnam has promoted its foundation, potential, position, and international prestige to rise up and develop strongly, firmly maintaining the immutable principles of independence, freedom, and happiness; that is the core development philosophy of the Vietnamese people in the new era of the Ho Chi Minh era and that is also the steadfast belief in the socialist regime that our nation and people have given and are giving to the Communist Party of Vietnam. The future of the Party is the future of the Vietnamese nation.

But the world today is full of uncertainties, challenges related to peace, stability, and human survival have never been mentioned as much as now. Issues that have direct and indirect impacts on the development of the country and people of Vietnam are natural disasters, storms, floods, epidemics, armed terrorism, military power, ethnic conflicts, populist movements, maritime disputes, political influence, economic competition, especially fluctuations in the financial market and investment shifts from countries rich in resources and unskilled labor to countries with high-tech human resources and potential consumer markets. Besides the achievements, the country still has limitations and shortcomings: Innovation is not yet synchronous and comprehensive; international integration is not proactive and effective; economic development is not yet sustainable, not commensurate with the potential, requirements and reality of mobilized resources; many pressing issues have arisen, especially social issues and social management;... Practice shows that following Ho Chi Minh's ideology correctly and applying it creatively will lead to success; otherwise, it will be difficult and fail. The issue raised today in the spirit of the theme of the 13th National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam is to continue to "comprehensively and synchronously promote the innovation, industrialization and modernization; build and firmly protect the Fatherland, maintain a peaceful and stable environment; strive to *become a developed country with a socialist orientation by the mid-21st century*" (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2021, p. 35-36).

Currently, Vietnam is entering the third decade of the 21st century, with great opportunities and opportunities intertwined, the 13th National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam affirms that innovation is in the right direction and is determined to comprehensively promote the country's innovation at a new level, a new level. Imbued with his innovative thinking that "building socialism is an extremely glorious cause, but it must be long-term and arduous. Our people need to have a spirit of persistent struggle, determined to overcome all difficulties, to gain new and more brilliant victories" (Minh, 2021, vol. 14, p. 342). From current practice, the Communist Party of Vietnam affirms: "The consistent guiding ideology of our entire Party, people and army is to firmly adhere to and creatively apply and develop Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought; firmly adhere to the goal of national independence and socialism; firmly adhere to the Party's renewal policy; firmly adhere to the principles of Party building; ensure the highest national interests on the basis of the fundamental principles of international law, equality, cooperation and mutual benefit to firmly build and defend the socialist Vietnamese Fatherland. *This is a matter of principle*, of vital significance to our regime, the solid foundation of our Party, *no one is allowed to waver*" (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2021, vol. 1, p. 33).

On the journey to the future of the country, it requires the Communist Party of Vietnam and the nation to continue to raise the level of innovation, master the methodology and principles of innovation to constantly "selectively absorb and supplement in a critical and creative spirit the

latest achievements in ideology and science so that our ideology and doctrine are always fresh, always invigorated, carrying the breath of the times, not falling into rigidity, stagnation, or backwardness compared to life” (Central Party Propaganda Department, 2021, p. 28). That not only overcomes simplistic, childish, scholastic, dogmatic or absolutist thinking in perception and action, but through summarizing practices, the Communist Party of Vietnam gradually perfects the theory of the renovation policy.

The essence of the theory on the renovation line of the Communist Party of Vietnam is to renew the awareness of the model, path, subject, driving force, and measures to build socialism and protect the socialist Vietnamese Fatherland in new conditions. The theory on the renovation line of the Party is formed and gradually perfected on the basis of summarizing the practice and generalizing the experience of the whole Party and the whole nation in each step and each stage of renovation with the guiding light of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh thought. The theory on the renovation line helps the work of building and protecting the Fatherland become self-conscious, positive, in the right direction and successful; reflects the development in awareness and the progress and maturity of the Party, as the late General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong affirmed: “All achievements and shortcomings of the renovation process are closely linked to the leadership and activities of the Party. The leadership and activities of the Party are a decisive factor in creating the achievements of the renovation... The progress and maturity of the Party is also an important achievement of the renovation process, it can even be said to be the most important achievement of the renovation process” (Trong, 2023, p. 240).

In fact, the Party's leadership and direction are not always smooth sailing, but encounter many challenges and difficulties. However, the Party itself always builds and self-rectifies, the Party combines political responsibility with moral responsibility, the Party is morality, is civilization; Vietnam's foundation has been and is being entrusted to the Party and continues to place trust and enthusiasm in the Party's role on the journey of aspiration for a prosperous and happy Vietnam. General Secretary To Lam has expressed his determination about this: “Today, with more than 5.4 million Party members, our force is constantly growing in both quantity and quality, capable of shouldering the responsibility of leading the country forward 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 historical mission” (Lam, 2025).

Conclusion

Ho Chi Minh's philosophy of innovation is an important foundation in the Party's innovation policy and is a vital open theoretical system that the Communist Party of Vietnam continues to apply, supplement, and creatively develop in the current and future innovation cause. The future aspiration for a beautiful and prosperous country becomes a reality, which is a great determination of every Vietnamese person and the cadres and party members must always practice the philosophies that leader Ho Chi Minh has worked hard to cultivate: “words must go hand in hand with actions”; “unity, unity, great unity”; “one for everyone, everyone for oneself”; “cultivate morality throughout life”, “take the people as the root”;... That is the consensus of “the people's heart, the Party's will”, in accordance with the law of the times, of “the people are the masters, the people are the masters” on the goal of “independence for the Fatherland”, “freedom and happiness for the people” and is also the future of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

The great achievements of historical significance demonstrate the theoretical and practical

awareness of innovation with full theoretical and practical foundations, the firm belief in the leadership and governance capacity of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the innovation philosophy of Ho Chi Minh illuminating the cause of building and defending the Fatherland, the aspiration to realize a strong, prosperous and happy Vietnam. As assessed by Renedibet (USA): “They are new people, evidence of the unparalleled greatness and beauty of our time; on a world scale, those people are the ones who spread a new way of life, a humanism imbued with the nature of the proletariat. Those who want to know what a true human is, what is the beauty of the world, what is the victory of ideals on this earth, what is spring, must learn about the life of President Ho Chi Minh, learn about the exemplary life of this hero of our time” (Program KX.02, 1993, p. 102).

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