

**CONTROLLING POWER IN STATE BUILDING ACCORDING TO HO CHI MINH'S  
IDEOLOGY: HISTORICAL VALUE AND SIGNIFICANCE FOR VIETNAM TODAY**

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**Abstract:**

The need to control State power is a matter that has been proven in theory and practice. Practice also shows that, wherever there is power, there is a need to control power as a regulatory tool, ensuring that power is used appropriately and effectively; not be abused or misused, leading to negative consequences. In Vietnam, based on an increasingly clear awareness of the role, position, meaning and methods of controlling State power, the increasingly complete and comprehensive improvement of mechanisms and institutions to control State power, in recent times, the control of power in the political system in general, including State construction in particular, has undergone many changes, achieving many important results in practice. This article was written to analyze and clarify basic issues related to power control in State building according to Ho Chi Minh's ideology and draw out historical values and significance for Vietnam today. now. The results show that power control in State building according to Ho Chi Minh's ideology is shown through issues related to: First, relying on the people to do a good job of effectively controlling leadership. ; Second, regularly check on officials and control leadership. The historical significance for Vietnam today is: for the mechanism of controlling State power and for renewing awareness of the issue of power control. The limitation of this research is that it has not provided

solutions to improve power control in building a socialist rule-of-law State of the People, by the People, for the People in Vietnam today.

**Keywords:** State; power; control; value; meaning; Vietnam

## 1. Introduction

Currently, state power is the power associated with the birth of the state, whereby the state can impose its will and force other subjects in society to obey its orders to ensure security. , maintain social order. Controlling state power is all activities of reviewing, monitoring, and evaluating to prevent and eliminate risks, behaviors, and wrongdoings of subjects in the organization and exercise of power. The state ensures that state power is used and implemented according to the Constitution and law. Controlling state power in a broad sense means designing the organization and implementation of state power to achieve common political goals and achieve the highest efficiency. In a narrow sense, state power control is all the methods, processes, and regulations based on which the State and society can prevent and eliminate the wrong activities of power institutions. State power, detecting and adjusting the exercise of state power, ensuring state power is properly implemented for common purposes and achieves the highest efficiency. Ho Chi Minh's ideology on power control includes views to ensure the people's right to mastery, enhance the accountability of the Party and the government to the people, and at the same time overcome the corruption of power, abuse of power by officials and state agencies. After 37 years of innovation, Vietnam has emerged from the socio-economic crisis and underdevelopment, becoming a middle-income developing country, promoting industrialization, modernization and integration. international; The face of the country and people's lives have truly changed; Socialist democracy is promoted and expanded; Great national unity has been consolidated and strengthened. The work of building the Party, building a socialist law-governed state and political system has been promoted; The country's strength in all aspects has been increased; independence, sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and the Socialist regime are maintained; Foreign relations are increasingly expanding and deepening; Vietnam's position and reputation in the international arena have been enhanced. However, besides achievements, Vietnam also faces difficulties and challenges such as: The work of summarizing practice and theoretical research is still inadequate, and some issues raised during the process have not been clarified. innovate to orient practice, provide scientific basis for planning the Party's guidelines, policies and laws of the State. The theory of Socialism and the path to Socialism still has a number of issues that need to be summarized in practice to continue to clarify. Economic development is not sustainable, not commensurate with potential, requirements and actual mobilized resources; The macroeconomy is not very stable, the economic growth rate is not high. The quality, efficiency, social labor productivity and competitiveness of the economy are still low. Development is still unsustainable in terms of economics, culture, society and environment. Many pressing issues have arisen, especially social and social management issues that have not been fully recognized and effectively resolved; There are still a number of potential factors and risks that cause social instability. In some aspects and fields, there is still a part of the people who have not fully and fairly benefited

from the results of the reform process. Placed in that context, researching the issue of power control in State building according to Ho Chi Minh's ideology and thereby drawing historical value and significance for Vietnam today is still an important issue. urgent, has theoretical and practical significance for a developing country like Vietnam in the current period.

### **Research Methods**

The article uses the methodology of dialectical materialism and historical materialism in research and specific methods include: Analysis, synthesis, logic and history.

### **Techniques used**

The article uses research techniques and document analysis in Ho Chi Minh Complete Works of the National Political Publishing House, 2011, Hanoi.

### **Research question**

**Question 1:** What are the basic contents of controlling power in State building according to Ho Chi Minh's ideology?

**Question 2:** What is the historical value and significance for Vietnam today when researching and learning about the issue of power control in State building according to Ho Chi Minh's ideology?

### **Research purposes**

The purpose of the article is to study the issue of power control in State building according to Ho Chi Minh's ideology, thereby drawing out historical value and significance for Vietnam today.

## **2. Results and discussion**

**2.1. Controlling power in State building according to Ho Chi Minh's ideology has the following basic and specific contents:**

### **First, rely on the people to do a good job of controlling leadership effectiveness**

After the success of the August Revolution in 1945 and the birth of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh warned and severely criticized the situation of "bureaucratic militarism", "statist mentality", "morality". "arrogance" in the ranks of Party and State officials in some localities. In two letters sent to Northern comrades and to Central comrades, Ho Chi Minh frankly pointed out the shortcomings and negative manifestations in the ranks of officials. That is the situation: "When in charge of a certain area, you are like a king there, free to be bossy and mischievous. To superiors, you look down on them, and to subordinates, you rely on your authority to dominate. For The public acts like an official, making the masses afraid. That "general, general" mentality has caused so much resentment, so much division, causing superiors to distance

themselves from subordinates, organizations from the people"[ 11.88]. Or, "There are comrades who still keep their status in mind, trying to compete to become this member or that president. There are also comrades who only worry about eating well, dressing well, worrying about making money, and worrying about appropriating public property for private use." , regardless of revolutionary morality, public opinion will ignore it" [11,94]. That is a manifestation of bureaucracy, and also reflects the state of laxity and lack of mechanisms or solutions to control power in the agencies of the revolutionary government at that time. Recognizing that these negative manifestations will adversely affect internal unity and the relationship between the Party, State and people, weakening the party and government organizations and not being able to complete their tasks. After a heavy and glorious revolution, President Ho Chi Minh requested that party organizations and governments in localities throughout the country must "bring the entire revolutionary spirit" to correct and overcome shortcomings and limitations. that regime. He pointed out that one of the things that must be done to overcome those shortcomings and limitations is: "In command agencies, selecting people must be appropriate, authority must be clear, communication must be close, Cooperation must be tight, must absolutely avoid abuse of power, excuses, conflicts, favoritism and jealousy, not taking responsibility" [11,95-95].

### **Second, regularly check on officials and control leadership**

Ho Chi Minh specifically emphasized the requirements for inspection of officials and control in leadership. According to Ho Chi Minh, checking the work of cadres is "one of five ways for cadres", that is, five methods of training and managing the Party's cadres. Ho Chi Minh said: "Inspection - Not every day, inspection. But often inspection to help them learn from experience, correct shortcomings, and develop advantages" [11,316]. That is an internal work within the organization and ranks of the Party. But with the responsibility of being a social leader, leading the people to organize and carry out revolutionary tasks, we must rely on the people to do a good job of effectively controlling leadership, and at the same time controlling power. strength of the party organization and cadres and party members. Therefore, President Ho Chi Minh said that true leadership, along with "must decide all issues correctly", "must organize implementation properly", also "must organize control, but If we want to control properly, we must have the help of the masses" [11,325]. This means that we must rely on the people and use the people as the force to carry out the work of control in order to bring about the desired effect. Ho Chi Minh especially emphasized inspection and control to overcome abuse of power. Ho Chi Minh pointed out: "Only inspection can mobilize the positive spirit and great force of the people, only then can we clearly know the capabilities and shortcomings of cadres, and only then can we correct and provide timely help" [11,636 ]. Ho Chi Minh attached great importance to the work of inspecting and controlling the exercise of power by state agencies and encouraged the people to carry out this work.

Regarding the form of inspection and supervision of state officials and agencies, Ho Chi Minh pointed out many different forms such as: opening meetings, criticizing and expressing opinions, electing committees and councils, etc. In those forms, Ho Chi Minh still emphasized the people's

control and believed that the people were the most effective subjects controlling power. Thus, monitoring and criticizing the Government is the responsibility, obligation and also the right of the people, so that the Government can increasingly improve and better serve powerful subjects. In addition to promoting the people's inspection and supervision of the State, Ho Chi Minh emphasized the control of the highest state authority and the people's highest representative body over activities of the state apparatus. When discussing the National Assembly's supervision of the Government, Ho Chi Minh paid special attention to two issues of questioning and voting of confidence in the cabinet. According to Ho Chi Minh, Government members must be ready to answer questions from National Assembly delegates. Ho Chi Minh gave a simple but also succinct and concise answer, sincerely admitting his mistakes to the National Assembly delegates about the mistakes and shortcomings of the Government members. Consistent with the awareness of the harmful effects of individualism leading to "making many mistakes", including mistakes and shortcomings in abuse of power and personal gain, President Ho Chi Minh requested, along with moral education for cadres and party members: "We must practice serious criticism and self-criticism in the Party. We must welcome and encourage the masses to honestly criticize cadres and party members. Living regime Party cells must be serious. Party discipline must be strict. Party inspection work must be strict" [14,547]. The above requirements are among the solutions and principles for building the Party and controlling manifestations of abuse of power in party organizations and party members. In the Will left before going away, President Ho Chi Minh advised: "Comrades from the Central Committee to the Party cells need to preserve the unity and unanimity of the Party like preserving the pupils of their eyes." [14,622]; "In the Party, we must practice democracy widely, regularly and seriously, self-criticism and criticism is the best way to consolidate and develop the solidarity and unity of the Party" [14,622].

## **2.2. Historical value and significance for Vietnam today when researching and learning about the issue of power control in State building according to Ho Chi Minh's ideology**

### **Basic values**

Documents of the 13th Party Congress continue to emphasize: "Better define the roles, positions, functions, tasks and powers of state agencies in the implementation of legislative, executive and judicial powers." based on the principles of the rule of law, ensuring state power is unified, has clear division of duties, close coordination and strengthens control of state power" [8,174-175]. The above assertion has shown the correct awareness of the Vietnam ruling Party in the new historical context. The Party not only clearly affirmed: "Our state is a socialist rule of law state" but also introduced a New content in the principles of organization and operation of the state apparatus is: "Control between agencies in the implementation of legislative, executive and judicial powers". Vietnam is in the process of continuing to build and perfect the socialist rule-of-law State of the people, by the people, for the people. The issue of controlling state power is both a basic and urgent content. Basically because it is one of the core contents of a democratic state, a criterion of a rule of law state, and at the same time an objective constitutive element of the exercise of state power. It is urgent because abuse of power, bureaucracy, and corruption are problems and

a great risk threatening the survival of the regime. This practice has been showing the weakness of the power control mechanism in particular and the role of the State in exercising State power in general.

### **Historical implications drawn**

#### **Historical significance for the state power control mechanism in Vietnam today**

In Vietnam, by nature, state power is unified, with division, coordination, and control among state agencies in the exercise of legislative, executive, and judicial powers. Establishing a mutual control mechanism between state power agencies is necessary to prevent the possibility of abuse of power and ensure that state power is used for the right purpose. In the 2013 Constitution, the issue of controlling state power was recognized. The division and control of power is expressed immediately in the delimitation of the scope of power for each state agency. Specifically, the National Assembly is empowered to make the constitution, legislate, decide on important issues of the country and have supreme supervision over the activities of the State, the Government exercising executive power and the Supreme People's Court. high exercise of judicial power. In general, in the mechanism to control state power in Vietnam, the center of control is placed on the Government, specifically the control of the National Assembly over the Government. The current problem for Vietnam is: First, although the mechanism to control power in the state apparatus has been established, it can only establish a mechanism to control the power of the National Assembly over state agencies. Executive and judiciary, but there is no mechanism to control the opposite power, that is, there is no mechanism to control the power of these two agencies over the National Assembly. Second, in reality, their effectiveness and efficiency are still quite modest. Up to now, in the process of exercising its supreme supervision power, the National Assembly has rarely made decisions on partially or completely abolishing legal documents of the subjects it supervises. In addition, although the mechanism to control state power from the social side is increasingly emphasized, in general, it is not very effective.

#### **Historical significance for renewing awareness of the issue of power control**

Without effective measures to control state power, it will inevitably lead to state power being abused. Among the measures to control power, using power to control power is the most effective institution because it is a formal, coercive institution. It is necessary to realize that controlling power by appealing to morality is necessary, but not sufficient and it is often only meaningful in the long term. Control measures must be applied by powerful institutions to limit the corruption of power and the State's operations to be effective. However, how to effectively establish these institutions depends on many different factors such as: economic, political, social, and cultural conditions of the country; Methods of organizing the state apparatus as well as operating mechanisms for controlling power; the political determination of the ruling party and leaders in building a clean state apparatus and the people's enthusiasm in participating in the country's political life. Therefore, continuing to build and perfect mechanisms to control state power in

Vietnam in the coming time needs to focus on content areas related to: Continuing to build and perfect control mechanisms. control power between agencies in the state apparatus; Clearly define the scope of the Party's leadership; Expand people's right to choose in elections; Create favorable conditions for the press to participate in controlling state power; Continue to mobilize the participation of the Fatherland Front in the process of monitoring state power and building a power control mechanism in the direction of ensuring and expanding freedom and democratic rights for the people.

### **Conclude**

In Vietnam today, mechanisms to control state power have been established and institutionalized, however their effectiveness and efficiency in practice are still limited, leading to phenomena of corruption. power and corruption still occur. The state power control mechanism is a set of regulations and laws put forward by powerful subjects to ensure that power is used for the right purpose and effectively. In reality, controlling state power is a complex issue, because of the complexity of state power organization and state power enforcement activities. That complexity, on the one hand, is due to controlling the use of state power to prevent its abuse, which is a mandatory requirement for any democratic state and the rule of law. But on the other hand, it is possible to control the use of state power without losing the dynamism and flexibility needed to conduct state affairs.

Originating from the characteristics of state power, the division into three legislative, executive and judicial powers is an objective need. This quantification is to be assigned to different state agencies to implement on behalf of the people. Such a division of rights is a basic condition for the people to delegate power without abuse, and for the people to control and evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of implementing the rights they have assigned. At the same time, it is also for the respective agencies authorized to promote responsibility in the exercise of state power and self-inspect the exercise of their assigned state power. Therefore, the assignment of state power is the basis and objective requirement to exercise control over state power. The practice of building a socialist rule-of-law state in Vietnam shows that clearly defining the three rights is the best way to promote the role of the state and at the same time serve as a basis for controlling its implementation. power of the government. In addition, in relations with state power, an objective reality often occurs that citizens are not equal with the State in terms of information, so the situation often occurs: (1) the owner of state power (people) lack information or are not fully informed; (2) the possibility that the State does not properly grasp the purposes and interests of the people; (3) the possibility that those exercising specific power do not clearly understand the purpose; (4) the ability to correctly understand the purpose but not use power properly and reasonably; (5) the possibility that representatives for their own interests can override and abuse their power, harming the common purpose. With the above mentioned, in the current cause of innovation and integration in Vietnam, inheriting the content of power control in State building according to Ho Chi Minh's ideology, from there we draw historical value and significance. History for Vietnam today is still

an urgent issue, with theoretical and practical significance for a developing country like Vietnam in the current period.

This study was conducted to analyze and clarify basic issues related to power control in State building according to Ho Chi Minh's ideology and draw out historical values and significance for current Vietnam. now. The results show that power control in State building according to Ho Chi Minh's ideology is shown through issues related to: First, relying on the people to do a good job of effectively controlling leadership. ; Second, regularly check on officials and control leadership. This is still valuable for Vietnam today in the process of continuing to build and perfect the Socialist rule of law State of the people, by the people, for the people, the issue of controlling state power is both a Basic and urgent content. The historical significance for Vietnam today is: for the mechanism of controlling State power and for renewing awareness of the issue of power control. The limitation of this research is that it has not provided solutions to improve power control in building a socialist rule-of-law State of the People, by the People, for the People in Vietnam today./.

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