

# **AN ANALYSIS OF THE ROLE OF THE PRESIDENT OF HO CHI MINH IN VIETNAM'S REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY-AN INSIGHT FROM THE 1945 AUGUST REVOLUTION**

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## **Abstract**

The history of Vietnam can be tracked back to around four thousand years ago. In connection with this time, wars played a great role in shaping the culture and the hope of Vietnamese people inhabited the land. Following the allied victory of the world war I, France attempted to continue to invade Vietnam and divided Indochina into four countries. The revolutionary history of Vietnam was noted in August Revolution, creating a fundamental turning point in the upward development of the nation and people of Vietnam by an era of independence, freedom and socialism. That had left the Vietnamese revolution an important historical lesson. In the new condition of the country nowadays, the Vietnamese people continue to promote the August Revolutionary spirit, independence, loyalty into the Vietnamese Revolutionary practices, promoting the nation's synergy, promoting industrialization and modernization of the country, implementing the goal of "the rich, the strong, the democratic, justice and civilized people".

**Keywords:** The President of Ho Chi Minh, August Revolution, Communist Party.

## **1. Introduction**

The August Revolution of 1945 constituted the most important turning-point in recent Vietnamese history. It formally marked the end of French colonialism in Vietnam and the beginning of Vietnamese national independence. It also marked the end of the Confucianist-oriented monarchy and the beginning of a Communist-oriented democratic republic. Much debate has been focused on why the Communist-dominated Viet Minh Front succeeded in seizing political power in August 1945. Anti-Communist detractors have generally attributed the Viet Minh success to an historical accident, i.e., the Viet Minh happened to be on the scene as the Japanese surrendered to the Allies. The Vietnamese Communists themselves have narcissistically attributed their success to skillful leadership in organization and propaganda. Actually, the August Revolution must be explained by both the "objective material conditions" of the Vietnamese society of the time and the "subjective" predisposition of the Viet Minh. In March 1945, the Japanese occupation forces had destroyed the French colonial regime in a lightning coup d'etat. The general political confusion following the coup aggravated a severe famine which then ravaged Vietnam. Of several Vietnamese political groups, the Viet Minh emerged as the only one capable of organizing the Vietnamese people through their existing "liberation Committees." In August 1945, following the Japanese surrender, the Viet Minh quickly seized political power and has retained it since. Thus, both historical fortuity and revolutionary leadership accounted for the Viet Minh success (Huynh Kim Khanh, 1971).

Reviewing the history of the August Revolution, we can make some essential remarks. First of all, the triumph of the August Revolution was due to the two following subjective and objective conditions: Subjective condition: our people are united around the Vietminh Front led by the Indochinese Communist Party. The proletarian class exercises this leadership without sharing it with any other class. It results from this that the revolutionary forces of our people are not scattered, that they have no rivalries or internal conflicts (except in some insignificant cases), and that at the decisive hour, they can be gathered together under the leadership of a single organization to launch a direct and massive attack against the fortified enemy lines. Objective condition: World War II created for the Vietnamese people an extremely favorable opportunity: the enemies of the Vietnamese Revolution, the Japanese and French fascists, had exhausted each other and grown weak. Moreover, the Japanese were then defeated by the Soviet army; that was enough for the Vietnamese people to fall them with a single blow and to seize power. Yet, favorable though the objective conditions might have been, they could not have led to triumph without good subjective -conditions. That is the truth. Besides, the August Insurrection was a real revolution. The Vietnamese people, in bloody combat and with arms in their hands, had to struggle against the Japanese fascists to regain their freedom and independence. Immediately after this, to defend these rights, they had to shed more blood. It is by the August Revolution that the dictatorial and fascist monarchical regimes have been overthrown and the democratic republican regime set up (Truong Chinh, 1958).

The victory of the August Revolution in 1945 and the birth of Vietnam was only one of the greatest outstanding victories of the Vietnam Revolution in the twentieth century, a glorious landmark in the thousand-year history of the Vietnamese people. That victory was directly linked to the great merits of President Ho Chi Minh. The success of the August Revolution was the result of a process of organizing forces, preparing conditions, coming to seize opportunities, under the leadership of the Party, in which a particularly important role was President Ho Chi Minh. Section 2 following will clarify in detail the decisive of Ho Chi Minh in 1945 August revolution.

## **2. Investigation the Decision of the President of Ho Chi Minh in the Victory of the 1945 August Revolution**

In the history of finding a way to liberate the country, meeting Marxism-Leninism, the patriot Nguyen Ai Quoc initial chose and affirmed firmly that only the proletariat revolutionary path would completely liberate peoples who were being oppressed and colonized by the colonists and empires. Marxism - Leninism came to Nguyen Ai Quoc and through him to the Vietnamese people was firstly a "magic manual" for the nation's liberation. Putting the patriotic national liberation movement of our people into the trajectory of the proletariat revolutionary movement, Nguyen Ai Quoc was well aware of the inevitable path of the Vietnamese revolution - national independence associated with socialism. But it did not mean that a proletarian revolution the same as the Russian October Revolution will break out in Vietnam. Ho Chi Minh said that the way, the strategy and revolutionary strategy of each country depended on the level of economic, political, cultural and social development in that country. In the work of the Revolutionary Way, Nguyen Ai Quoc pointed out that there were three things leading the way of destiny: revolution of capitalist class, revolution of nation; revolution of workers as suggested in National Political Publisher House of Vietnam (2011). This was a development, a theoretical contribution of Nguyen Ai Quoc to the revolutionary theory of Marxism - Leninism.

The particularly important point for the Vietnamese revolution was that the point above was the basis for the formation and development of the revolutionary way of national liberation of the Party and of Vietnamese people - when the country was still under invasion and domination, the primary goal was to gain independence and freedom from imperialists and the henchmen who had sold the country.

In the Party's Brief Outline, the Party's Brief Strategy which were drafted by Ho Chi Minh and were adopted at the Conference on the Establishment of the Vietnamese Communist Party in February 3, 1930, Nguyen Ai Quoc outlined the core issues of people, the revolution, the strategies of the Vietnamese revolution. The top task of the Vietnamese revolution is specified in the Chief Outlines (see more at National Political Publisher House of Vietnam (2011).

- i) To demolish the French imperialists and feudalists.
- ii) To make Vietnam completely independent.
- iii) To set up the Government of Workers and Farmers.
- iv) To organize the army of Workers and Farmers.

In Vietnam, according to Nguyen Ai Quoc, due to the French capitalists captured the whole economy, so the domestic capitalist class had no power, however domestic capitalist class should not be told to go along with the empire. Only the landlords had the power and stood on the imperialist side. In order to isolate the invading enemies, Nguyen Ai Quoc did not classify the entire landlord class and the task of land revolutionizing into objects the same as the mission of anti-imperialism and anti-landlords.

The contents of the Party's Brief Outline, the Party's Brief Strategy, which were adopted at the Party Establishment Conference - convened and chaired by the leader Nguyen Ai Quoc, were completely consistent with Vietnam's revolutionary practices. This demonstrated an extreme sophistication and creativity in dealing with the relationship between the guide of the International Communist and the practical conditions of the Vietnamese revolution.

However, due to the international and domestic conditions and the Party conditions at that time, the sharp and astute thinking at a high intellect, experienced in practical experience of the leader Nguyen Ai Quoc was not well-understood by many other revolutionary. Therefore, Nguyen Ai Quoc's ideas were not only absorbed and manipulated, but Nguyen Ai Quoc was also harshly criticized by some of other Party comrades. They said that Nguyen Ai Quoc had committed a series of opportunistic errors that cannot be ignored (Ha Huy Tap, 2006), and the political guidelines of the Consolidation Conference and of Nguyen Ai Quoc were wrong in many aspects (see National Political Publisher House of Vietnam

(2011), and Nguyen Ai Quoc had made many mistakes in his Outlines and the Vietnamese Communist Party did not have the right political way from the beginning (Ha Huy Tap, 2006').

It took more than 10 years later, after fierce challenges in practice, the theoretical awareness of the national liberation revolution of the genius leader Nguyen Ai Quoc was confirmed and continued to be developed. The 8th Central Conference of the Indochinese Communist Party (held from May 10 to May 19, 1941), convened and chaired by Nguyen Ai Quoc, marked a complete milestone on the strategic way for Vietnam revolution. Under Nguyen Ai Quoc's operation, the Conference deeply analyzed the situation of the world and of Vietnam and came to the decision to change the strategy and the Indochina revolution in this historic period was not a revolution of capitalism class for civil rights, the revolution did not have missions of anti-imperialism and anti-landlords any more, but a revolution that had to solve the unique needed problem: the national liberation, so the Indochina revolution in this historic period was a national liberation revolution as shown on Communist Party of Vietnam. It was stated in the conference that at that time, the rights of the department and the class must be placed under the survival of the nation. At that period, if the issue of national liberation could not be solved, the independence freedom of the entire nation could not be claimed, not only the entire nation would also be forever subjected to the life of slaves, but also the interests of the every classes could not be reclaimed forever (Ha Huy Tap, 2006). Nguyen Ai Quoc proposed the establishment of the Allied Independence Vietnam Front and was accepted by the Eighth Central Conference (referred to as Viet Minh) and Independence Vietnam Press was published, in which Ten policies of Viet Minh were drafted, whereas the first goal was: hanging independence flag and building the equal rights based on National Political Publisher House of Vietnam (2011), with the spirit of gathering all Vietnamese patriotic people who were against the empire to join the Front.

In order to focus on the task of national liberation, to continue to divide feudal landlords, to exercise the rights of the masses of the working people, the Conference highly agreed with the proposal of the leader Nguyen Ai Quoc that the slogan of confiscating land of the landlords should temporarily be withdrew, but the policy of confiscating the land from the empire and betrayed Vietnamese and selling land to the poor should be implemented. It is stated in the Conference that if Vietnam demolished the landlord, dividing the land to the poor, not only allied and supporting force was lost in the revolution to drive France-Japan away, but also pushed that force into the enemy's side and make them become the rearguard for the enemy.

In order to arouse and promote the full potential of the Vietnamese in each nation, the leader Nguyen Ai Quoc proposed to solve ethnic issues within the framework of each country on the Indochina peninsula. Nguyen Ai Quoc said that in the countries on the Indochinese peninsula whose have a common enemy, there was no one nation that could liberate itself. But the ethnic unity here did not necessarily compel the peoples to form a single nation because the peoples from the past up to that time still had their own national spirit. It was noted that referring to the issue of ethnicity means referring to the freedom and independence of each nation according to the wishes of each nation. It meant that after the expulsion of France and Japan, the policy of "the people of self-determination" we must be implemented for the people of Indochina peninsula. The peoples heremightcare about their will to organize the federal of the democratic republic or build up a national. In the situation that the enemy was pushing up the implementation of the policy of separating the three countries on the Indochina peninsula, they misrepresent that the Anamit Empire was invading Laos and Cambodia..., the thoughts and direction of the leader Nguyen Ai Quoc on the issue of "the people of self-determination" was extremely important. That was the cognitive basis for the Conference to discuss and resolve a very important issue not only for the immediate future but also for the long-term revolutionary struggle for the people of the three countries of Vietnam - Laos - Cambodia. As the reality of the development of revolutionary struggle, building and defending the national independence of the people of the three countries on the Indochina peninsula during the past 74 years (since the 8th Central Conference in May 1941 as well as the fluctuations of the world situation in those decades had clearly demonstrated the great value of Nguyen Ai Quoc - Ho Chi Minh's thought on national and ethnic issues. Further, Ho Chi Minh, who had studied closely the Indian revolutionary movement, also played a crucial role in establishing close relations between the two countries (Mukherjee et al., 2020; Sinha and Mukherjee, 2020).

The thinking of the leader Nguyen Ai Quoc - Ho Chi Minh on the revolution of national liberation and the particularly important decisions of the Eighth Conference of the Central Executive Committee of which he was the "core", who directly prepared the content and was the chairman. The conference quickly directed all activities of the revolutionary movement of Vietnam as well as of other countries on Indochina peninsula to enter the period of urgently building political forces, armed forces, footsteps, preparing all necessary conditions so that when the time came to start the uprising, the general uprising for the period of independence and freedom of each nation.

In July 1942, Nguyen Ai Quoc went to China and intended to visit Moscow with a new name - Ho Chi Minh - in order to resume relations and present to the friars the new strategy of the Indochinese Communist Party. However, not far on his way, he was arrested by Tuong troops. During the detention time of Ho Chi Minh, Truong Phat Khue established the apparatus to seize power in Vietnam. A Chinese ally and Viet Minh oppose, namely Tieu Van, he called Vietnam Revolutionary Allies Association which was headed by Nguyen Hai Than. The Vietnamese revolution was at risk of a new threat and at risk of Tuong Gioi Thach's army to replace the French colonialism. In the face of such a catastrophic and treacherous situation, Ho Chi Minh acted with a subtly talent, on one side, he sought to escape from the imprisonment and strike directly into the lair of the reactionary organization to fight against the revolution of our country immediately at its birthplace.

In the spring of 1943, Ho Chi Minh returned to his mother country, directly organized revolutionary forces, preparing to seize power. Vietnamese guerrilla teams were quickly set up and promoted. In late July 1944, the Regional Revolutionary Committee in Cao Bang advocated an uprising in Viet Bac. Following the political developments in the world and the domestic situation, Ho Chi Minh promptly instructed to stop the uprising, saying that at that time, the period of peaceful revolution development has passed, but the period of the entire people uprising had not yet arrived, Cao Bang only cared about the local situation, did not care about the general situation.

In December 1944, Ho Chi Minh issued a directive to set up the Vietnam Liberation and Propaganda Team. After a short time, Viet Minh's combat units were readily prepared. The Viet Minh guerrilla teams became the core over the country, spreading like an oil spill, entering the narrow mountain area of Dinh Ca, near Thai Nguyen. During that period, revolutionary forces throughout the country also developed very quickly. Realizing the danger, the colonial government gathered forces to conduct to "clear the enemy" in the northern region, expected to be discharged on March 12, 1945. But before they could act, on March 9, 1945, a Japanese force carried out a coup, all French with power were arrested and imprisoned. The Japanese army was the leader, in power in Indochina but did not have a strict order and a solid organizational structure like France to deal with revolutionary forces. In order to have appropriate policy, the Standing Committee of our Party Central Committee met on the night of March 9 and early morning of March 10, 1945, decided to step up the local uprising, outlined the path and suitable modes of action. During the pre-uprising period, many new units were established, established a Military Commission and a National Committee for Liberation.

The national Liberation and Propaganda teams continued to march to the South and Ho Chi Minh did not forget to remind the ardent revolutionaries that the conditions for the uprising were still inadequate. He pointed out that the opportunity to recover was exactly when the fascistic Japanese was weakened, the French colonialists had not recovered and the Allies had not entered Indochina. In early June 1945, Ho Chi Minh decided to unify all the battlefields and six provinces where the revolution had gained control of the Liberation Zone and reunited guerrilla teams. On August 10, 1945, although his health had not recovered from the "most death" illness but to take advantage of revolutionary opportunities, Ho Chi Minh summoned the National Assembly of Representatives in Tan Trao, decided to "win" the rights from the fascistic Japanese before the Allies entered. He made the appeal of the uprising that nationwide people stood up to use our strength and free ourselves... people should not delay ... Under the flag of Viet Minh, people should bravely advance up as discussed on Communist Party of Vietnam.

Ho Chi Minh's call quickly spread to Hanoi, Hue, Saigon, and throughout the provinces and cities throughout the country. Revolutionary climax surges everywhere. Banners, leaflets, loudspeakers, resounding slogans and masses were gathered and educated, while Viet Minh's "assault teams" occupied offices and stripped of Indochina "security", "national" organizations quickly disintegrated. On August 25, 1945, 10 days after Japan announced its surrender, the Viet Minh took control of the country.

On the successful August Revolution, on September 2, 1945, Ho Chi Minh on behalf of the Provisional Government read the Declaration of Independence, solemnly affirmed to the whole world that Vietnam had the right to freedom and independence, and truly had become a free and independent country. The entire Vietnamese people were determined to bring all their spirit, power, destiny and wealth to uphold that freedom and independence according to Communist Party of Vietnam.

### **3. Conclusion**

The creation and consistency of the revolutionary way of national liberation of Nguyen Ai Quoc - Ho Chi Minh is a crucial factor for the Vietnamese people to make a great victory in the August Revolution, creating a fundamental turning

point in the upward development of the nation and people of Vietnam - an era of independence, freedom and socialism. It was the result of an independent, courageous spirit of the intellectual height; an art of calm, lucid, ingenious behavior of Nguyen Ai Quoc - Ho Chi Minh to overcome many difficulties and obstacles during the decades since he caught Marxism - Leninism and October Revolution. That had left the Vietnamese revolution an important historical lesson. In the new condition of the country nowadays, the Vietnamese people must continue to promote the August Revolutionary spirit, independence, loyalty and creatively apply Marxist - Leninist theory and Ho Chi Minh's thought into the Vietnamese Revolutionary practices, promoting the nation's synergy, promoting industrialization and modernization of the country, implementing the goal of "the rich, the strong, the democratic, justice and civilized people". In the context of the global economic integration (Tang-Dror, 2016, Nguyen, 2020), the most important lessons from The President of Ho Chi Minh could generate more economic growth and the path to the country. It has greatly contributed to build a strong and sustainable picture for Vietnam.

**Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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