



## **CURRENT SITUATION AND SOLUTIONS TO PROTECT VIETNAM'S POLITICAL SYSTEM AGAINST THE PLOTS OF HOSTILE AND REACTIONARY FORCES**

*Le Hoang Kiet*

*Research Scholar,*

*Can Tho University, Vietnam.*

### **Abstract:**

The current global political landscape is very complex due to the impacts of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on the international, regional, and domestic politics of Vietnam. Hostile and reactionary forces inside and outside of Vietnam have taken advantage of this complex situation to carry out insidious plots and distort the leadership policies of the Vietnamese government, with the aim of changing political decisions and breaking the non-alignment policy. The paper will clarify some of the sinister schemes being carried out in Vietnam by these hostile forces, as well as historical lessons on the disastrous consequences caused by hostile and reactionary forces on the political systems of the Soviet Union and Ukraine. Research results show that hostile forces are carrying out malicious tactics and schemes through several demands to overthrow and sabotage Vietnam's political system. Accordingly, the paper proposes several basic solutions to strengthen the struggle against wrongful and hostile viewpoints, and protect the leadership policies of the Vietnamese government in the new period.

**Keywords:** Struggle, distort policies, insidious plots, Vietnam, hostile forces.

### **Introduction:**

In the current global context, world security situation has become very complex due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict that broke out in February 2022. This marked the direct confrontation in the geopolitical competition strategy between NATO and Russia in Europe. It led to a series of complex chain of events evolving according to the fluctuations of global power axes. For instance, the shifts from the Asia-Pacific region where China's pressure on Taiwan is causing the U.S. and key Asian

<b>CORRESPONDING AUTHOR:</b>	<b>RESEARCH ARTICLE</b>
<b>Mr. Le Hoang Kiet</b> Research Scholar, Can Tho University, Vietnam Email: <a href="mailto:kietnckh1999@gmail.com">kietnckh1999@gmail.com</a>	

allies like Japan, South Korea, Australia, the Philippines to make efforts to protect Taiwan based on the Taiwan Relations Act 1970. Meanwhile, resources have begun shifting towards the Asia-Pacific and South China Sea, resulting in a series of successive complex developments that have severely impacted global security and Asia-Pacific situation. The global political landscape is gradually shaping along the “21st century Cold War” order which is the confrontation between the U.S. and its Western allies versus China, Russia and countries aiming to oppose U.S. hegemony.

The shifting of power center towards Asia-Pacific and instability, conflicts in the South China Sea have severely impacted regional security structure, especially Southeast Asian countries including Vietnam. Recently, hostile and reactionary forces inside and outside Vietnam took advantage of aforementioned complex situation. They have made use of both overt and covert propaganda measures to distort the non-alignment policy and incite Vietnamese people to request the government to change its political decisions and become military allies with other major powers to oppose China's hegemony. Therefore, the research questions raised are:

(1) What policies of the Vietnamese government are being sabotaged and distorted by hostile and reactionary forces?

(2) What are the disastrous consequences on the political systems of the Soviet Union and Ukraine historically demonstrated by hostile and reactionary forces?

(3) Are there any solutions in the future timeline to help the Vietnamese government cope with and struggle against the sinister plots of hostile and reactionary forces?

In order to address the above research questions, the paper will mainly use analytical methods based on secondary data related to the topic, specifically as follows. Objective 1: The paper will mainly use content analysis method through secondary data with the goal of researching, identifying and analyzing some sinister schemes and tactics of hostile and reactionary forces inside Vietnam. They are taking advantage of the complex global political context to incite and sabotage the Vietnamese government. Objective 2: The paper will mainly apply historical, logical and comparative methods to clarify the process and consequences caused by hostile and reactionary forces on the political systems of the Soviet Union and Ukraine. Objective 3: The paper will mainly use synthesis method through the analyzed contents to propose several basic solutions to strengthen the struggle against wrongful and hostile viewpoints, protecting leadership policies of the Party and State in the new period.

## **Analysis:**

### **1. Some sinister schemes and tactics of hostile and reactionary forces against the Vietnamese government**

Vietnam is among the countries with an important geostrategic position in Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean-Pacific region. It has a territory of 331,212 km<sup>2</sup>, located at the heart of Southeast Asia; bordered by China in the North, Laos and Cambodia in the West and Southwest; along with abundant natural and mineral resources, population of around 98 million people. Notably, Vietnam has an extremely complex historical relationship as neighbors with China, which has been demonstrated throughout the ups and downs in bilateral ties from over 1000 years of

Chinese domination of Vietnam. Followed by invasions and occupations of Chinese dynasties before France made it a colony in 1858. As well as the 1979 Vietnam-China border war and Vietnam's territorial disputes with China in the South China Sea over time. Hence, the "geographical curse" has shaped Vietnam-China relationship history and severely impacted Vietnam's foreign policy and national security. These conditions made Vietnam a key target for the U.S. and its Western allies in their strategy to contain China's rise in the South China Sea and control its power scope towards Southeast Asian countries (Le Hoang Kiet & Nguyen Van Tuyen, 2023). Thanks to the distinct important geostrategic role of Vietnam along with shifts of power center to Asia-Pacific, recently Vietnam has always delicately balanced between the U.S. and China through "bamboo diplomacy" and the "four nos" policy in the Vietnam-U.S.-China triangle relations. This has enabled Vietnam to build a firm, independent, self-reliant, and dignified position with major powers globally. It is an enormously great achievement in the diplomatic cause of Vietnam's leadership. However, hostile and reactionary forces inside and outside Vietnam took advantage of intricacy in international relations domain. They distorted the leadership policies, putting forward irrational demands, weaving conspiracies and provoking Vietnamese people's patriotism.

**Table 1: Some "demands" being raised by hostile and reactionary forces against the Vietnamese government**

No	"Demand"	Field
1	"Demand" to abolish "four nos" policy	Defense
2	"Demand" to change to multiparty system	Politics
3	Inciting historical hatred between Vietnam - China	History
4	Allowing U.S. to set up military base in Cam Ranh	Defense

(Source: Author)

As shown in Table 1, hostile and reactionary forces inside Vietnam are taking advantage of global complex context to put forward several "demands" below:

Firstly, the demand to abolish "four nos" policy. The "four nos" policy has become a prominent issue under heated debate due to current changes in global political and security circumstances caused by Russia-Ukraine conflict. In this context, hostile and reactionary forces inside Vietnam took advantage of both territorial disputes between Vietnam and China in South China Sea, as well as Vietnamese people's intense patriotism spirit to promote their sabotage goal against the government. Recently, internet platforms became an important tool exploited by these hostile forces for propaganda, distorting and provoking Vietnamese people to go on streets for demonstrations. They require the government to change political decisions, abolish "four nos" policy, and even pledge allegiance to become U.S. and its Western allies' military ally in Southeast Asia. The hostile forces' objective is making Vietnam support the U.S. and its Western allies in

power competition with China, hence turning Vietnam into the U.S. military fortress in Southeast Asia.

Secondly, the demand to change into a multiparty system. Hostile and reactionary forces inside Vietnam have been taking advantage of complex fluctuations in both international and domestic situations. They aggressively employ “liberalism” rhetoric and carry out insidious “Peaceful Evolution” plots. That has created attacking spearheads in ideological and political front, as well as cultural front; misleading public opinions, shaking and eroding Vietnamese people, cadres and party members’ faith. Their goal is to raise suspicions and distrust about the leadership role of the Communist Party of Vietnam regarding foreign policy with China on South China Sea. With the aim of bringing in “American-style Democracy” notions to penetrate ideology of our people, cadres and party members. Gradually transforming and eliminating socialist ideology, denying the revolutionary and scientific nature of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh thought. Requiring to change from one-party to multiparty system and follow capitalism pathway. Thereby, demanding Vietnam to participate in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and become the U.S. intimate ally in Asia-Pacific.

Thirdly, inciting hatred in Vietnam-China history. Recently, there have been numerous articles and topics on websites related to Vietnam-China war history written by hostile and reactionary forces (Ha Anh, 2021). They attempt to provoke hatred in the two neighbors’ historical relations. For instance, by weaving conspiracies about ambiguous “interests” in the Northwest border war, the Vietnam-China border war... Through these events, hostile and reactionary forces fabricated added stories about bloody massacres and pains, recalling griefs and angers in the past between the two peoples. Their purpose is to provoke and guide Vietnamese people to smash industrial zones, Chinese commercial premises currently operating in Vietnam. Requesting the Vietnamese government to be tougher and change political decisions against China.

Fourthly, allowing U.S. to establish military base in Cam Ranh Bay. Lately since Vietnam and the U.S. upgraded their relations to Comprehensive Partnership in September 10th 2023. Hostile and reactionary forces actively propagated the demand to request Vietnam permitting the U.S. to set up a military base in Cam Ranh Bay. This is their extremely insidious plot to take advantage of Vietnam’s newly upgraded diplomatic ties with the U.S. They vigorously spread information and demand the U.S. deploy military forces at Cam Ranh Bay given current complex fluctuations in the South China Sea. Their plot aims to build Vietnam into a “satellite state” and facilitate the U.S. along with Western allies to get access to Chinese territories. If that happens, Vietnam will likely become the U.S. proxy battlefield in Southeast Asia as Cam Ranh Bay area poses strategic terrain. It oversees the Asia-Europe sea routes and enables military deployment, monitoring activities in the South China Sea as well as the “gate” towards China’s East.

## **2. Disastrous consequences on political systems of Soviet Union and Ukraine caused by hostile and reactionary forces**

In order to objectively and scientifically evaluate those insidious plots of hostile and reactionary forces, this paper will present two following historical lessons:

Firstly, the lesson about collapse of the Soviet Union's socialist institution. After World War II ended, the global order entered Cold War period between the U.S. and Soviet Union. The U.S. had implemented various policies and strategies to overthrow the Soviet Union and prevent the rise of socialist movements across the globe, especially in "Third World" countries. During 1980s, the Soviet Union did not carry out policies and strategies to prevent "Peaceful Evolution". It also failed to struggle against, refute and prevent distorted information and plots of inside and outside hostile forces to "transform" ideology of party members and people. As a result, a number of party members and cadres underwent "self-evolution" and "self-transformation". People's faith in leadership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union was shaken. It created serious conflicts inside the government, leading to collapse of the Soviet Union statehood. Consequently, political, security and economic situation of the country fell into serious crisis. In crisis decade towards end of 20th century, Russia as the legitimate successor to the Soviet Union had lost numerous national interests when it pursued "American-style Democracy" values. The country was left with instability, massive loss of technology achievements being stolen, political fractionalization, economic recession...That keeps causing Russia to cope with challenges resulting from collapse of the Soviet Union until now. As evinced through 2022 Russia-Ukraine conflict, 1994 Chechnya crisis, 2008 Georgia-South Ossetia and Abkhazia issue, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict etc.

Secondly, the lesson on Ukraine's geopolitics. Ukraine attained independence from separation of the Soviet Union in 1991. It implemented non-alignment policy for neutrality and balanced major powers' might between Europe and Russia owing to distinct geopolitical elements. Ukraine is the buffer zone separating Russia and European Union (EU) countries. Hence, Ukraine was severely impacted by U.S. "Peaceful Evolution" strategy. Although from 1991 to 2014, Ukraine found it tremendously hard to maintain neutrality in foreign policy. However, it did not have measures preventing "Peaceful Evolution" plots happening domestically. Hostile and reactionary forces distorted information and incited Ukrainian people's hatred towards the Russians. They were instigated to stand up and protest against the neutral government. It resulted in Maidan Revolution 2014, overthrowing the neutral government and replacing with Western-leaning power, sparking off national separation into two zones. They include the pro-West "Westernized" people at western territory versus the pro-Russia "Russified" people at eastern territory. Such incidence generated a grave social crisis in the Ukrainian society. It critically infringed upon independence and autonomy of Ukraine, culminating in the ongoing disastrous Russia-Ukraine warfare between the two peoples of same Slavic origin. Consequently, political, economic and security situation collapsed with serious crisis. Ukraine turned into a proxy battleground for the geopolitical confrontation between NATO and Russia. People were sacrificed in this meaningless conflict initiated by the ruling classes of both countries. National territory was split into Eastern and Western zones. Populace divided into "Westernized" versus "Russified" citizens. The shared root of Slavic ethnicity became history. These pains and sufferings would be beyond healing for both Ukrainians and Russians caused by meaningless warfare of the rulers.

**Table 2: Comparison of similarities and differences in practical lessons from the Soviet Union and Ukraine**

	<b>Soviet Union</b>	<b>Ukraine</b>
<b>Similarities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Both lessons demonstrate disastrous consequences of insidious plots from hostile and reactionary forces imposed on the Soviet Union and Ukraine.</li> <li>- Hostile and reactionary forces took advantage of weaknesses and internal conflicts in the Soviet Union and Ukraine to accelerate the “Peaceful Evolution” process. Inciting protests and demonstrations to overthrow the government.</li> </ul>	
<b>Differences</b>	- The Soviet Union lesson spotlights reasons leading to thorough collapse of socialist system and Soviet Union statehood.	- Ukraine lesson concentrates on consequences of territorial division and armed clashes between the southern and northern parts.
	- For the Soviet Union, hostile forces covertly sabotaged internal dimension and provoked “self-evolution” of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.	- In Ukraine’s case, hostile forces’ plots were overt and direct.
	- Soviet Union lesson stresses risks of “self-evolution” and “self-transformation” in ideology.	- Ukraine lesson warns Vietnam against becoming “proxy battleground” between major powers.

In summary, historical lessons from geopolitics of Ukraine along with collapse of the Soviet Union bear great strategic and vital significance for Vietnam’s socialist construction cause. Hostile and reactionary forces are increasingly cunning and vicious. They constantly keep track of political, economic and social developments in the Soviet Union as well as Ukraine. These forces closely follow and take full advantage of limitations or weaknesses in defense - security, politics - economy, diplomacy - foreign affairs and social welfare etc. Their purpose is identifying errors in leadership perspectives, policies of the Soviet Union and Ukrainian government. Along with that, hostile and reactionary forces are extremely sophisticated and sinister. They blatantly fabricated and framed materials online. Taking advantage of Photoshop software to edit images about clashes, conflicts and confrontations in the Soviet Union and Ukrainian society to arouse nationalistic spirits. At the same time, distorting images of government leaders and undermining prestige of the Soviet Union, Ukraine regime when they maintained non-alignment policy, These practical lessons from geopolitics of Ukraine and collapse of the Soviet Union bear profound meanings for Vietnam’s national security strategy.

### **3. Several basic solutions to strengthen struggling against wrongful and hostile notions. Protect leadership policies of the Party and State in new situation**

Recently, wrongful and hostile notions of hostile and reactionary forces made several components in our society show signs of “self-evolution” and “self-transformation”. A number of cadres and party members expressed degradation in political ideology. Their revolutionary ideals faded. Faith in pathway towards socialism in Vietnam and leadership of the Communist Party was shaken. Many scientists and famous intellectuals - who should represent development of Vietnam - publicly questioned on mass media the revolutionary nature, leadership competency of the Party over foreign policy with China in South China Sea. They required “political reformation”, “democratization”, abolishing “four nos” policy etc. Hostile and reactionary forces exploited online platforms for overt sabotage, distorting the Party and State’s leadership role to provoke patriotism.

Inheriting the spirit of fighting wrongful and hostile notions, our Party has promulgated various documents and resolutions clearly stating viewpoints as well as solutions for strengthening protection of ideological foundation and leadership policies. Importantly, the Resolution of the 5th Plenum of the 10th Party Central Committee dated August 1st 2007 on theoretical work, education and media in face of new requirements. It pointed out to: “Comprehensively and proactively launch the ideological struggle. Refute distorted allegations and sabotage plots by hostile forces against our Party and State. Foil their sinister scheme of “Peaceful Evolution” towards forming opposition force, causing riots and subverting government” (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2007, p.45). Following this guiding mindset in new era, the 13th National Party Congress reaffirmed: “Proactively fight against and prevent “Peaceful Evolution”, riots and subversion plots. Guard against signs of “self-evolution” and “self-transformation” internally. Ensure security including economic security, information technology and cybersecurity, as well as social security” (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2021, pp. 280-281). Apparently throughout the revolutionary leadership, our Party consistently paid attention to and vigorously directed enhancement of fighting against sinister plots by internal and external hostile and reactionary forces. It aimed to uplift combat strength of the Party, State and people while protecting revolutionary outcomes and building socialism homeland. For continued efforts against wrongful and hostile notions of reactionary elements domestically and overseas, this paper proposes following basic solutions with the goals of struggling and protecting Party and State policies in new period:

Firstly, synchronous implementation of campaigns propagating essence of “bamboo diplomacy” and “four nos” policy across Internet channels, online media where people frequently access e.g. Zalo, Facebook and Youtube etc. This solution will help raise awareness and understanding of the public about leadership perspectives and diplomatic policies by Party and State. It stabilizes people’s ideology and strengthens their loyalty towards Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh’s thought, and protection of Party and State leadership policies in general, especially essence of the “four nos”. Vietnam National Defence White Paper 2019 clearly stated the “four nos” policy: “Vietnam does not participate in any military alliances; does not associate with one country to oppose another; does not allow foreign countries to set up military bases on Vietnamese

territory or use it to oppose other countries; and does not use force or threaten to use force in international relations” (Ngo Long, 2022). Hence based on Party and State’s viewpoint, it is critical to vigorously promote various propaganda forms using media, publishing, radio, television, culture, literature and arts etc. to disseminate the Party’s guidelines and leadership policies among cadres, party members and people. It requires close and synchronous coordination between external campaigns and internal ones on the Internet during the struggle. That forms comprehensive defensive frontiers against sinister plots by hostile and reactionary forces. Additionally, it is vital to promote efficiency of Cybersecurity Law, ensuring political-social order and safety across cyberspace. Opportunely prevent distorted information spread by hostile forces and take appropriate punitive measures against elements sabotaging our Party and people.

Secondly, proactively prevent and refute reactionary forces’ distorted information and perspectives. The 12th National Party Congress pointed out: “Enhance fighting to foil sabotage plots and activities of “Peaceful Evolution” by hostile forces. Take initiative to prevent and refute hostile and reactionary forces’ distorted information and perspectives” (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2016, pp. 200-201). Inheriting guiding ideology from the 12th Congress, the 13th National Congress continued reaffirming: “Strengthen management and development of various online and Internet-based media forms. Resolutely fight to eliminate harmful, distorted, reactionary products and information affecting political-social stability and morality” (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2021, p.62). This solution facilitates promptly exposing sinister tactics by hostile and reactionary forces. It enables timely prevention of spreading false information and hostile materials. Concurrently, it is prudent to enhance quality of professional media staff across the country during struggle to protect Party and State policies against sabotage plots by hostile and reactionary forces. These specialized staff play a vital role in tracking political developments and advising timely response, orienting perception of cadres, party members and people regarding sophisticated, sensitive matters nowadays.

Thirdly, build an increasingly pure, strong Party organizational system with leadership competency and management capability for socialist construction cause in Vietnam. The 13th National Party Congress emphasized: “Build a pure, comprehensive strong socialist rule-of-law state and political system. Consummate the stringent power control mechanism. Resolutely and persistently fight against and prevent degradation, “self-evolution” and “self-transformation” internally. Promote fighting against corruption and waste” (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2021, p.11). This solution enables attacking the enemy’s weakest spot since hostile forces often take advantage of limitations or inadequacies in our national development course to provoke and sabotage activities. Building a strong Party organizational system is extremely urgent. It not only blocks sinister tactics by hostile forces but also uplifts leadership capacity at all levels over the cause of national construction and protection. As late President Ho Chi Minh said: “What does a revolutionary movement primarily need? It needs a revolutionary party, which internally mobilizes and organizes the masses while externally liaises with oppressed ethnic groups and proletariats globally. Only when the party is strong will the revolution succeed, like a firm captain navigating the ship forward” (Nguyen Nhung, 2020).



Hence, the determination to build increasingly pure and strong Party committees and organizations ensures a steadfast, impenetrable fortress when combatting hostile and reactionary forces.

### **Conclusion:**

The paper indicates hostile and reactionary forces inside Vietnam are exploiting complex shifts in global political landscape to raise demands for sabotaging the Party and State under new circumstances. They concentrate on four key demands: i) Abolishing “four nos” policy, ii) Changing to multiparty mechanism, iii) Inciting historical angers between Vietnam - China relations, iv) Allowing U.S. military base establishment in Cam Ranh Bay. Accordingly, the paper presented two historical lessons on sinister plots of hostile and reactionary forces leading to disastrous aftermaths on political existence of the Soviet Union and geopolitical implications for Ukraine. Therefrom, the paper proposed five solutions to promote struggling against wrongful and hostile notions as well as protecting leadership policies by the Party and State in new situation. Hence amidst new era’s transformations, the Party and State need to solemnly and vigorously resolve the matter of preventing sinister plots by hostile and reactionary forces on ideological front. It is an extremely dangerous hazard towards our revolutionary cause and socialist state building endeavors. Therefore under new context along with complex shifts in global political circumstances, the Party, State and people require identifying plots by hostile forces and actively foil their schemes before further proliferation.

### **References:**

1. Communist Party of Vietnam. (2007). Documents of the 5th Plenum of the 10th Party Central Committee. Ha Noi: National Political Publishing House.
2. Communist Party of Vietnam. (2016). Documents of the 12th National Congress. Ha Noi: National Political Publishing House.
3. Communist Party of Vietnam. (2021). Documents of the 13th National Congress, Vol.1. Ha Noi: National Political Publishing House.
4. Ha, A. (2021). Be vigilant against “political conspiracy theories” spread by hostile forces. Retrieved September 6th, 2023 from <https://baoquankhu7.vn/canh-giac-voi-thuyet-am-muu-chinh-tri-cua-cac-the-luc-thu-dich-615337210-0025493s34610gs?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>
5. Le, H. K., & Nguyen, V. T. (2023). Vietnam’s geopolitical position towards the U.S. in strategy of containing China’s hegemonic ambition. Da Nang University of Science and Technology Journal, 21(8), 63-69. Retrieved from <https://jst-ud.vn/jst-ud/article/view/8630/5950>
6. Ngo, L. (2022). Vietnam’s “four nos” defense policy in international relations. Lam Ha district electronic portal, Lam Dong province. Retrieved from <https://lamdong.gov.vn/sites/lamha/tintonghop/phapluat-quocphong-anninh/SitePages/Chinh-sach-quoc-phong-bon-khong-cua-Viet-Nam-trong-quan-he-Quoc-te.aspx>
7. Nguyen, N. (2022). Viewpoints on building the Party through works “The Revolutionary Path” and “Testament” by President Ho Chi Minh. Tuyen Quang Provincial Party Committee’s Electronic Information Portal. Retrieved from <https://tuyenquang.dcs.vn/DetailView/4393/22/Quan-diem-ve-xay-dung-Dang-trong-tac-pham-%E2%80%9CDuong-cach-menh%E2%80%9D-va-%E2%80%9CDi-chuc%E2%80%9D-cua-Chu-tich-Ho-Chi-Minh.html>