

SUNY BROCKPORT VIETNAM PROGRAM

**POLITICS**

INTRODUCTION

The Politics course examines the political system of the state of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The functioning of the political system over time and in the present is examined closely. For the students, this provides a thorough understanding of this system as well as the difficulties Vietnam is having in this globalization. This is a three-credit semester course that meets for three and one-half hours in class each week. The students will also engage in discussions with the instructor about the current socio-political situation in Vietnam. This one hour discussion each week requires a lot of reading and mastery about the latest news in Vietnam. Text and learning materials will be provided.

Instructor:           Nguyen Âninh An, Chairman of the Danang Union of Friendship Organizations

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students are expected to:

1. Describe the concepts of political systems in general and the socialist political system in Vietnam.
2. Analyze the essences and functions of the state of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.
3. Demonstrate and analyze the six contents with which the Communist Party leads the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.
4. Demonstrate and analyze Ho Chi Minh's ideology on the work for the masses.
5. Demonstrate the powers and obligations of the National Assembly, State President, Government, Prime Minister and Judicial organs.
6. Discuss and compare the above items with their U.S. counterparts.
7. Read all the news related to Vietnam during their stay in Danang.

COURSE DESIGN

Lecture one: THE POLITICAL SYSTEM IN VIETNAM

The students are expected to:

1. Demonstrate their understanding of the socialist political system in Vietnam, including the Communist party of Vietnam, the state of the Socialist

Republic of Vietnam and the social and political organizations.

2. Demonstrate their knowledge of the political system of the United States.
3. Read the news

#### Lecture two: THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF VIETNAM

The students are expected to:

1. Analyze the six contents with which the Party leads the state.
2. Demonstrate the achievements and shortcomings of the Party construction in political ideology and organization.
3. Examine the solutions to strengthen the Party's construction of the State.
4. Read the news

#### Lecture three: THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM'S STATE Objectives:

The students are expected to:

1. Define the concept of a state.
2. Describe the natures of the state of the people, from the people and for the people.
3. Demonstrate the roles of the Socialist State in the political system.
4. Read the news.

#### Lecture four: THE STATE MACHINERY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Objectives:

The students are expected to:

1. Demonstrate the legitimate roles, obligations and powers of the National Assembly and differentiate with the U.S. Congress.
2. Demonstrate the legitimate roles, obligations and powers of the State President of Vietnam and differentiate with the State Presidency of the U.S.
3. Read the news

#### Lecture 5: THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Objectives:

The students are expected to:

1. Identify the legitimate roles, obligations and powers of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.
2. Demonstrate the powers of the Prime Minister.
3. Examine the judicial organs in Vietnam
4. Examine the four levels of the state administration: central level, provincial level, district level and communal level
5. Read the news

Lecture: 6 *BASIC STANDPOINTS OF MARXISM-LENINISM, HO CHI MINH'S IDEOLOGY AND THE PARTY ON THE WORK OF THE MASSES*

Objective:

The students are expected to:

1. Demonstrate and analyze Ho Chi Minh's ideology on the work of the masses
2. Read the news

Lecture 7: *THE WORK OF THE MASSES FOR SOME SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS*

Objective:

The students are expected to:

1. Demonstrate and analyze the roles of the Trade Union, Peasantry Association, Women's Association, and Communist Youth Union.
2. Read the news.

Lecture 8: *AN INTRODUCTION TO THE VIETNAM FATHERLAND FRONT*

Objectives:

The students are expected to:

1. Understand the traditions of patriotism and solidarity among the Vietnamese people
2. Examine the foundation and development of the Vietnam United National Front
3. Read the news

#### **GRADING KEY**

A: Outstanding performance: You demonstrated a thorough understanding of the socialist political system in Vietnam and your home government in an excellent oral skill.

B: Good performance: You demonstrated that you understood most of the concepts of the socialist political system in Vietnam and a good understanding of your home government. Your ideas were clearly presented.

C: Average performance: You did not demonstrate clearly that you understood the socialist political system in Vietnam and your home government. Your ideas were not clearly presented.

D: Marginal. Just passing. You barely demonstrated an understanding of the concepts. There are numerous problems in your presentation and ideas.

E: Unacceptable: You demonstrated no understanding of the socialist political system in Vietnam and your home government.

This grade is made through a combination of the following:

40%: Final exam: an oral presentation

30%: Mid-term exam: A ten-page essay (doubled space, font size: 12, margin: top: 1 cm, bottom: 1cm, left: 3.5 cm. right: 1.34 cm)

20%: Quizzes

10%: Participation and behaviors<sup>(\*)</sup>

REFERENCE:

(1993). The Constitution of 1992. Ha Noi: The Gioi Publication

(2003). The Constitution of Vietnam 1946-1959-1980-1992. The Gioi Publisher

(2002). Ho Chi Minh Thought Will Light Our Path Forever. The Gioi Publisher

(2004). Nguyen Phu Trong. Vietnam on the Path of Renewal. The Gioi Publisher

(2002). Kenneth J. Herrmann, Jr. Lepers and Lunacy - An American in Vietnam Today. Book Surge

(\*) Students must attend all sessions and are expected to participate actively in the activities scheduled for each session. Students' behaviors and attitudes in class are also graded.

# THE POLITICAL SYSTEM IN VIETNAM

*Objectives:*

*The student is expected to:*

- 1. Examine political systems in general and the socialist political system in Vietnam*
- 2. Engage in discussion about current news in Vietnam*

## **I. The conception of a political system:**

A society with classes will always form some type of political system and through it the ruling class will direct the development of society and will dominate all relationships in the political system

A political system comes into existence due to objective requirement of a social life. Political system sets the orientation and direction for the society to progress in conformity with the way the ruling class proposes.

Political system can be examined within the following two categories:

- The organizational structure: socio-political system is a combination of all actions of the state bodies and organizations. This is to ensure that all political powers belong to the ruling class in conformity with the orientation of the dominating party.
- Function: In all political systems, it is of the utmost importance that the political powers belong to whom and to which way the society is projected. Expressing and performing these powers is not merely a decisive factor, but also a reason for maintaining and developing the political system. The performance of the political powers in a political system is made by different implements with different forms and measures. These are the political ideology, the lines of the dominating party and the state law.

The basic framework of Vietnam's political system consists of three components:

In a society with classes and strata, the political performance of these classes and strata is made through their own organizations.

All political parties, state bodies and legally recognized social organizations are members of political systems. They have different characteristics which are unifying and struggling and come into being due to objective requirement of the social life.

The most important organization in a political system is *the dominating party*. In a political system with different parties and organizations, benefits may differ from each other; however, the ruling party dominates them. The ruling party holds the most important role, determines the orientation for all activities and orients the development of the society.

*The State* is of great importance in a political system. It is not merely an implement of dictatorship of class or an alliance of different classes, but machinery administering the society by law. The State makes laws to express the wills of the ruling class or an alliance of different classes. In all cases, the main objective is to orient all social relations.

All *political and social organizations* are self-administered, having direct democracy and independently operating within the framework of the state law. A political or social organization is legally recognized if it represents and guarantees the benefits of all members of the classes or strata.

## **II. The socialist political system in Vietnam:**

The Vietnam's political system consists of the Vietnamese Communist Party (VCP), the state and the people's political organizations, which represents the benefits of social classes and strata under the leadership of the VCP. They cooperate and struggle to form a political institution that determines the fundamental orientation and lines for state construction.

The political system in Vietnam is the product of long struggles endured by the Vietnamese people. It has been improving to adapt to the socio-economic situation and the demands of the continued development of the society.

The framework of the political system in Vietnam includes:

- The Vietnamese Communist party;
- The State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam;
- The social and political organizations.

The political system in Vietnam operates under two basic principles: the Vietnamese people own the society through the state, and the state administers the society by law under the leadership of the VCP and within the orientation of socialist construction.

## THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST PARTY

### Objectives:

*The student is expected to:*

- 1. Analyze the six contents with which the Party leads the state*
- 2. Demonstrate the achievements and shortcomings of the Party construction in political ideology and organization.*
- 3. Examine the solutions to strengthen the Party's construction of the State.*
- 4. Engage in discussion about current news in Vietnam.*

### **I. The important issues of the Communist Party and the Vietnamese working class**

- a. The Vietnamese Communist Party, the vanguard of the Vietnamese working class, is the faithful representative of the rights and interests of the working class, the entire people and the whole nation.
- We could not mistake the Party for the working class. The Party is the vanguard of the Vietnamese working class. In order to be the vanguard, the Party must operate under the doctrines of Scientific Communism. Lenin confirmed, "*Only the party that is guided by the leading theory is capable to fulfill leading soldiers' roles.*" According to Lenin, if there is a government, then the Party must be "*the intelligence, the honor and the conscience of the era*".
  - The VCP, the vanguard of the Vietnamese working class, is the faithful representative of the rights and interests of the working class, the entire people and the whole nation.
  - The Party's leading roles are also manifested in the exemplary organization and work of the Party's members at present.

- The VCP only asks laborers or members of the working class who are conscious of organization and discipline to join its staff.
- b. The first objective of the Party is to construct Vietnam into a country of independence, democracy, and prosperity within an equitable and civilized society. It also works to implement Socialism and Communism successfully.
- c. The Party acts upon the Marxist-Leninist doctrine and Ho Chi Minh's ideology:
- Lenin presumes that Marxism is the communists' fundamental unifying ideology. Without a revolutionary theory, there would be no revolutionary movements. When the revolutionary theory has deeply penetrated into the masses, it becomes a great material strength.
  - Marxist-Leninist doctrine and Ho Chi Minh's thought form the theoretical basis for Vietnam's social and natural development. Especially within society, it is the theoretical scientific system on the proletariat's class struggles, on the proletariat revolutions and on the socio-political rules in the construction of Socialism and Communism of the working class.
  - The theory of Scientific Socialism is the strongest weapon to educate and improve the world. It is the scientific fundamental to construct the Party and outline the strategic programs of the Party.
- d. The Party is a close organization unifying all wills and activities; considers democratic centralism its basic principle of organization in order to implement collective leadership; individual responsibility; self-criticism and criticism are the developing rules of the Party; love for comrades; strict disciplines; solidarity on the basis of the political programs and rules of the Party.
- The Party is a unified organization with respect to politics, ideology and organization. For Lenin, it is the greatest strength of the Party and a condition for unity within classes and among people. He believed that in order to consolidate, Party members would have to remain united.
  - Democratic centralism is the basic principle in the Party's construction, organization and work. This



principle originates from the essences of the working class and the VCP in order to ensure the unification in wills and activities that can maximize the Party's strength.

- Lenin has confirmed that: I wish the Party - the vanguard of the class - to be well organized. Being well organized could ensure a harmony in ideology, will and action of all Party members.
- In order to ensure the Party's unification, it is essential to hold criticism and self-criticism in the Party. Criticism and self-criticism are important measures because they increase the awareness, improve members' leadership abilities, and resolve contradictions in the Party so that the Party's unification is ensured.
- The Party's unification is implemented on the Marxist-Leninist doctrine, Ho Chi Minh's thought, the Party's policies and lines, the State's Laws and the love for comrades.

e. The VCP is the dominating Party - The Party is closely linked with the people. The Party is the organization leading the political system as well as a section of the Socialist political system.

- The Party is a closely organized vanguard of all the classes. Therefore, when the government has been seized, the Party leads the Socialist political system.
- The Party's leadership is a prerequisite to ensure the successful Socialist construction of the State. Slackening the Party's leadership - an error in principle - can make the State and the Socialist political system less effective.
- The Party seeks to make the State administration and the masses' roles. The Party is closely connected with the people; emphatically fights against and prevents bureaucracy and any expressions of being out of touch with the masses. Lenin has warned the Communism and the ruling party: Severing the relationship with the masses is one of the Party's worst disasters, because it can inhibit the revolutionary cause and the Socialist construction.

f. The Party combines genuine patriotism with the pure internationalism of the working class; possibly

contributes to the cause of peace, independence, democracy and social development of people from around the world.

g. The Communist Party of Vietnam is firmly constructed in political ideology and organization; permanently self-renovates and self-regulates; continually enhances its fighting power and capacity for revolutionary leadership.

Today maintaining and strengthening the working class's essences, the Party needs to master firmly the following six contents:

1. Be unshakable with the target of independence and Socialism. In any circumstances the Party should not vacillate and ignore that target.
2. Be unshakable and apply creatively; contribute to the development of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thought; originating from the reality of Vietnam, the Party makes the legitimate lines and policies.
3. Maintain the principle of democratic centralism firmly; implement collective leadership and individual responsibility; permanently implement criticism and self-criticism; maintain solidarity within the Party.
4. Permanently educate and foster the working class's viewpoints and consciousness of discipline; establish the staff of cadres in the working class's standpoints.
5. Consolidate the close relationship with the people. Strengthen the great national unity. Care for people's lives and improve people's mastery.
6. Be faithful to the internationalism of the working class; combine the national power with the might of the era.

The above six issues are the basic educational contents in order to strengthen the political abilities, virtues, and capacities for the staff of the Party's members. They are the important contents to construct a Party firmly grounded in political ideology and organization in this period of State industrialization and modernization.

From the above basic contents, the requirements of the Party to maintain the working class's essences in this new era are:

- Make the whole Party and the entire population master the above six problems in principle, master the Party's

lines in industrialization and modernization; improve the ideological consciousness; create new belief and have determination to implement the Party's political lines and the State's laws.

- Make the whole Party knowledgeable; ensure they have adequate mental ability so they can propose legitimate political lines and tasks. Ensure they have adequate organizational ability to implement the lines.
- Make the whole Party have firm political ability, so that it can overcome all revolutionary challenges and turning points.

**II. The Communist Party of Vietnam is firmly constructed in politics, ideology and organization; permanently self-renovates and self-adjusts; continually enhances its fighting power and capacity for revolutionary leadership.**

**1. The Party's construction in politics, ideology and organization:**

*a. Achievements:*

Construct the Party in politics:

The Party has proposed and gradually improves its renovated lines legitimately and creatively; it shapes the road to Socialism more and more obviously.

This is the result of perestroika (renovation in thinking), enhancing the standard of intelligence and the Party's capacity for political leadership.

This is the result of the Party's and the entire population's hard ideological struggles and experiments, and lessons learned from practical experience. Renovation from this practical summary of experiences at grass root levels eventually forms the basis of Party lines.

Construct the Party in ideology: The Party confirms that Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Mnh's ideology are the foundation and the surveying compass for the Party's activities.

After the fall of Socialism in Eastern Europe and Russia, some may presume that Marxist-Leninist doctrine is out of date. However, the VCP has adjusted the legitimate political ideology, rectified conscious errors, protested alien ideologies, and set the foundation for a unified Party and population. The Party presumes that mastering Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's ideology is mastering all the Marxism-Leninism's system of theoretical standpoints we should not garble or quote any principles

we should depart from the condition leading to the birth of the principles.

The Party has responsibilities in amending and developing the Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's ideology. In this situation the Party presumes that: What Marx and Lenin have said exactly, now it is still correct, we must confirm and continue implementing it. What Marx and Lenin have said exactly in the previous situations but now the situation has changed we need to study, amend and develop it to be suitable, if not, we will make mistakes. What did not happen in the past and what Marx and Lenin did not mention; now we are responsible for studying, developing the theory to supplement it to the theoretical treasure of Marxism-Leninism.

Since the day the Party was born, the Party always struggles for Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's ideology and against illegal alien viewpoints.

There are two erroneous tendencies need to be against in the world:

- In the name of creatively applying Marxism-Leninism the tendency leads to the revision of Marxism-Leninism's principles; Marxism-Leninism is lowered and denied.
- In the name of guarding Marxism-Leninism the tendency leads to conservatism, slackness, mechanical stereotypes, dogmatism. The tendency dares not to apply Marxism-Leninism and to renovate.

Constructing the Party in the field of organization:

The Party confirms to hold firmly to the principle of democratic centralism, collective leadership, and individual responsibilities.

Identify the functions of the Party's leadership from the grassroots in all aspects of social life; facilitate the Party's organizations and committees to fulfill their duties.

*b. Shortcomings:*

In the new situation, the problem of holding firmly the working class's essences of the Party encounters new challenges but the Party is insufficient of preparation. The Party has not paid much attention to educate the Party members' political quality, morality, and life style.

Bureaucracies, recession, degeneration of some section of The Party's members are getting more and more popular, sophisticated and serious. Especially the recession on political theory, morality, life style, and violation of democratic centralism principles are weakening the Party's fighting power and declining people's trust.

The brainpower and leadership capacity have not caught up with the cause of the renewal and the State industrialization and modernization.

The shortcomings of the Party's organization, especially some local Party organizations are not good, the inspection of the performance of the Party's lines standpoints, and resolutions are not paid much attention.

*The tendency of constructing the Party on politics, ideology and organization and the tendency of permanently constructing and adjusting the Party:*

*Construct the Party on politics:*

Organizing from Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's ideology, the worldwide and nationwide situations; the Eighth Party Congress confirmed that: We need to hold firmly the two strategic tasks - Socialism construction and national defense - strengthen the State industrialization and modernization that is to construct Vietnam into a country which has modern material facilities and technology, a rational economy pattern, a progressive production relationship that is suitable for the developing standard of the productive force, high material and spiritual life, firm national defense and security, prosperous people, strong nation, equal civilized society.

*Construct the Party on ideology:*

The basic contents of the ideology in the new situation: Ideology development combines with the practical summary.

Propagandize the Party's theories, lines, and viewpoints.

The State's Law is closely connected to the struggle for the Party's ideological foundation.

Propagandize; promote the implementation of the political tasks of the Party and the State.

Educate the Party members

**THE STATE MACHINERY  
OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM**

*Objectives:*

*The student is expected to:*

- 1. Demonstrate the legitimate roles, obligations and powers of the National Assembly and differentiate with the U.S. Congress*
- 2. Demonstrate the legitimate roles, obligations and powers of the State President of Vietnam and differentiate with the State President of the U.S.*
- 3. Engage in discussion about current news in Vietnam.*

**1. The structure of the State machinery:**

*a. In the Constitution of 1992, the State machinery of Socialist Republic of Vietnam is generally organized as follows:*

- The legislative organ (the National Assembly)
- Executive organ (the Government)
- Judicial organ (People's Court)

*b. Administrative units are distributed as follows:*

- The state is divided into provinces and cities under direct central administration;
- The province is divided into districts, provincial cities and towns; the city under direct central administration is divided into urban districts, rural districts and towns;
- The district is divided into communes, the provincial city and town are divided into wards and communes; the urban district is divided into wards.

*c. The structure of the State machinery includes 4 levels of administration:*

- Central
- Provincial and municipal equivalence
- District and equivalence
- Commune and ward

Nowadays communes are divided into villages and hamlets. The chairperson of hamlet and village helps the communal People's Committee to oversee the area. However, it is not considered as the fifth local administrative level.

## **2. The National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam:**

*a. The roles of the National Assembly:*

- "The National Assembly is the highest representative organ of the people, the highest organ of state power of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam" (Article 83, Constitution of 1992). Election to the National Assembly is held in accordance with the principles of universal, equal, direct and secret suffrage. The National Assembly unifies all powers of legislation, execution and judiciary.
- The National Assembly is the only organ with constitutional and legislative powers.
- The National Assembly is the highest organ determining the fundamental domestic and foreign policies, the socio-economic tasks, the state's national-defense and

security issues, the essential principles governing the organization and activity of the state machinery, the social relations and activities of the citizen.

- The National Assembly exercises the supreme control over the entire activities of the state.

*b. The obligations and powers of the National Assembly:*

- To make and amend the Constitution, to make and amend laws, to work out the agenda for making laws and decrees-laws.
- To exercise supreme control over conformity to the Constitution, the laws and resolutions of the National Assembly; to examine the reports of the State President, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, the Government, the Supreme People's Court and Supreme People's Office for Supervision and Control.
- To decide the state's plans for socio-economic development.
- To decide the national financial and monetary policies; to decide the draft state budgetary appropriations; to approve the accounts of the state budget; to establish, change or abolish taxes.
- To decide the nationalities policies of the State.
- To regulate the organization and activity of the National Assembly, the State President, the Government, People's Courts, and People's Office of Supervision and Control and the local administration.
- To elect, release from duty, remove from office the state President and Vice-President, the Chairperson of the National Assembly, Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, the Prime Minister, the President of the Supreme People's Court, the Head of the Supreme People's Office of Supervision and Control; to sanction the proposals of the state President on the establishment of the Council of National Defense and Security, to sanction the proposals of the Prime Minister on the appointment, release from office of Deputy Prime Ministers, Cabinet Ministers and other members of the Government.
- To set up or suppress government ministries and government organs of ministerial rank; to establish, merge, divide, or adjust the boundaries of provinces and cities under direct central administration; to set up or disband special administration - economic units;



- To abrogate all formal written documents issued by the state President, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, the Government, the Prime Minister, the Supreme People's Office of Supervision and Control, that run counter to the Constitution, the law, the resolutions taken by the National Assembly;
- To proclaim an amnesty;
- To institute titles and ranks in the people's armed forces, in the diplomatic service and other state titles and ranks; to institute medals, badges and state honors and distinctions;
- To decide issues of war and peace; to proclaim a state of emergency and other special measures aimed at ensuring national defense and security;
- To decide fundamental policies in external relations; to ratify or annual international agreements that have been signed or participated in on the proposal of the state President;
- To hold referendum.

*c. Such a National Assembly must be guaranteed by:*

- Truly democratic elections on the principle of universal, equal, direct and secrete suffrage. People's rights to vote must be guaranteed. The information of all candidates must be accurate for people to elect their delegates.
- Deputies must have political virtue, good morality, intelligence and knowledge in order to debate the State's crucial issues.
- The structure of the National Assembly reflects an inhomogeneous structure of a society, adjusts the legitimate rights of all classes, strata, circles, and political and social organizations.
- Deputies of the National Assembly are the ones represent people's wills and aspirations. They are not the deputies of any group or any local authority or any individual. "They represent not merely their own constituency but also the entire population of the country".
- The National Assembly, on the matter of principle, is an organ working permanently through the National Assembly's sessions, the National Assembly's Standing Committee performance, the National Assembly's Committees and Councils and the National Assembly's deputies.

- The National Assembly session is the most fundamental and important activity.
- Besides implementing the representative democracy, the National Assembly has direct democracy by holding referendums in which people can approve or abrogate some state policies.
- The National Assembly has the working regulations especially the legislative ones (*preparing for draft-laws, deciding and issuing laws*), regulations on implementing the supreme supervision over the state organs.
- Under current situation in Vietnam, the National Assembly has not worked permanently. Therefore, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly - a permanent organ of the National Assembly is elected by the National Assembly and responsible to the National Assembly.

*d. The Chairperson of the National Assembly and the Standing Committee of the National Assembly:*

Legitimate roles of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly:

The Standing Committee of the National Assembly - a permanent Committee of the National Assembly - is composed of:

- The Chairperson of the National Assembly
- The Vice- Chairpersons of the National Assembly
- The members

Duties and powers of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly:

- To call and preside the election of the National Assembly;
- To prepare for, convene and preside over the sessions of the National Assembly;
- To interpret the Constitution, the law and the decree-laws;
- To enact decree-laws on matters entrusted to it by the National Assembly;
- To exercise supervision and control over the implementation of the Constitution, the law, the resolutions of the National Assembly, decree laws, the resolutions of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly; over the activities of the Government, the Supreme People's Court the Supreme People's Office of

Supervision and Control, to suspend the execution of the formal written orders of the Government, the Prime Minister, the Supreme people's Court, the Supreme People's Office of Supervision and Control, that contravene the Constitution, the laws, the resolutions of the National Assembly; to report the matter to the National Assembly for it to decide the abrogation of such orders, to repeal the written orders of the Government, prime Minister, the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Office of Supervision and Control that are contrary to the decree-laws and resolutions of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly;

- To exercise supervision and control over, and to give guidance, the activities of the People's Councils; to annul wrong resolutions by the People's Councils of provinces and cities under central administration; to disband People's Councils of provinces and cities under direct central administration whenever such Councils cause serious harm to the interest of the people;
- To direct, harmonize and coordinate the activities of the Nationalities Council and the Committee of the National Assembly; to give guidance to, and to ensure good working conditions for members of the National Assembly;
- In the intervals between sessions of the National Assembly, to sanction proposals of the Prime Minister concerning the appointment, release from duty and dismissal of a Deputy Prime Minister, cabinet Minister and other members of the Government, and to report such matters to the nearest sessions of the National Assembly;
- In the intervals between sessions of the National Assembly, to proclaim the state of war in case of foreign aggression and report the matter to the National Assembly for its approval at its nearest session;
- To proclaim general or partial mobilization; to proclaim a state of emergency throughout the country or in a particular region;
- To carry out the National Assembly's external relations;
- To organize a referendum following decision by the National Assembly.

The article 92 stipulates: The Chairperson of the National Assembly shall preside over its sessions; authenticate through his signature laws and resolutions of the National

Assembly; give leadership to the activities of its Standing Committee; organize the carrying out of its external relations; maintain relationship with its members.

The Vice- Chairpersons of the national Assembly shall assist the Chairperson in the fulfillment of his his/her duties as required by him/her

The Nationalities Council and Committees of the National Assembly:

The National Assembly establishes the following councils:

- + National defense council
- + Nationalities council

The National Assembly establishes the following committees:

- + Committee for laws
- + Committee for economy and budget
- + Committee for national defense
- + Committee for culture and education for youth, young pioneers and children
- + Committee for social affairs
- + Committee for science, industry and environment
- + Committee for foreign affairs

Each committee of the National Assembly has its own correspondent duties and powers to perform.

*e. Deputy of the National Assembly:*

Legitimate roles of the deputy of the National Assembly:

- The deputy to the National Assembly represents the wills and aspirations of the people, not only of his/her constituency but also of the whole country.
- The deputy of the National Assembly must maintain close ties with the electors; submit himself/herself to their control; collect and faithfully reflect their views and aspirations for the consideration of the National Assembly and state organs concerned;
- The deputy of the National Assembly maintains regular contacts with and makes reports to the electors on his/her own activities and the national Assembly's; answers the requests and proposals of the electors; examines, activates and keep track with and give guidance and assistance to citizens seeking to exercise their rights.
- The deputy to the National Assembly shall popularize and urge the people to implement the Constitution, laws and resolutions of the National Assembly.

Article 98 stipulates the duties and powers of the deputy of the National Assembly:

- The deputy of the National Assembly has the right to interpellate the state President, the Chairperson of the National Assembly, the Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and other members of the Government, the President of the Supreme People's Court and the Head of the Supreme People's Office of Supervision and Control.
- The interpellated officials must give an answer at the current sessions; in case an inquiry is needed the National Assembly may decide that the answers should be given to its Standing Committee or at one of its own subsequent sessions or may allow the answer to be given in writing.
- The deputy of the National Assembly has the right to request state organs, social organizations, economic bodies, and units of armed forces to answer questions on matters with which he is concerned. The people in charge of these organs, organizations, bodies and units have the responsibility to answer questions put by the deputy within the time limit set by the law.

### **3. The State President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam:**

#### *a. Legitimate roles of the State President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam:*

- The state President is the head of the state and represents the Socialist Republic of Vietnam internally and externally.
- The State President is elected by the National Assembly among its members.
- President is responsible to the National Assembly for his/her work and reports to it
- His/her term of office follows that of the National Assembly. At the end of the latter's tenure, he/she shall continue in office until the new state president is elected by the new legislature.

#### *b. The State President's duties and powers:*

- To promulgate the Constitution, laws and decree-laws.
- To have overall command of the armed forces and hold the office of Chairman of the National Defense and Security Council.
- To propose to the National Assembly to elect, release from duty, remove from office, the Vice-President of the State, the Prime Minister, and the President of the Supreme People's Court, the Head of the Supreme People's Office of Supervision and Control.

- On the basis of the resolutions of the National Assembly or its Standing Committee to appoint, release from duty, or dismiss the Deputy Prime Ministers, Cabinet Ministers and other members of the Government.
- On the basis of the resolutions of the National Assembly or its Standing Committee to proclaim a state of war, to proclaim an amnesty.
- On the basis of the resolutions of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, to order a general or partial mobilization, to proclaim state of emergency throughout the State or in a partial region.
- To propose to the Standing Committee of the National Assembly to review its decree-laws and resolutions on matters stipulated in Points 8 and 9, Article 91, within the space of ten days following their adoption, if those decree-laws and resolutions are again passed by the Standing Committee of the National Assembly with the State's President dissenting, the latter shall report the matter to the National Assembly for it to decide the issue at its nearest session.
- To appoint, release from duty, and dismiss the Vice-Presidents and judges of the Supreme People's Court, the Deputy Head and members of the Supreme People's Office of Supervision and Control.
- To confer titles and ranks on senior officers of the people's armed forces, diplomatic titles and ranks, and other State titles and ranks, to confer medals, badges and State honors and distinctions.
- To appoint and recall Vietnam's ambassadors extraordinary and plenipotentiary, to negotiate and sign international agreements on behalf of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam with the Heads of other States, to approve or join international agreements, except in cases where a decision by the National Assembly is necessary.
- To grant Vietnamese nationality, release from Vietnamese nationality, or deprive of Vietnamese nationality.
- To grant pardons.

According to the institution on State President's duties and powers, the State President - the leader of the State - is an individual so the State authority is highlighted in an overall regime: under the leadership of the Party, the National Assembly elects and supervises, all documents of law issued by the State President are determined by the National Assembly or its Standing Committee.

## **THE STATE OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM**

### Objectives:

*The student is expected to:*

1. *1. Describe the natures of the state of the people, from the people and for the people*
2. *2. Demonstrate the roles of the Socialist state in the political system*
3. *3. Engage in discussion about current news in Vietnam.*

**I. The fundamental natures of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and its major significance in building a jurisdiction state in Vietnam:**

1. The natures of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam's State:

a. The class's natures of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam:

According to Marxist-Leninist doctrine and Ho Chi Minh's ideology, state is a ruling organ of a class, a powerful organ to oppress other classes. State is a product and a token of irreconcilable class-contradictions. State is born not only as a ruling class but also a united organization of civic rights to administer all aspects of the whole society.

The Vietnamese Communist Party presumes that the fundamentals of the Vietnamese working class include the three contents as follows:

- The Socialist State of Vietnam is a State of the people, from the people and for the people. The State leads the alliance of the working class, the peasantry and the intelligentsia; absolutely implements people's mastery, maintains social disciplines and severely punishes all acts violating the interests of the motherland and the people.
- All laws, policies, lines, organizations and activities of the State must master the ideology of the Party and the working class.
- The Socialist Republic of Vietnam's State has responsibility and mission in constructing Vietnam with socialist orientation.

b. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam is the State of the people, from the people and for the people with the nature of the Vietnamese working class. The State should be closely linked with the national character and the people's character. The natures of the State of the people, from the people and for the people are manifested in these contents:

- People are the supreme subject of the State authority. The Constitution of 1992 confirms that: " In the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the state power belongs to the people". The current Socialist Republic of Vietnam's State originates from its profound national traditions which combine with great values of human being especially Marxism - Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's ideology. After August Revolution in 1945, President Ho Chi Minh founded the Democratic Republic of Vietnam's State having the nation as its foundation, the people as



its root and the government officials as "people's servants".

- The Socialist Republic of Vietnam is a unified state of all nationalities living on the territory of Vietnam. The state carries out a policy of equality, solidarity and mutual assistance among all nationalities and forbids all acts of national discrimination and division. Every nationality has the right to use its own language and system of writing, to preserve its national identity and to promote its fine customs, habits, traditions and culture. The state carries out a policy of comprehensive development and gradually raises the material and spiritual living conditions of the ethnic minorities.
- The Socialist Republic of Vietnam is organized and worked on the principle of equality in the relationship between the state and the people. People have all rights to freedom and democracy in all aspects of social life. Simultaneously they should consciously implement all their duties. The State, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, respects people's rights to freedom and democracy and guarantees the full implementation of these rights.
- The expanding democracy is especially manifested in all aspects of the economy and society. Democratizing the socio-economic life is not merely a vital requirement of this era but also a principal demand arising from the democratic nature of a socialist republic state. Multi-component commodity economy is not the goal of socialism itself but it is a mean to reach the objectives proposed by the Party: "Prosperous people, a strong nation, a civilized and equitable society".
- Social affairs require concerns and solutions from the state and the whole society. They are vital issues such as employment, unemployment, old-age pensioners, disabled people, and orphans. The Socialist State, therefore, creates favorable conditions in politics, legal problems and economy to guarantee the development of the national economy, to solve the social issues to develop culture, education and public health care. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam always respects all human values, constructs a civilized society - a society that fosters real contents and significance of freedom, equality, humanity and human rights.
- The power of the Socialist Vietnam's State does not safeguard the ruling functions of any individual or

group but protects people's power, political regime and national economy stipulated by the Constitution.

- The essences of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam are manifested in domestic and foreign policies. The foreign policies and external relation activities express the Vietnamese people's desire for peace and willingness to cooperate with all nations on the principle of peace, friendship and mutual benefits.

## **2. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam's roles and the issue of constructing a full jurisdiction State of Vietnam:**

### **a. The roles of the Socialist State in the political system:**

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam's State plays an extremely significant part in the political system. People's power is manifested in the State's. The State machinery directly implements people's political rights. The State is also a constitutive and material manifestation of the political power. Therefore, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam plays vital roles in the political system of our society. These roles are identified as follows:

- Government is always the principal issue of all revolutions. Seizing and defending political power are the key targets in social life of all countries. Vietnam's socialist political system was formed when the working class allying with the peasantry and the intelligentsia had succeeded in founding the people's government.
- The Socialist Republic of Vietnam is an organization through which the Communist Party performs its leadership and people achieve their mastery over the society.
- The Socialist Republic of Vietnam's State is the owner of basic means of production in the society and grasps the major part of the technical-material premises and facilities of the nation. These are the solid foundation to ensure the implementation of all democratic powers of the people.

- The State is the unique organization in the political system having rights to promulgate legal documents and laws representing working class the will and power of the working class.

Real practice has showed that there will be no real democracy unless there are governmental forms, procedures and institutions to represent it, to organize and to ensure that the implementation of the State power is publicly stipulated by laws.

**b. The issue of constituting the jurisdiction State of Vietnam:**

The comprehensive process of the renewal in Vietnam is a necessity, the principal content of which is to renew the economy to a market economy with effective adjustment from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. In conformity with the economic basis and in order to implement the target of establishing a civic society towards the ideal of democracy, humanity, equality and civilization. The State we are constructing is a jurisdiction one as the Party has confirmed: *"We should continue to construct and gradually improve the jurisdiction state of Vietnam. It is the state of the people, from the people and for the people; managing all aspects of social life by law; leading the country's development in the socialist orientation"* (The document issued at the National Assembly's deputies conference in the middle of the seventh term). The main characters of the Jurisdiction State of Vietnam are:

- The State has a complete system of law in which law articles are of supreme role. All State's bodies, social organizations, authorized people and all citizens must observe and be equal before the laws.
- Not only citizens have responsibilities to the state but also the state must have responsibilities to its citizens. The responsibilities here mean that relationship between citizens and the state must be based on the principle of equality in rights and obligations.
- All rights of freedom, democracy and legitimate interests of the people are comprehensively ensured and protected by laws. Legislation, executive and judicial powers should be definitely and reasonably

assigned to three correlative organs in the relation of coordinating with one another to create an integrated mechanism guaranteeing the unity of the State's power and executing people's power.

## **THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM**

### Objectives;

*The student is expected to:*

- 1. Understand the legitimate roles, obligations and powers of the Government of Socialist Republic of Vietnam*
- 2. Demonstrate the powers of the Prime Minister*
- 3. Examine the judicial organ in Vietnam*
- 4. Examine the administrative units of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in provinces and cities.*
- 5. Engage in discussion about current news in Vietnam*

### **a. Legitimate roles of the Government:**

- The Government is the executive organ of the National Assembly, the highest organ of state administration of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.
- The Government shall carry out overall management of the work for the fulfillment of the political, economic, cultural, and social, national-defense security and external duties of the state.
- The Government ensures the effectiveness of the state apparatus from the center to the grassroots; it shall ensure respect for and implementation of the Constitution and the law; it shall promote the mastery of the people in national construction and defense; it shall ensure security and the improvement of the people's material and cultural living conditions.

- The Government is accountable to the National Assembly and shall make its reports to the National Assembly, its Standing Committee and the State President.

The Government's organizations and activities are stipulated as follows:

- The Government shall be composed of the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Ministers, the Cabinet Ministers and other members. With the exception of the Prime Minister, its members are not necessarily members of the National Assembly.
- Prime Minister is accountable to the National Assembly and shall make his/her reports to the National Assembly, its Standing Committee of the National Assembly and the State President.
- Deputy Prime Ministers shall assist Prime Minister in performance his/her duties, as required by him/her. In the absence of the Prime Minister, one of his/her deputies shall be delegated by him/her to direct the work of the Government.
- The Chairperson of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and Chairperson of Vietnam Federation of Labor and the heads of the mass organizations shall be invited to attend the sessions of the Government when relevant problems come up for discussion.

*b. The Government's duties and powers:*

- To direct the work of the ministries, the organs of ministerial rank and the organs of the Government, the People's Committee at all levels; to build and consolidate the unified system of the apparatus of State administration from the center to the grassroots.
- To guide and control the People's Council in their implementation of the directives of superior organs of State administration; to assist the People's Councils to fulfill their duties and exercise their powers as lay down by law.
- To train, foster, dispose and use state officials and employees
- To ensure the implementation of the Constitution and the laws in State organs, economic organizations, social organizations, units of armed force, and among the citizens; organize and direct propaganda and educational work among the people concerning the Constitution and the laws.

- To present draft laws, decree-laws and other projects to the National Assembly and its Standing Committee.
- To ensure the overall management of building and development of the national economy; to carry into effect national financial and monetary policies.
- To manage and ensure the effective use of property in the ownership of the entire people. The Government should manage and utilize public properties effectively
- The Government develops culture, education, health care, science and technology and implements plans for socio-economic development and to give effect to the state budget.
- To take measures to protect the rights and legitimate interests of the citizens, to create conditions for him/her to exercise his/her rights and fulfill his/her duties, to protect the property and interests of the state and society; to protect the environment;
- To consolidate and strengthen national defense by the entire people and the people's security; to ensure national security and social order; to build the people's armed forces; to carry into effect general mobilization; to proclaim states of emergency and all other necessary measures to defend the state;
- To organize and direct the conduct of the State inventories and statistics; state inspection and control; to fight against bureaucrats and corruption in the state machinery; to settle complaints and denunciations by citizens;
- To ensure the overall management of the state's external relations; to sign, join, approve international agreements on behalf of the Government; to direct the implementation of international agreements subscribed to or joined by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; to protect the interests of Vietnamese citizens and organizations in foreign countries;
- To implement social policies, nationalities policies and policies on religion;
- To make decisions on the adjustment of the boundaries of administrative units below the level of the province and the city under direct central control;
- To coordinate its efforts with those of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and all masses' organizations in the fulfillment of their duties and exercise of their rights; to create conditions for their effective functioning.

*c. Prime Minister's duties and powers:*

- To direct the work of the Government, the Government members, the People's Councils at all levels; to chair Cabinet meetings;
- To propose to the National Assembly to set up or to disband ministries and organs of ministerial ranks; to present to the National Assembly or when the later is not in session, to its Standing Committee, for approval, proposals on the appointment, release from duty, or dismissal of Deputy Prime Ministers, Cabinet Ministers and other members of the Government;
- To appoint, release from duty, or dismiss Vice-Ministers and officials of equal rank; approve the election, release from duty, and dismissal of Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of People's Committees of provinces and cities under direct central administration;
- To suspend the execution of resolutions of People's Councils of provinces and cities under direct central administration that contravene the Constitution, the law and formal written orders of superior state organs; at the same time to propose to the Standing Committee of the National Assembly to annul them;
- To make regular reports to the people through the mass media on major issues to be settled by the Government.

*d. Cabinet Ministers and other members of the Government:*

Ministry is a Government organ with a function of managing the State or a certain aspects.

The state management of all ministries towards assigned sectors and aspects is nationally united. Article 116 in the Constitution of 1992 stipulates: "Cabinet ministers and other Government members are responsible for the state administration the fields and branches under their respective authority throughout the country; they shall ensure the autonomy of grassroots units in production and trading according to the provisions of the law." Minister, therefore, is the head of the administrative system of the State or his/her assigned sectors in the whole country.

Decisions, decrees, circular letters on State management in the Minister's responsible sectors or fields come into effect nation-wide.

*Minister's rights are expressed in:*

- Issuing regulations in his/her assigned sectors or branches. However, important policies on administering

specific sectors or branches are determined by the Government or the Prime Minister. Minister is responsible for implementing the measures but has no role in decision-making.

- Running the State administration towards his/her sectors or branches.

#### **PEOPLE'S COURT AND PEOPLE'S OFFICE OF SUPERVISION AND CONTROL:**

Article 126 of the Constitution of 1992 stipulates the duties of the judiciary power in the united power of the state as follows: "It is the duty of the People's Court and People's Office of Supervision and Control, within the bounds of their functions, to safeguard socialist legality, the socialist regime and the people's mastery, the property of the state and the collectives, the lives, property, freedom, honor and dignity of the citizens".

The two organs, therefore, have the same purposes and duties but different functions and methods of organization. This difference makes it necessary for the two organs to coordinate and affect each other in implementing their duties and purposes effectively.

##### *a. Organization structure of People's Court of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam:*

Legitimate roles of law-court:

- The Supreme People's Court, the local People's Courts, Military Tribunals and other tribunals established by law are the judicial organs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.
- The People's Court is a state organ implementing the state's judging functions but is independent in judging cases of civilian, criminal, labor, marriage and family affairs.
- A trial before People's Courts (with the participation of people's assessors) and before Military Tribunals (with the participation of military assessors) shall conform to the provisions of the law. During a trial the assessors shall be on an equal footing with the judges.
- During a trial the judges and assessors are independent and shall only obey the law.
- The regime of the appointment, release from duty, dismissal and the tenure of office of the judges, the



system of election and the tenure of office of people's assessors in People's Courts at every level shall be determined by law. Appoint; dismiss judge; elect people's consultation and People's Court of all levels.

- The People's Court shall hold their hearings in public, except cases determined by law. The People's Court shall try their cases collegially and their decisions shall be in conformity with the will of the majority.

Organizational structure of the People's Court:

- The Supreme People's Court
- The People's Court of provinces or cities under Central Administration
- The People's Court of Districts
- The Military's Tribunal
- Special Court established by law in special situations

The functions, duties and powers of the Supreme People's Court:

The Supreme People's Court is the highest judicial organ of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The President of the Supreme People's Court is elected by the National Assembly. He/she is responsible and makes his/her reports to the National Assembly and when the later is not in session, to its Standing Committee and to the state's president.

Supreme People's Court has duties in:

- Supervising and directing the judicial work of local People's Courts and Military's Tribunals
- Supervising and directing the judicial work of Special Tribunals and other tribunals, unless otherwise prescribed by the National Assembly at the establishment of such Tribunals.
- Submitting draft law or other draft ordinances on judging to the National Assembly or its Standing Committee.

*b. Organization structure of People's Office of Supervision and Control:*

The People's Office of Supervision and Control includes Supreme People's Office of Supervision and Control, Local People's Offices of Supervision and Control, and Military's Offices of Supervision and Control...

- The Supreme People's Office of Supervision and Control supervises and controls obedience to the law by Ministers, organs of ministerial ranks, and other organs under the Government, local organs of power, economic bodies, social organizations, people's armed units and citizens. It exercises the right to initiate public prosecution, which ensures a serious and uniform implementation of the law.
- The local Office of Supervision and Control and the Military's Office of Supervision and Control supervise and control obedience to the law and exercise the right to initiate public prosecution within the bounds of their responsibilities as prescribed by law.
- Public prosecution is a special function of the People's Office of Supervision and Control, a representative organ for society and public authority in ensuring the public order. It finds out and investigates criminals to prosecute in the courts of law.
- In order to ensure the strict and fair implementation of law, the People's Office of Supervision and Control is systematically organized. The Heads of the People's Office of Supervision and Control of lower-levels work under the leadership of the Head of superior level. The Head of People's Office of Supervision and Control and the Head of Military's Office of Supervision and Control work under the united leadership of the Head of the Supreme People's Office of Supervision and Control.
- The National Assembly elects the Chief of the Supreme People's Organ of Control. He/she is responsible for his/her work and must report his/her work to the National Assembly. The Chief and Deputy Chiefs of Local People's Organs of Control and Military's Organ of Control are appointed or dismissed by the Supreme People's Organ of Control.

#### **PEOPLE'S COUNCIL AND PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE:**

##### **PEOPLE'S COUNCIL:**

###### *a. Legitimate roles of People's Council:*

- The People's Council is the local organ of State power; it represents the will, aspirations and mastery of the people; it is elected by the local people and is accountable to them and to the Superior State organs.

- People's Council - local organ of State power - permanently works and implements functions of State management in a locality.
- On the basis of the Constitution, the law, and formal written orders of superior organs, the People's Council shall pass resolutions on measures for: the serious implementation of the Constitution and the law at the local level; on the plan for socio-economic development and the execution of the budget; on national defense and security at the local level; on the measure for stabilizing and improving the people's living conditions, fulfilling all duties entrusted by superior authorities and all obligations to the country as a whole.

*b. Duties and powers of People's Council:*

The Duties of the People's Council fall into the following categories:

- Economy, technology
- Culture, society and life
- National defense
- Nationality policies and socialist laws
- Establishment of local authority

*Powers of People's Council:*

- Passing resolutions and supervising their implementation.
- Supervising the activities of the Standing People's Councils of inferior levels.
- Supervising the Standing People's Council, People's Council of lower level; amending or abolishing unsuitable resolutions of People's Council of the same level; supervising the activities of People's Court of the same level.
- The Standing People's Council assists the People's Council in operating in compliance with current laws. The Standing People's Council includes Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary and experts.

**PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE**

*a. Legitimate roles of People's Committee:*

- The People's Committee, elected by the People's Council, is an executive organ (an organ of State administration). It is responsible for implementing the Constitution, laws, and formal written orders of

Superior State organs and the resolutions of the People's Council.

- People's Committee is responsible to the People's Council for its work and reports to it. It is also under the leadership of People's Committee of superior level and under the united leadership of the Government.
- People's Committee has responsibilities in State management of all aspects and activities of a locality.

*b. Duties:*

- Coordinate with the Standing People's Council to organize the People's Council's meetings and set up projects to submit to People's Council to examine and determine.
- Organize and lead the implementation of resolutions of People's Council of the same level; and the implementation of resolutions, decisions, instructions, and circular letters of the State organs of higher level.
- Lead sectors of all levels within its responsibilities to implement plans and budget and to develop all fields.
- Manage and solve all State issues in a locality and to decide People's Council's rights between two sessions.
- Receive people to deal and settle all citizens' complaints, denunciations, and proposals.

*c. Powers:*

- Make decisions, instructions.
- Supervise the implementation of these decisions and instructions.
- Ratify the result of the election of People's Councils of directly lower levels.
- The Chairperson of the People's Committee shall lead and give operational guidance to the activities of the People's Committee.
- When deciding major local matters, the People's Committee shall undertake collegial discussion and its decisions must conform to the will of the majority.
- The chairperson of People's Committee can: suspend or annul the wrong decisions of organs under the People's Committees and People's Council of a inferior rank; suspend wrong resolutions of People's Councils of a inferior rank and at the same time propose to the People's Council at his/her own level to annul such resolutions.

**BASIC VIEWPOINTS OF MARXIST-LENINIST DOCTRINE,  
HO CHI MINH'S THOUGHT AND THE PARTY ON  
THE WORK OF THE MASSES**

Objective:

*The student is expected to:*

1. *Demonstrate and analyze Ho Chi Minh's ideology on the work of the masses*
2. *Engage in discussion about current news in Vietnam*

I. Viewpoints of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thought on the work of the masses:

1. Argumentation:

- a. *The first argument:* "All historical work and ideology are from the masses".
- b. *The second argument:* "What people fight for is tied with their own interests".
- c. *The third argument:* On the matter of organization, "Give us an organization of revolutionists, we will reverse Russia".
- d. *The fourth argument:* On the matter of unity: "The proletariat of all nations in the world, please unite!"
- e. *The fifth argument:* On the matter of setting examples for the masses to follow: "Setting examples to the masses - a persuasive form of mobilizing the masses".

2. Ho Chi Minh's thought on the masses work:

Here are some of his leading thoughts:

*The first is* "Revolution is everybody's work, not the work of any individuals".

*The second is:* "All are for masses' interests"

- People's interests are the top priority.
- Tightly close to the people.

- Everything must be discussed with and explained to the people.
- Be modest to admit shortcomings and welcome people's criticisms.
- Be willing to learn from the people.
- Practice diligence and incorruptibility and set an example for people to follow.

*The third* is "Unity is the force"

- "Solidarity, solidarity and great solidarity  
Success, success and great success". (Ho Chi Minh's saying)

*The fourth* is democracy - people are the masters, therefore:

- "All the interests are for the people.
- All the powers are people's.
- The process of renewal and construction is people's responsibility.
- Wars of resistance and national construction are people's work.
- The people elect both communal and central authorities.
- All Central and communal organizations are set up by the people.
- In brief, all powers and forces are of the people.

Conclusion: The masses in Ho Chi Minh's thought include: The entire national population of Vietnam, Vietnamese compatriots of all classes, strata, ages, nationalities, and religions...

## II. Viewpoints on the renewal of the work of the masses of the VCP:

### 1. The first viewpoint:

Revolution is the cause of the people, from the people and for the people.

- The goal of people's happiness is of great significance.
- People are the force of our revolutionary cause.
- Respect people's mastery: "Vietnam is a democratic state; the people hold the highest status because people are the owners".
- Implement a policy of great national unity.
- In brief, "Do what is beneficial for the people and avoid what is harmful to them".

2. The second viewpoint:

The impetus of masses' movements is to meet the needy interests of the people, to combine all interests harmoniously, and to unite all people's duties and rights.

3. The third viewpoint:

All forms of mobilizing people must be diversified:

- Diversify in organization: General Federation of Labor, Youth Union, Farmers' Associations, Red Cross Society, Gardeners' Associations, Blind People's Association...
- Diversify in organizational system: could be organized in one level, two levels, three levels four levels; it is not necessary for all localities to be the same.

4. The fourth standpoint:

The work of the masses is the task of the Party, the Government and people's organizations

## **THE TASKS OF THE MASSES WORK IN THE STATE**

I. Why the state should carry out the work of the masses properly:

Socialist Republic of Vietnam is the state of the people, from the people and for the people. The State aims at a democratic, civilized and equitable organization.

The State guarantees and unceasingly promotes the people's mastery in all fields, and severely punishes all acts violating the interests of the motherland and the people; it strives to a rich and strong country in which social justice prevails, all men have enough to eat and to wear, enjoy freedom, happiness, and all necessary conditions for complete development.

The Vietnamese Communist Party gave the birth to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. And the VCP is the representative for the entire people so the State is supposed to care about the work for the masses.

II. The tasks of the masses work:

1. Enhance the State's ability of social management and the service for the people.

The purpose of the State is for the public management  
"Law is made not for itself but for the people" Carl  
Marx

- a. The State administers the society and serves the people by laws
- b. The State carries out the work for the masses by issuing social policies, economic programs in all aspects of life: society, culture, national security, foreign affairs

For the people's benefits: material, culture, and security...

The State's socio-economic policies include:

The part the State solely in charge:  
infrastructure

The part the State and the people co-work

- c. The State constructs and perfect the mechanism  
Purge corruption and bureaucracy  
Consolidate government agencies  
Improve red tape  
Standardize the requirements for government officials

2. Build and enhance the government structure in order to improve people's mastery especially workers, peasantry and intellectuals.

- a. Improve the stipulations in election, candidate, consultative conference
- b. Guarantee people's right in supervising the State's activities
- c. Respect and resolve all denunciations made by people properly
- d. Improve the contact with people
- e. Enhance and improve the direct democracy in each community

III. Ways for the State to mobilize the masses:

1. Combine all administrative, economic and educational methods in an appropriate manner.

Administrative method: orders

Economic methods: economic leverage

Educational methods: increasing awareness

2. Socialize the socio - economic programs, perform "the State and people co-work"

All socio-economic programs and project have to be the work of all society



All the work for the people's direct benefit should be performed in accordance to "the State and people co-work"

3. Carry out the four combinations and two mottos:

a. The four combinations:

Combination of laws with people's awareness

Combination of people's intelligence and need with capacity of the State's mechanism

Combination of the activities of the Fatherland Front, the masses organizations with the work of the government

Combination of information with press in the State's activities

b. The two mottos:

"People's acknowledgement, people's discussion, people's performance, people's supervision"

"The State and people co-work"

## THE WORK OF THE MASSES FOR SOME ORGANIZATIONS

### Objective:

*The student is expected to:*

1. Demonstrate and analyze the roles of the Trade Union, Farmers' Association, Women's Association, Communist Youth Union

2. Engage in discussion about current news in Vietnam

### **I. THE TRADE UNION / LABOR UNION:**

#### **1. Basic functions of the Trade Union of Vietnam:**

The Trade Union organization, being a socio-political organization of the working class and the laborer in general, has some basic functions:

*To ensure the legitimate interests of working class and the entire people.*

*To participate in state administration in:*

- Effectively organizing incentives
- Joining the process of making policies and laws
- Taking part in devising and mobilizing the implementation of plans for trade and production

- Stimulating and promoting workers' potentialities and mental abilities
- Supervising the government's activities

*To propagandize and educate*

- Propagandizing lines and policies of the Party and the trade union
- Propagandizing and educating the state laws
- Propagandizing and consolidating the working rules
- Promoting general education, technical and foreign languages learning among the working class and entire people

## **2. What the Trade Union should implement to ensure the laborers' interests:**

- Participating in finding jobs and creating favorable employment conditions for the laborers.
- Participating in solving issues of salaries, bonuses and accommodation.
- Participating in managing and using the state's welfare.
- Participating in the implementation of insurance system.
- Participating in assisting laborers to do household economy.
- Dealing with laborers' complaints and denunciations
- Participating in developing activities of literature, art, culture, physical education, sports and tourism among laborers.

## **II. DUTIES IN MOBILISING FARMERS:**

### **1. Care for the farmers' interests:**

Improve the farmers' living standards.

Raise the people's intellectual standards.

- Pay more attention to education, training and science.
- Promote agricultural development.
- Take care of farmers' health
- Implement democracy.

### **2. Propagandize and foster new peasantry by:**

- Advancing the Party's lines and policies.
- Fostering moral standards among the farmers.
- Fostering their knowledge of culture, science and technology.

### **3. Organize the implementation of incentives.**

**4. Develop and consolidate the Vietnamese Farmers' Association in order to unite all farmers:**

*The duties of the Peasantry's Association:*

- Mobilize the incentives for good production.
- Participate in movements of constructing rural infrastructure.
- Participate in movements of eradicating illiteracy.
- Participate in movements advocating a civilized life style.

**III. THE WORK OF MOBILISING INTELLECTS:**

**1. The Party's viewpoints towards the intellectuals:**

- Intellectuals are a valuable human resource of the nation.
- Intellectuals' labor is brainwork, which creates and propagates cultural, technological and scientific values.
- The Party and the State rely on and employ the intellectuals with the motto "*the right one, the right works*", ensure free and creative thinking and ensure the legitimate interests.
- Give first priority to the investment for the intellectuals - the investment for the development of the human resources.

**2. The policies for the intellectuals:**

*a. The Government issues and guides the implementation of regulations, which ensures the liberty and democracy in all intellectuals' activities.*

- Promote independent thought and encourage debates.
- Facilitate the intellectuals to choose their employment.

*b. Renovate the administrative system of science and training organs to guarantee the appropriate employment and treatment for the intellectuals according to their morality, talent and practical contribution. Protest the egalitarianism and encourage them to control promotions within their own professions.*

- Implement entrance examinations
- Implement bids for scientific research.
- Implement periodic evaluations for scientific posts.

**IV. THE WORK OF MOBILISING WOMEN:**

**1. Viewpoints on the work of mobilizing women:**

- a. Women are the laborers, citizens, mothers and first teacher of each individual in life.
- b. The objectives of the women's liberation are to improve women's material and spiritual lives, to raise their social position, and help them have prosperous, equitable, advanced and happy families.
- c. The cause of women's liberation is the duty of the Party, the State, people's organizations, families, and the entire society.

**2. Some important tasks:**

- a. Solving women's employment, caring for women's lives, ensuring safety in women's working environment and social insurance, protecting women's health and rights.
- b. Educating, fostering dignity; improving women's standard of knowledge in all aspects.
- c. Helping them have prosperous, equitable, progressive and happy families.
- d. Promoting female Party's members
- e. Renovating the organization and the direction of working of the Vietnamese Women's Union

**V. THE WORK OF MOBILIZING YOUTH:**

**1. The roles of the Communist Youth Union:**

Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union is a socio-political organization founded by the Communist Party of Vietnam and President Ho Chi Minh. The Union includes the advanced youth striving for socialist ideology to contribute themselves to build Vietnam into a nation with prosperous people, a strong state, and an equitable and civilized society in which every citizen leads a free, prosperous and happy life.

**2. The functions of the Union:**

- a. The Union is a reliable reserved detachment of the Communist Party of Vietnam.
- b. The Union is the socialist school for youth.
- c. The Union is the Party's representative caring and ensuring the legitimate rights of youth.

**3. The duties of the Union:**

- a. Unite and educate youth and adolescents in the Party's ideology.
- b. Assist youth to develop the economy, promote, defend the homeland and successfully implement the nation's industrialization and modernization.

- c. Construct the Party and consolidate the Government.
- d. Guide the adolescents and children.
- e. Educate young people in communist ideology, morality, the revolutionary traditions of the Party and the Vietnamese people, and to establish a healthy way of life among youth and adolescents.
- f. Foster and strengthen youth and adolescents' intellectual and physical standards.
- g. Construct a strong Union that deserves an advanced environment that can unite all classes of youth and adolescents around the Party.

**AN INTRODUCTION TO  
THE VIETNAM FATHERLAND  
FRONT**

Objectives:

*The student is expected to:*

- 1. Understand the tradition of patriotism and solidarity of the Vietnamese people*
- 2. Examine the foundation and development of the Vietnam United National Front*
- 3. Engage in discussion about current news in Vietnam*

**1. The precious traditions of patriotism and solidarity of the Vietnamese people:**

President Ho Chi Minh said that: "Vietnamese people have a passionate patriotism which is a precious tradition of the nation. From the very first days of the history, whenever the nation is invaded their patriotism gets heated and becomes a vigorous wave surfing all obstacles and dangers to annihilate the enemy and their minions".

Professor Phan Ngoc, a Vietnamese culture researcher, presumes that: "For the Vietnamese, the nation is of utmost importance. Just as a newborn fish knows how to swim, Vietnamese people are born with their patriotism".

When reviewing the past, McNamara recognized that the Americans were defeated because "we underestimated their racial nationalism that acts as an impetus to struggle and sacrifice for their ideology and its values"

Vietnam has mythologies, legends, events and figures that express their patriotism. The legend of Lac Long Quan and Au Co tells of their marriage and their creation of a flesh bag containing a hundred eggs from which one hundred sons were born. Lac Long Quan and Au Co then decided to part from each other. The divided fifty sons with their father to the Water Palace in the South Sea and other fifty followed Au Co to the mountains. All the Vietnamese people have the same origin, the flesh bag. The entire nation never shows any form of discrimination in religions, financial situations, regions, nationalities; Vietnamese believe that they are all descended from Hung Vuong (the first king of Vietnam); Hung Temple festival is considered the national anniversary.

The history of Vietnam is the history of national solidarity to fight against invaders. From 200 BC to 938 AD even though the Chinese feudalists were fierce and attempted to assimilate and implement cunning and unscrupulous means, the Vietnamese people continuously waged wars to fight for independence and cultural values.

Vietnam defeated the Chinese feudalists several times between the 10th and 18th centuries. Particularly in the 13th century, aggressive Mongol imperialists conquered part of Europe and all of China but were defeated by the Vietnamese people. Another remarkable event was the Dien Hong conference. In this conference all elderly people were invited for their opinions to fight against the enemy. All the people at the conference were determined to wage war.

French colonists landed in Danang to invade Vietnam in the 19th century and Vietnam, like many other underdeveloped Asian and African nations, was conquered

by the French. Throughout 80 years of French domination, the Vietnamese people continuously waged wars of resistance against the colonial government. In August 1945, when the Allies defeated the three Axis powers and Japan surrendered, the Vietnamese people waged the August Revolution and won. Then, the French - with support from the U.S. - returned to Vietnam for a second invasion. However, the French admitted their complete defeat after the victory at Dien Bien Phu proved their failure to overcome the patriotism of the Vietnamese people. This event marked the start of a worldwide collapse of paleo-colonialism.

The U.S. took France's place and waged an aggressive war by administering a huge counseling and aid. 560,000 soldiers were sent to Vietnam with the progressive science, technology and financial strength of a superpower. The General Spring Attack in Spring 1975 led to victory and the U.S. signed the Paris Agreement and withdrew their troops. McNamara stated that the Americans were defeated because they underestimated the unconquerable strength of the patriotism of the Vietnamese.

Patriotism is of great significance in the Vietnamese people's spiritual life, and a valuable tradition of the nation. Researchers demonstrate some arguments based on the nation's geography - history - politics: The Vietnamese people first came into being on Hong river delta and lived on wet-rice agriculture; therefore, it was necessary for them to build close ties in order to construct the greatest building - dyke system.

The Vietnamese people always live under the threat of being invaded by the Chinese. This is the second reason for them to unite to fight against their assimilation into the Chinese culture. The destiny of each individual and family depends on the existence of the nation. No one ignores such urgent political issues as the national struggles for independence; when foreign countries invade the country, all people participate in the struggle against them.

## **II. The Vietnam United National Front:**

From the early days of the Party's foundation (February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1930), President Ho Chi Minh and the Vietnamese

Communist Party perceived the significance of the tradition and strength of patriotism and solidarity. All the Vietnamese revolutionaries confirm that revolution is the cause of the masses and always grasp Ho Chi Minh's ideology:

Solidarity, solidarity and great solidarity  
Success, success and great success

However, fighting against fierce enemies for national independence is a great and challenging cause. Appealing to solidarity is not enough. We have to mobilize and organize people of different religions, nationalities, financial situations, ages, and genders into one people who share a love for their country and support struggles for national salvation, independence and people's happiness.

Therefore, in each revolutionary period, the Vietnam United National Front has different programs, objectives, policies, individuals, mottos and ways of operation.

Each front operates on a broader scale than its predecessors. The latter mobilizes people have not been in the previous and even people who fought against the previous one.

The first united national front was founded on November 18, 1930.

From 1935 - 1939, the world economic crisis and the birth of fascism caused the advanced democratic forces in the world to form a united front against fascism and war. In France, the Popular Front was politically active. The Democratic Front of Indochina was established to launch struggles for democracy and to develop different kinds of struggles mobilization.

During World War II, Japanese fascists invaded Vietnam, and the French colonists surrendered to the Japanese. The Vietnamese revolution joined the Allied Front against fascism. The Viet Minh Front (League for Vietnamese Independence) was founded to mobilize the entire people to fight against the Japanese and French.



After the August Revolution, in order to mobilize people that did not join the Viet Minh Front for the national struggles, the Lien Viet Front (the United Front of Vietnam) came into being. Later, the Viet Minh and Lien Viet united into one Front.

After the Geneva Agreement, North Vietnam was absolutely liberated. The Vietnam Fatherland Front was founded to mobilize the entire population for national construction in North Vietnam and liberation in South Vietnam.

On December 20, 1960, the National Front for South Vietnam Liberation was formed to mobilize people for the struggle against the U.S. involvement. The National Front for South Vietnam Liberation was the only genuine representative for Southern Vietnamese.

After April 30, 1975, South Vietnam was completely liberated and the whole nation was unified. The Vietnam Fatherland Front united with the National Front for South Vietnam Liberation to become the Vietnam Fatherland Front.

## THE PERFORMANCE OF DEMOCRACY AT GRASSROOT LEVEL

1/ Why is the communal level chosen to be the initial start to perform democracy?

**Answer:** Among the four current administrative levels, communal level is considered to have a closest contact with people. The communal level is the place where all the national policies are directly implemented and is also the place where democracy is widely and directly performed. It is also an appropriate starter for democracy performance.

It is of great importance and urgency to choose communal level to be the initial start to perform democracy in order to ensure the people's mastery. The performance of democracy at the grassroot level also confirms the determination of the Party and the Nation in their fights against bureaucracy, arrogance, dictatorship which are currently causing trouble for the people. Success in this performance would ensure and improve the good nature of the socialist nation.

The experience of a successful performance of democracy at grassroot level may be applied in other aspects like government agencies, schools, hospitals, enterprises, army units, etc...

2/ What does *socialist democracy* mean? What is the current democracy we are forming?

Answer: Democracy is forming a socio-political unit based on the principles of social equality and respect of the people's power. Democracy ensures the power of the majority, the people's equality and the legitimacy of the state laws. The government is exercised either directly by the people or through elected representatives.

Socialist democracy is the democracy of the majority connected with social equality. It opposes oppression and injustice which is widely performed in politics, economics, culture and society. It is institutionalized and guaranteed by law.

Our democracy is a performing democracy which is continuously performed and improved. Our democracy ensures the interests not only of each individual but also of the entire society. Our democracy is also accompanied with discipline. The socialist democracy of Vietnam aims

at exercising and improving people's mastery, contributing to the national construction for a wealthy people, a strong nation and a civilized and equitable society.

3/ How do people exercise their democratic rights?

Answer: People exercise their democratic rights by two ways: Representative democracy and direct democracy.

Representative democracy is the most common of its kind in terms of exercising of people's power. Its representatives have rights to legislate. These representatives are elected by people. People have right to supervise the activities of their representatives' agencies. In Vietnam, the National Assembly and the People's Councils are the major manifestation of the representative democracy (Articles 83 and 119 in the 1992 Constitution).

Direct democracy means that the people have rights to express their opinions directly towards important issues. People play the roles of organizing and ensuring the process.

People are the subject of the power. Each citizen has right to raise their voice over the legislative, executive, judicial, and administrative issues. Every citizen has right to discuss, decide, and supervise related issues in the community they are living. Nowadays, the most popular kinds of direct democracy include: nationwide poll; law innovation; activities of social organizations, mass and career associations, and the way the people directly involve in the self-administration in the community they are living. The performance of the direct democracy depends upon the development of the economy, society and people's awareness.

4/ What are the achievements and limitations over the past 20 years of *Âãøi Mãii*?

Achievements: The Party and Government have been focusing on building an effective legal system in order to institutionalize people's rights. Aside from the 1992 Constitution, there are many bills and acts which are making considerable progress. The Government has been promulgating and implementing socio, economic and

political policies in order to develop democracy that people's rights are highlighted and respected and the society is more open. The Vietnamese citizens strongly believe in the righteous role of the VCP and the Government and they are also steady against all reactionary distortion.

Limitations: Bureaucracy, arrogance, corruption and the superfluous administrative formalities continuously causing troubles to people.

5/ The purposes and significances of the performance of democracy at grassroots level.

The performance of democracy at the grassroots level concretizes the motto "People's awareness, people's discussion, people's performance and people's supervision" in order to promote people's rights, encourage people's involvement in the Government's administration to overcome the recession, bureaucracy, corruption and lack of democracy.

The performance of democracy at grassroots level encourages the implementation of people's rights and creation; and the material and spiritual contributions from the people in the economic development and the socio-political stabilization. This process also ensures the solidarity at the communal level, the improvement of the quality of people's lives, the improvement in people's awareness, the healthy structure of the local VCP, and authority. This process also stops and overcomes the recession, bureaucracy, and corruption; and improves the cause of wealthy people, a strong country, equitable and civilized society.

The Regulation of the performance of the democracy at grassroots level is the legal foundation for the local government officials, VCP members and the local residents to act on in order to prevent the mistakes in thoughts and actions and to improve the fine nature of the regime, to enhance the trust of the local residents for the Party and the State. This also helps improve the socio-economic status.

6/ Crucial arguments in the establishment and performance of the democracy at the grassroots level:

1. Highlighting the equal significance of the three factors in the structure of "the VCP's leadership, the State's administration and the people's mastery".
2. Promoting the two forms of democracy performance: Representative democracy and direct democracy. These two forms are closely connected and supplemented to each other to ensure the people's democracy.
3. Improving democracy must connect with advancing the socio-economic status and increasing people's awareness.
4. Democracy must be connected with discipline; power must be connected with responsibilities; benefits must be connected with duties. We oppose bureaucracy, anarchism and taking advantage of democracy to break the laws.
5. Connecting the democracy establishment and performance with the reform of administrative structure.

7/ What does the democracy at grassroots level focus on?

Forms of democracy must fit the situation of each place. Whatever form it is, it must focus on:

To ensure people's rights in being informed about laws, the State's guidance and policies, particularly, issues directly related to their daily lives and interests. The government officials and the heads of each agency must publicly report their on-going work, production and distribution, how the State budget is used, people's contribution, balance-sheet, tuition, and medical fees...

Encourage people and staff members to discuss and give their input. The people in charge have to value these ideas before making the decisions.

Encourage people's involvement by letting them discuss and decide the issues directly related to their daily lives; the people in charge will make the decision based on the majority under the supervision of the local residents.

Positively assume the responsibilities and be willing to listen to the people, resolve people's denunciation, answer questions of the local residents, workers, staff

members; and actively oppose any act of revenge of person who denounce them

The heads of each commune or agency must assume their responsibilities in their periodical meetings (every three/six/twelve months), seriously self-criticize and are willing to listen to suggestions and ideas from the local people, workers and staff members.