



# Theoretical Development Of Socialism In Vietnam In The Age Of Innovation

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## ARTICLE INFO

## ABSTRACT

The Ibis Trilogy by Amitav Ghosh stands as a monumental work of historical fiction, comprising three interconnected novels that delve into the complexities of colonialism, trade, and cultural exchange in the early nineteenth century. Through a narrative lens, this study examines the intricate dynamics of cultural hybridity and transnational commerce embedded within Ghosh's literary tapestry. The narrative transmission methodology is employed to dissect the motivations, interactions, and transformations of characters from diverse cultural backgrounds, offering insights into the fluidity of identity formation and the enduring legacies of colonialism. From the opium fields of India to the bustling ports of Canton, Ghosh's trilogy serves as a testament to the complexities of cultural exchange amidst historical upheaval, inviting readers to contemplate the resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity. Through meticulous research and vivid storytelling, Ghosh brings to life a cast of characters whose trajectories intersect and diverge, illuminating the transformative power of cultural exchange in shaping our shared global history.

## CONTENT

### 2. The theoretical development of socialism in Vietnam in the innovation period

#### 2.1. About the characteristics of socialism in Vietnam

National independence and socialism has been the goal throughout the founding of the Party until now. During the period of national liberation and national reunification, our Party and people "both resisted and built the nation." In that context, the characteristics of socialism were identified and effectively brought into play. However, when the country was unified, some features of socialism suitable for the war period are no longer suitable for the peace period. For example, the economic characteristic is the planned economy. Therefore, in the renovation period, the Party has gradually identified the characteristics of Vietnam's socialism. At the 7th Congress (1991), it approved the Platform for National Construction in the transitional period towards socialism (referred to as the 1991 Platform). The 1991 Platform pointed out six characteristics of socialism in Vietnam:

- Is mastered by the labouring people;
- Has a highly developed economy based on modern production forces and the regime of public ownership of the main means of production;
- Has an advanced culture imbued with the national identity;
- In which people are free from oppression, exploitation and injustice, work according to their ability and are entitled to results of their work, live a prosperous, free and happy life and enjoy conditions for individual development;
- In which all ethnic groups in the country enjoy equality, unite with and assist one another for common progress;
- Which has friendly and cooperative relations with the people of all countries in the world.

The above six characteristics indicate the values of socialism in Vietnam: Human values are clearly reflected in human liberation and comprehensive development of people, in the country mastering of the labor, in the building prosperous, free, and happy life for people and in the equality and unite of all nations; Economic value is reflected in a highly developed economy based on modern productive forces; Cultural values is building an advanced culture imbued with national identity; Values to humanity is friendship and cooperation with the people of all countries in the world. Those values are consistent with the progressive trend of human society.

At the 10th Congress (2006), summarizing 20 years of renovation, drawing lessons from the collapse of the Soviet Union and the socialist countries in Eastern Europe, and consulting experiences from countries around the world, the Party have identified eight characteristics of socialism in Vietnam, including:

- People rich, the country strong, fair, democratic and civilized society;
- Mastered by the people;
- Has a highly developed economy, based on modern production forces and production relations suitable to the development level of production forces;
- Has an advanced culture imbued with the national identity;
- People are free from oppression, exploitation and injustice, work according to their ability and are entitled to results of their work, live a prosperous, free and happy life and enjoy conditions for individual development;
- All ethnic groups in the country enjoy equality, unite with and assist one another for common progress;
- Has a Socialist Republic's people, by people and for people, under the leadership of the Communist Party;
- Has friendly and cooperative relations with the people of all countries in the world.

Thus, compared with the 7th Congress, the 10th Congress has added two more features namely: "People rich, the country strong, fair, democratic and civilized society" and "Has a Socialist Republic's people, by people and for people, under the leadership of the Communist Party". These two characteristics have supplemented and clarified the content of socialism in Vietnam. The first "People rich, the country strong, fair, democratic and civilized society" clarified values of socialism: the people are rich and prosperous; the country is powerful and capable of protecting social justice as well as real democracy for the people; the society is advanced and civilized in all aspects. These values represent a good socialist society which gives people the right to master, to enjoy prosperity, freedom, and happiness, and ensures the conditions and prerequisites for exercise those rights. The second "Has a Socialist Republic's people, by people and for people, under the leadership of the Communist Party" represents the people's tools and means for implementation values in Vietnamese socialism. Along with adding two more features, our Party also adjusted the content of some characteristics to clarify the value of socialism in Vietnam. For example, the 7th Congress's i) Mastered by the labouring people is expanded in terms of ownership at the 10th Congress to be Mastered by the people. This is a development step in the theory and practice of democracy in Vietnam. Or the characteristic ii) Has a highly developed economy based on modern production forces and the regime of public ownership of the main means of production is adjusted to "Has a highly developed economy, based on modern production forces and production relations suitable to the development level of production forces". This shows that our Party has applied the law of conformity of production relations with the development level of the productive forces more smoothly in the process of building socialism.

By the 11th National Congress, the characteristics of socialism in Vietnam were improved more than one step, which reflected in the Platform for National Construction in the transitional period towards socialism (the Platform supplemented and developed in 2011, referred to as 2011 Platform). Accordingly, the characteristics of socialism in Vietnam include:

- People rich, the country strong, fair, democratisation, and civilization;
- Mastered by the people;
- Having a highly developed economy based on modern production forces and appropriate progressive production relations;
- Has an advanced culture imbued with national identity;
- People are free from oppression, exploitation and injustice, work according to their ability and are entitled to results of their work, live a prosperous, free and happy life and enjoy conditions for individual development;
- All ethnic groups in the country enjoy equality, unite with and assist one another for common progress;
- Has a Socialist Republic's people, by people and for people, under the leadership of the Communist Party;
- Has friendly and cooperative relations with the people of all countries in the world.

It can be seen that compared with the features of socialism identified at the 10th National Congress in 2006, the characteristics identified in the 2011 Platform are defined more general and clearer. At the same time, the features are also modified to be more scientific. For example, the feature "People rich, the country strong, fair, democratic and civilized society" is adjusted to "People rich, the country strong, fair, democratisation, and civilization" which is more inclusive and better equipped to convey the significance of "democracy". The priority placed on "democracy" over "fairness" is unquestionably the right one because "democracy" is the essence, the goal and the driving force of socialism, and at the same time, "democracy" is also a condition, premise for "fairness". Besides, a theoretical addition to the characteristics of socialism is quite evident in the third feature: "Having a highly developed economy based on modern production forces and appropriate progressive production relations", specifically adding the "progressive" connotation in the relations of production. The establishment of production relations in accordance with the development level of the productive forces is the correct application of the law; the establishment of progressive production relations demonstrates the

preeminent nature of socialism in Vietnam. This is to ensure the rule of law, the progress and humanity of socialism.

From the characteristics of socialism in Vietnam, it can be affirmed that Vietnamese socialism carries many progressive and humanistic values: a society in which people is compassionate, solidarity and mutual support for mutual development instead of unfair competition, which means economic development goes together with social justice; a sustainable society, in harmony with nature, ensuring a healthy environment for future generations; a political system where the real power belongs to the people, by the people and serves the interests of the people.

## **2.2. About the direction of building socialism in Vietnam,**

The 1991 Platform outlines seven basic directions for building socialism:

- i) Building a Socialist Republic's people, by people and for people, using the union of workers - farmers - intellectuals as the foundation, under the leadership of Communist Party. Exercising fully the people's democratic rights, maintaining strictly social discipline, and prohibiting dictatorially all actions that infringe upon the interests of the country and the people.
- ii) Developing the production force, industrializing the country in the direction of modernity associated with the development of comprehensive agriculture is the central task in order to gradually build the material and technical foundations of socialism. Improving Constantly social labor productivity and people's living standards.
- iii) In line with the development of the productive forces, gradually establishing socialist production relations from low to high with diversity in forms of ownership. To develop a multi-sector commodity economy under the socialist orientation, operating according to the market mechanism under the management of the State. The state-owned economy and the collective economy are increasingly becoming the foundation of the national economy. Implement many forms of distribution, taking distribution according to labor results and economic efficiency as the key.
- iv) Carrying out the socialist revolution in the field of ideology and culture, making the Marxist-Leninist worldview and Ho Chi Minh's thought and morality hold the leading position in the spiritual life of society. Inheriting and promoting the fine cultural traditions of all ethnic groups in the country, absorbing the cultural quintessence of humanity. Building a democratic and civilized society for the true benefit and dignity of the people with increasing levels of knowledge, morality, physical strength and aesthetics. Prohibiting unprogressive ideology and culture which is contrary to the good traditions of the nation, the direction of socialism, and noble values of mankind.
- v) Implementing the policy of great national unity, consolidating and expanding the United National Front, gathering all forces to strive for the cause of rich people and a strong country. Implementing a foreign policy of peace, cooperation and friendship with all countries; showing loyalty to the internationalism of the working class, in solidarity with the socialist countries and all forces fighting for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress in the world.
- vi) Building socialism and defending the country are two strategic tasks of the Vietnamese revolution. While putting the task of national construction on top of priority, our people always raise vigilance, strengthen the national defense, protect the political security, the country and our revolution achievements.
- vii) Building a pure, politically strong, ideologically strong Party and an organization at par with its tasks, ensuring the Party fulfills its responsibility to lead the cause of the socialist revolution in our country.

It can be seen that the seven directions of building socialism mentioned above are relatively comprehensive in all aspects: politics, economy, culture, security, and foreign affairs. At the same time, in each direction, our Party shows many specific contents, and also includes solutions in some directions. This has the advantage of detailing the direction, but it makes each direction lack the generality and the orientation of the long-term strategic vision.

Deeply aware of those limitations, to the 2011 Platform Our Party proposed eight directions that are more general and more concise, including:

- Accelerating industrialization and modernization of the country in association with the development of the knowledge economy, the protection of natural resources and the environment;
- Developing a socialist-oriented market economy;
- Building an advanced culture imbued with national identity; building people, improving people's lives, realizing social progress and justice;
- Firmly ensuring national defense, security and social safety;
- To implement the foreign policy of independence, self-reliance, peace, friendship, cooperation and development; proactively and actively integrating into the world;
- Building a socialist democracy, realizing great national unity, strengthening and expanding the united national front;
- Building a Socialist Republic's people, by people and for people;
- Building a pure and strong Party.

It can be seen that not only the number of directions in the 2011 Platform have been increased, but the directions are expressed more generally and scientifically, so they should be clearer. Eight directions in the 2011 Platform is very comprehensive, including the direction of economic development (the socialist-oriented

market economy is a new economic institution in history, that is, both obeying market laws and being guided by the laws of the market. Driven and oriented by the values of socialism, it is different from the capitalist market economy, which is an economy with specific contents such as knowledge economy, industrialization, and modernization...); the direction of strengthening socialist politics (building the Party, Socialist Republic, socialist democracy...); the direction of cultural and human development (advanced culture imbued with national identity, building people, improving people's lives, realizing social progress and justice...); directions for maintaining security and national defense (firmly ensuring national defense, security, and social safety); directions for expanding international cooperation relations (implementing foreign policy of independence, self-reliance, peace, friendship, cooperation and development, proactive and active international integration).

### **2.3. On the road to socialism**

In 1930, in its political platform, the Communist Party of Vietnam advocated: Carrying out the people's democratic national revolution led by the working class, skipping the time period (stage) of capitalism, going straight to socialism.

The policy of moving toward socialism is absolutely correct, in line with the aspirations of our people, and has been consistently maintained by our Party throughout the revolution. However, before the innovation, the thesis of "skipping the capitalist period" was often interpreted to the extreme as ignoring all elements of the capitalist socio-economic form: the forces of economic development, quantity of production, relations of production (infrastructure) and capitalist superstructure. That extreme standpoint is essentially a complete negation of capitalism, which is contrary to the spirit of dialectical negation (in negation including inherited quintessence and rational values in order to create conditions and foundation for further development). Therefore, before the renovation, we did not inherit the achievements of the predecessors achieved in capitalism. That is one of the reasons why our country lags far behind developed capitalist countries.

Therefore, in the renewal of the Party, we have more clearly defined the path to socialism, which is not to skip all the achievements of capitalism, but only to skip the capitalist regime. That is reflected in the 1991 Platform: "Our country, from a society that is colonial, semi-feudal, with very low productive forces, has transitioned to socialism, skipping the capitalist system."

Thus, in the 1991 Party Platform, we did not use the concept of "skipping the capitalist period", but using the more scientifically accurate concept of "skipping the capitalist regime". This decision is suitable for the rules of development in our country and overcomes the misunderstanding as a complete negation of capitalism. At the same time, that adjustment also represents the development of our Party's theoretical development on the path to socialism.

At the 9th Party Congress (2001), our Party more clearly defined the content of the transition to socialism, skipping the capitalist system, specifically: "Our country's path to the ascent is the development of socialism skipping the capitalist regime, which means eliminating the dominant position of the relations of production and the capitalist superstructure, but absorbing and inheriting the achievements that mankind has achieved under the capitalist regime, especially in science and technology, in order to rapidly develop the productive forces and build a modern economy".

Thus, here our Party clearly states that we must not ignore the capitalist productive forces, but on the contrary we must know how to inherit and make use of the capitalist productive forces, especially the modern one based on high level of science and technology. We also do not ignore the capitalist relations of production, but only the establishment of the dominant position of the capitalist relations of production. We focus on eliminating the capitalist superstructure, especially the bourgeois state, the political pluralism, and the opposite multi-party system. In order to successfully erase the capitalist conventional architecture, we established political monism, one leading party, that is the Communist Party of Vietnam - the faithful representative of the working class and the whole nation, at the same time focusing on building a Socialist Republic's people, by people and for people.

Skipping the capitalist regime is essentially "skipping the oppressive, unjust, and exploitative capitalist regime; ignore the bad habits, political institutions and institutions that are not suitable for the socialist regime, not ignoring the achievements and civilized values that mankind has achieved in the period of development.

At the same time, our Party also clearly identifies the difficulty and complexity of the transitional period to socialism, which is reflected in the 2011 Platform: the transition period is a profound, radical, complicated revolution, struggling between the old and the new in order to create qualitative change in all areas of social life, necessarily through a long transition period with numerous development steps, many forms of economic and social organizations are intertwined.

Through identifying the transition period to socialism, skipping the capitalist regime, our Party's theory of the path to socialism is more and more complete, demonstrating the development of theoretical thinking of the Party on socialism in general as well as on the path to socialism in particular.

## **CONCLUSION**

It can be affirmed that in the innovation period, through practical summaries and theoretical studies, the theory of socialism in Vietnam has been constantly supplemented and developed. The addition and development of theory on socialism is reflected in many aspects of socialism in Vietnam, but is most evident in the following

three aspects: i) in defining the characteristics and the values of Vietnamese socialism; ii) in the current directions of building Vietnamese socialism to meet the characteristics and the values of socialism; iii) in determining the path to socialism, which is the transition to socialism while ignoring the capitalist regime, also considered as the backward and lacking in humanity. Socialism brings a good society and allows people to enjoy the true values of socialism.

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