

The issue of people's livelihood in China's policy of building a harmonious society and Vietnam's strategy of sustainable development

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Abstract. The paper analyzes the basic ideas of Sun Yat-sen and Ho Chi Minh on the people's livelihood. If Sun Yat-sen considered people's livelihood to be socialism, Ho Chi Minh thought that the goal of socialism was to solve well the problems of people's livelihood to bring prosperity, freedom and happiness to the people. At the same time, the author also analyzes and compares to point out the commonalities between the policy of building China's harmonious society and Vietnam's rapid and sustainable development strategy, among which the most outstanding is the goal to improve the quality of development and better solve the problems of the people's livelihood.

1 Introduction

In recent years the issues of people's livelihood, sustainable and harmonious development of Vietnam and China have attracted attention from the researchers and policy-makers of both countries because: first, both countries are in the course of building socialism, the highest aim of which is the comprehensive development of man; second, within the process of renovation, the solution to the issue of people's livelihood is a pressing task as well as important condition to promote the harmonious and sustainable development of society. In other words, there exists a dialectical relationship between the issues of people's livelihood, sustainable and harmonious development: a good solution to the issues of people's livelihood is the foundation for sustainable and harmonious development and vice-versa.

2 Materials and methods

The author uses the comparison and analysis methods to analyze and compare basic ideas of Sun Yat-sen and Ho Chi Minh on the people's livelihood as well as the implementation of their ideas in the practice of building of socialism in China and Vietnam by the Communist Party of China and the Communist Party of Vietnam to demonstrate dialectical relationship between the issues of people's livelihood, sustainable and harmonious development in China and Vietnam. The materials and methods used in this paper is to

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demonstrate that a good solution to the issues of people's livelihood is the foundation for sustainable and harmonious development and vice-versa

3 Results

From the analysis the author shows that People's Livelihood is considered as the core of Sun Yat-sen's three principles of the people. The purpose and the meaning of People's Nationalism, People's Sovereignty are to find solutions to the problems raised by People's livelihood. Thus, according to Sun Yat-sen, People's Nationalism, People's Sovereignty serve as the means for finding solutions raised by people's livelihood, the existence of society, national welfare and the life of the masses. Moreover, Sun also affirms that the problems of people's livelihood are the law of the development of society and the driving forces of social progress. Sun Yat-sen claimed that the principle of people's livelihood is socialism and communism.

After all, the goal of socialism and communism is to deal with the problems of people's livelihood. It is the point where Sun Yat-sen shared with Marxism: they all claimed that socialism and communism, as the necessary development states of the history of humanity, are higher than capitalism. The goal of socialism and communism is human beings and their livelihood. Sun Yat-sen believed that communism is the ideal of the principle of people's livelihood and the later is the practice of the former. Therefore, the difference between Sun Yat-sen and K. Marx is only the difference in method. While Marx, believed that class struggle was the driving force of social development, Sun Yat-sen claimed that the problems of the livelihood of the people are the original driving forces of history. For Sun Yat-sen, if communism is the future of the three principles of the people, the immediate task is to answer adequately four people's basic needs: food, shelter, clothes and transportation. Sun Yat-sen wrote that "the ideal of the three principles of the people is that "the people have (property), the people rule and people benefit".

Thus, the idea of Sun Yat-sen was creatively and selectively implemented by the Communist Party of China in the cause of building a socialist harmonious society. In the Political Report at the 19th Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2017, "harmony" has become the goal of the task "in the sustained development to ensure and improve the people's livelihood" to "maintain a harmonious society". Regarding the issue of building ecological civilization, "harmony" is emphasized as "harmonious coexistence between man and nature". All of the goals and tasks that the Communist Party of China listed in the Political Report of the 19th Congress of the Communist Party of China are focused on solving problems of people's livelihood, creating an environment for people to realize their creative potentials, ensure social justice and the sustainable development of the society. It also means that people's livelihood become the central issue and the goal of the socialist harmonious development.

Ho Chi Minh valued highly Sun Yat-sen's three principles of the people, especially the principle of people's livelihood. Ho Chi Minh applied creatively Sun's thoughts to the conditions of Vietnam, first and foremost, in his conception of socialism, which is the direct result of the creative acceptance of Marxism - Leninism.

All that can be seen clearly in his arguments on the implementation of Marxism - Leninism and foreign experiences in the concrete conditions of Vietnam. The very creativity in implementing Marxism-Leninism will contribute to the success of the cause of building socialism and avoid the failures caused by dogmatism and mechanistic application of Marxism-Leninism.

In this spirit, Ho Chi Minh had his own way of articulation of the essence of socialism, which is imbued with the specific feature of Eastern nations emphasizing mainly on the problem of people's livelihood, or as in Sun Yat-sen's term: that of livelihood of the

people, the existence of society, the welfare of the nation and the life of the masses. While Sun Yat-sen claimed that the principle of people's livelihood is socialism and communism, Ho Chi Minh thought that the goal of socialism is to resolve the problems of people's livelihood, bring welfare, freedom and happiness to the people. Ho Chi Minh said that people are the root of revolution. He often reminded our cadres "to remember that people are masters. People are water, we [cadres] are the fish. All our power and strength are relied on people". To answer the question "what is socialism?" Ho Chi Minh paid attention, first of all to the life of the people, he wrote that socialism is to make people happy and live a life of comfort "the goal of socialism is to improve constantly people's living standards". Therefore the policy of the Party and Government is to take utmost care of people's life. Thus, socialism for Ho Chi Minh is first of all the problems of people's livelihood, or how to deal with the necessary needs of the people. Without proper solutions to those needs the construction of socialism is meaningless and the people will not care about socialism. The goal of socialism is to bring welfare, education and happiness to the people "Briefly and plainly speaking, socialism first of all is to liberate the working people from poverty, bring employment, welfare and happiness to the people".

The thoughts of Ho Chi Minh have been inherited and further developed by the Communist Party of Vietnam, especially during the cause of country's renovation oriented towards the goal of "wealthy people, strong country and a democratic, just and civilized society". This is the way that the concept of sustainable development has been accepted in Vietnam. Vietnam intends to build a strategy of sustainable development suitable to its own concrete conditions. This strategy of sustainable development has been affirmed by the Communist Party of Vietnam in the Documents of the 9th Party's Congress and reaffirmed and further developed in the following Party's Congresses.

As early as in the Documents of the 9th Party's Congress, apart from economic growth and environmental protection, new contents were added to the scope of the concept of sustainable development: the combination of economic growth with cultural development; gradual improvement of material and spiritual life of the people; realization of social progress and social justice; the protection and betterment of living environment; the combination between socio-economic development with the enhancement of defense and security. So, while the traditional (standardized) concept of sustainable development emphasizes the relation between man and nature, the relationship between man and man within the relation with nature, the concept of sustainable development articulated by the Communist Party of Vietnam, apart from the relation between man and nature, also addresses many other relationships, among which the relationship between economic and social sectors, culture and defense-security. At the 12th Congress, the Party's view on sustainable development was expanded and deepened. One of the overall goals is identified as follows: rapid, sustainable economic development to strive to turn soon our country into a basically a modern-oriented industrialized country.

Within Vietnam's strategy of fast and sustainable development, we can see that:

First, socio-political stability is the premise, condition for fast and sustainable development.

Second, the strategy of fast and sustainable development focuses on the enhancement of the quality of development, the combination between economic growth and the comprehensive development of man, realization of democracy, social progress and justice, creation of employment's opportunities, improvement of the quality of life, encouragement of legal getting rich with reduction of poverty, the attention to the protection and improvement of environment in every step of development.

Third, the strategy of sustainable development of Vietnam addresses pretty comprehensively different aspects of development, including the noticeably harmonious solutions to relationship between fast and sustainable development, quantitative growth and

qualitative improvement, development in scope and development in content; the harmony between economic development and dealing with social issues, economic growth and environmental protection... Harmony is one of important contents of the strategy of sustainable development.

Fourth, the central issue, the key goal of the strategy of sustainable development is the issue of people's livelihood, which is expressed in the strategy we just mentioned above. The strategy of fast and sustainable development pays attention on the quality of economic development, orients to the comprehensive development of man, the realization of democracy, social progress and social justice, the creation of employment's opportunities, improvement of the quality of life, encouragement of legal getting rich with reduction of poverty, the attention to the protection and improvement of environment in every step of development. Clearly, that goal, after all, is to solve better and better the issue of people's livelihood, guarantee a comfortable and happy life for the whole population. In the practice of Vietnam, the strategy of fast and sustainable development is the effective way to guarantee country's socialistic-oriented development aiming at the goal of "wealthy people, strong country, just, democratic and civilized society".

Thus, from the practice of building socialism in Vietnam and China, especially the practice of the renovation years and practicing open-door policy in the two countries, we can affirm that, until now, the issue of people's livelihood remains pressing for us. Despite the fact that each country has its own historically concrete conditions, both countries have chosen the socialistic path and have been carrying out the cause of renovation and renewal in order to construct successfully socialism. The cause of renovation in China and the cause of renewal in Vietnam are of great historical significance and both countries have achieved very important successes. China has started its renovation since 1978, Vietnam has begun since 1986. The aim of renovation and renewal is nothing other than to promote people's material and spiritual life, to construct the more and more prosperous life for man. And this is the key aim in the policy of building a harmonious society in China and in the strategy for fast and sustainable development in Vietnam.

4 Conclusion

First, if we compare China's policy of building a socialist harmonious society with Vietnam's strategy of sustainable development, we can find that despite being expressed in different terms, we share many fundamental similarities: while China's policy of building a socialist harmonious society regards sustainable development as one of its important contents, Vietnam's strategy of sustainable development regards harmonization as one of key and leading content of sustainable development.

Second, both the policy of building a socialist harmonious society and the strategy of sustainable development concentrate on the quality of development, combine harmonically economic development with the solutions to social issues and environmental protection as well as regard man as both the goal and the driving force of socio-economic development. In short, both the policy and strategy affirm that the issue of people's livelihood is the central and general goal.

Third, the issue of people's livelihood of concrete social strata has been addressed concretely by the Communist Parties of the two countries in recent solutions of Party's congresses. Apart from particularities conditioned by historical, economic and cultural contexts of each country, we can see that some similarities. In comparison with China, Vietnam is a smaller country in term of physical territory and population and the process of renovation in Vietnam was initiated in 8 years later than China. Therefore, the experience of China in dealing with the issues of people's livelihood will be of great value for Vietnam.

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