



## Solutions for the Development of Vietnamese Culture and People

Hoang Van Nam

Center for Politics and National Defense Education, HUTECH University,  
Vietnam

Corresponding author: Ibrahim Umar, Email: uibrahim680@gmail.com

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### ABSTRACT

This paper provides a detailed analysis of the current state and challenges in the development of Vietnamese culture and people. Using qualitative research methods, including in-depth interviews, surveys, and document analysis, the paper comprehensively evaluates the present issues. Based on these evaluations, the paper proposes key solutions to enhance and promote the sustainable development of Vietnamese culture and people in the coming period. These solutions focus not only on preserving and promoting traditional cultural values but also on adapting to the new demands of modern society, contributing to the construction of a diverse and rich culture, and improving the quality of life for the people.

## INTRODUCTION

Culture plays an immensely important role as the spiritual foundation and driving force for the development of society. Through thousands of years of history of nation-building and defending the country, our people have created a unique culture rich in national identity, deeply reflecting the soul and character of the nation, and showcasing profound levels of interaction with nature and society. Thanks to a culture imbued with national identity as a foundation, our nation has overcome numerous severe challenges and continuously advanced through the flow of history. Recognizing the special importance of culture, in the process of leading the revolution, the Communist Party of Vietnam and President Ho Chi Minh have always emphasized the role of culture, viewing it as a revolutionary front and a torch "illuminating the path for the nation". Under the light of Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's thought, and the revolutionary path of the Party, in recent years, especially during the renovation period, the cultural field has achieved many great accomplishments, significantly contributing to the cause of nation-building and defense. However, many limitations and weaknesses still need to be addressed.

### Research Content

#### *Concepts of Cultural Development and Human Development*

*Cultural Development* is an inevitable and objective process within the evolution of cultural fields. This process leads to the transformation of cultural values and value systems. In essence, cultural development involves the activities of cultural subjects, which foster the emergence of new values within the culture, both in scale and quality, following the principles of truth, goodness, and beauty. This process deeply imbues the spirit of the nation, science, humanity, democracy, and progress, promoting all areas of cultural activity. It creates conditions and opportunities for individuals to participate in the creation, production, dissemination, evaluation, and appreciation of cultural values, thus forming a healthy cultural environment that serves as a driving force for the construction and defense of the nation.

*The concept of human development* is understood not merely as the increase or decrease of national income but as the creation of an environment in which individuals can develop their full potential and lead creative, productive lives that align with their interests and needs. Therefore, development is significant in expanding human choices toward the life they value.

#### *The Current State of Cultural and Human Development in Vietnam in Recent Times*

*Some outstanding achievements.* After more than 35 years of renovation, especially since the implementation of the Party's resolutions on culture such as The Resolution of the 4th Central Conference of the 7th Tenure, The Resolution

of the 5th Central Conference of the 8th Tenure, The Resolution of the 9th Central Conference of the 11th Tenure, the cause of building culture and developing the Vietnamese people has seen positive changes and achieved significant results.

*First, the understanding of the role of culture and people has become more comprehensive and profound.* The fields, forms, and cultural products have developed diversely. Cultural activities and events have been organized widely and enthusiastically from the central to local levels and residential areas. The work of preserving, inheriting, and promoting traditional cultural values and cultural heritage has been actively enhanced. Numerous tangible and intangible cultural heritages, natural heritages, and world memory heritages have been recognized, preserved, restored, and linked with tourism development. The socialization of cultural activities has had a positive impact, attracting a variety of social resources to build and develop culture. Many policies, measures, and movements have been implemented to enhance the quality and efficiency of building a cultural environment within residential communities, agencies, units, and enterprises, achieving positive results. The movement "All people unite to build cultural life," associated with the campaign to build new rural areas, civilized urban areas, and public lifestyle and cultural behavior, has initially yielded practical results, contributing significantly to curbing the degradation of ideology, morality, and lifestyle in social life.

Second, the cultural and spiritual life of the people has seen significant improvement, becoming increasingly rich and diverse. Cultural, artistic, and sports activities have attracted widespread participation from the public. Efforts to develop and manage information and communication activities have been intensified. Mass media has seen robust and diverse growth. The press system has been restructured to be more streamlined and to enhance quality. Publishing, printing, and distribution have been better managed to meet the healthy demands of society. Cultural institutions have been invested in and are gradually transitioning their mechanisms and methods of operation. The task of building culture in politics and economics is valued and has initially shown effectiveness. The implementation of the cultural industry development strategy and market development has seen progress. International cultural exchanges and cooperation, the promotion of Vietnamese cultural values globally, and the absorption of global cultural achievements have been actively and effectively carried out.

Third, the awareness of the Party, State, and society regarding comprehensive human development has been emphasized. Comprehensive human development is identified as the center of the socio-economic development strategy; it is a top priority for building and developing Vietnamese culture and people. The focus is on building thought, ethics, lifestyle, and personality. Central and local authorities have issued guiding documents to create a legal foundation and conditions for societal organizations to focus their

intellect and efforts on human development. The stature and physical strength of the Vietnamese people have been elevated. The ideological, political, ethical, and lifestyle standards of people in the Ho Chi Minh era have been incorporated into various legal documents, local regulations, village customs, and institutional rules.

Patriotism, national pride, social activism, and civic responsibility have been emphasized. Traditional ethical values are preserved, promoted, and adapted to align with the socialist-oriented market economy and international integration. Entrepreneurial initiatives, human development efforts, and volunteer movements associated with patriotic emulation have been promoted. The implementation of human rights across various social fields is valued and legally ensured, including citizens' cultural rights.

*Some existing, limited.* In addition to the outstanding achievements, the process of building and developing culture and people in the recent past still has some shortcomings and limitations as follows.

First, culture has not received the same attention as economics and politics, and has not truly become an endogenous resource and driving force for sustainable development.

Second, the role and position of culture in human development have not been properly determined, with a tendency to emphasize the entertainment function and underestimate the cognitive, educational, and aesthetic functions of culture

Third, investment in culture has not been appropriate, is still scattered, and is not very effective.

Fourth, state management of culture, arts, information, and communication is still confused and slow in institutionalizing the Party's viewpoints and policies on culture.

Fifth, the quality and quantity of the staff working in cultural work have not met the needs of cultural development in the new period.

Sixth, the cultural environment is degraded and polluted by social evils, corruption, negativity, moral degradation, and lifestyle in families, schools, agencies, businesses, and residential communities... causing long-term social resentment that is slow to be resolved, prevented, and pushed back.

Seventh, some press management agencies have shown signs of deviating from their principles and purposes, and social network management is still inadequate.

Eighth, the cultural and spiritual life of people in some places is still poor, and the level of cultural enjoyment of people in regions and areas is still large.

Ninth, the introduction and promotion of Vietnamese culture abroad and the absorption of the quintessence of world culture still have many limitations and shortcomings.

There are many reasons for the above limitations and weaknesses, of which subjective reasons are the main ones:

Firstly, some Party committees, authorities, unions, social organizations and a part of the people have not fully and deeply recognized the important position and role of building and developing culture and people for the sustainable development of the country. The position and role of culture and building people have not been placed on par with economics, politics, and society.

Secondly, leadership, direction, and management have not been innovated, especially in the work of building, training, and arranging cadres to do cultural work. The implementation of setting examples by some cadres and Party members in some agencies, units, and localities is still formal, not creating positive and strong changes.

Thirdly, the effectiveness and efficiency of state management of culture are still inadequate, not keeping up with the requirements of reality.

Fourth, the combined strength of cultural entities has not been strongly promoted; the social positivity of the people, especially intellectuals, artists, and cultural cadres in the process of building and developing the cultural cause, has not been aroused, encouraged, and motivated.

Fifth, the work of researching and summarizing practices to form a theoretical basis and draw conclusions about the system of cultural values and

Vietnamese people is still slow, confused, and passive.

These are some subjective causes that need to be overcome soon to create new momentum for the process of building and developing culture and people to meet the requirements of sustainable national development

*Issues raised for the development of Vietnamese culture and people today*

From the current status of cultural development and Vietnamese people in recent times, we see some current issues as follows:

Firstly, the development of Vietnamese culture and people needs to adapt to the conditions of developing a socialist-oriented market economy, promoting industrialization, modernization, and international integration. Through more than 35 years of reform, the country has moved from a state of poverty to enter a new stage of development. However, alongside significant achievements, complex issues are emerging that challenge the sustainable development of the country. The transition from extensive growth to deep growth, based on human knowledge and skills, using high and clean technologies that are environmentally friendly, requires a shift in cultural building and human development towards a focus on quality and effectiveness, integrated with socio-economic development. In the process of increasingly deep international integration, the construction and development of Vietnamese culture and people must actively and proactively learn from international experiences to enhance national strength. At the same time, it is crucial to resolutely combat the infiltration of anti-cultural and anti-value elements that erode the cultural and ethical values of the nation.

In the face of negative impacts from the downsides of the market economy, globalization, scientific and technological advancements, especially social media, the development of Vietnamese culture and people must actively participate in the struggle against the degradation of political thought, ethics, and lifestyle. This includes fighting against “self-evolution” and “self-transformation,” social negatives, and social evils, reinforcing faith in the nation's positive cultural values, protecting national culture, and creating a healthy cultural environment in society.

Second, the cause of developing Vietnamese culture and people must

meet the task of building and defending the socialist Fatherland in an international situation with many complex and unpredictable developments. In the current period of reform aimed at achieving a wealthy people, a strong country, democracy, justice, and civilization, our Party has identified two strategic tasks: building and defending the Fatherland must be closely linked and dialectically impact each other to ensure the sustainable development of the country. One of the six key tasks in the XIII Congress's term outlined by the Party is: “Maintain independence and autonomy, continue to improve the quality and effectiveness of foreign affairs and international integration; strengthen national defense and security capabilities, build a revolutionary, regular, elite, and progressively modern People's Army and People’s Police, with some branches and forces advancing towards modernity, laying a solid foundation to strive by 2030 to build a revolutionary, regular, elite, and modern People's Army and People’s Police; resolutely and persistently fight to firmly protect independence, sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity, sea, islands, and airspace; maintain a peaceful and stable environment for national development”.

The issue of building Vietnamese culture and people must make practical and effective contributions to economic development, enhance national defense and security strength, and establish a peaceful and stable environment to counteract any threats to the sustainable development of the country.

Third, in building culture, Vietnamese people must contribute to creating a democratic, scientific, modern, civilized, and progressive cultural environment. Vietnamese culture and people must both inherit and promote the positive, noble values of national culture while absorbing the essence of human culture, affirming national identity and resilience in international cooperation and exchanges. Vietnamese culture and generations of Vietnamese people must have the capacity and qualities aligned with new values and standards, capable of seizing opportunities and overcoming challenges posed by globalization, meeting the requirements of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and truly becoming an endogenous strength in the mission of building and defending the socialist Fatherland.

Fourth, the development of Vietnamese culture and people in the context of traditional family values and local solidarity faces the risk of decline. Today's Vietnamese family can be seen as a "transitional family" in the shift from a traditional agricultural society to a modern industrial society. The traditional extended family ("three generations under one roof," "four generations under one roof") is gradually being replaced by the "nuclear family." This smaller family size meets the needs and conditions of the new era. Gender equality is emphasized more, personal privacy is better respected, and conflicts in traditional family life are avoided. The transformation of the family shows that it is positively changing itself and the social system, making society more adaptable and suitable for the new situation and era. However, this transformation has created spatial separation between family members, leading to difficulties and obstacles in preserving family affection and traditional cultural values. As society develops, people become increasingly engrossed in their work for additional income, resulting in less time spent with family. People seem to fall into the cycle of money and social status, inadvertently losing family affection. Members of the family are less concerned about, worried about, and communicate less with each other, causing family relationships to become fragmented and loose. The phenomenon of children misbehaving, dropping out of school, wandering, drug addiction, and prostitution also reflects some of society's impotence and the difficulties some families face in caring for and educating children. Issues such as hasty love and marriage and easy divorce have led to children lacking familial affection and tragic cases of violence, such as the recent deaths of a 3-year-old girl in Hanoi and an 8-year-old in Ho Chi Minh City due to abuse.

Fifth, the development of Vietnamese culture and people in the context of increasing cultural hybridization among the youth. With current developments, media and online content provide opportunities for youth to integrate with the world. However, this also has a downside, making "cultural hybridization" a matter of concern. Young people are beginning to use Vietnamese words alongside Western terms, leaving parents and grandparents confused and unable to understand their children. Cultural integration and exchanges bring valuable spiritual products to Vietnam, but they also introduce many foreign-labeled, chaotic, and unselective programs, with images of messy

hairstyles, flashy colors, and revealing, tattered clothes that attract today's youth. Some young people have chosen "idols" for themselves and imitate them, ready to "sacrifice" their well-being, even their lives, for their idols.

In summary, building and developing Vietnamese culture and people today is a major task in the overall development strategy of the country during the transition to socialism. It must be integrated into and contribute to achieving the goals and tasks of the reform process under the leadership of the Party and the management of the State to meet the sustainable development requirements of the country

***Solutions to develop Vietnamese culture and people to meet the requirements of sustainable national development today***

To improve the quality and effectiveness of building and developing Vietnamese culture and people to meet the requirements of sustainable development, it is necessary to deeply understand and implement the development policies for culture and people set out by the XIII National Congress of the Party and Conclusion No. 76-KL/TW dated June 4, 2020, by the Central Committee of the XIIth Party Congress on continuing the implementation of Resolution No. 33-NQ/TW of the XIth Central Party Committee on building and developing Vietnamese culture and people to meet the requirements of sustainable development (Politburo, 2020). At the same time, based on current new issues, we propose several solutions to continue developing Vietnamese culture and people soon as follows:

Continue to strengthen the Party's leadership, intensify propaganda work, and raise awareness among officials, party members, and all levels of people about the position and role of culture in the mission of building and defending the Fatherland. Identifying that building and developing culture and people is an important and ongoing task for the entire political system. Enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of state management regarding the construction and development of Vietnamese culture and people to meet the requirements of sustainable national development. Place greater emphasis on planning, training, and fostering leadership and management cadres, and those working in cultural and artistic fields.

Focus on developing Vietnamese people comprehensively. Direct cultural, educational, and scientific activities towards building Vietnamese

people with a scientific worldview, good character, and a beautiful lifestyle. Promote a lifestyle that adheres to the law and respects moral principles such as "drinking water, remembering the source," "repaying kindness," and "being kind and empathetic." Fight against harmful cultural products, negative behaviors, opportunism, legal violations, spreading false ideas, practical lifestyles contrary to national traditions, and negative influences on the development of Vietnamese culture and people.

Continue to improve the quality and effectiveness of cultural activities. Harmonize the preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage of ethnic groups with sustainable economic and tourism development in local areas, contributing to promoting the image of the country and Vietnamese people. Enhance the role of the media, and improve the effectiveness of mass communication, especially on the Internet.

Proactively integrate internationally in culture, absorb the essence of human culture, and promote Vietnamese culture to the world. Expand cultural exchanges and cooperation with other countries; diversify forms of cultural diplomacy, and deepen international cultural relations. Select and adopt best practices from other countries in preserving ethnic cultural identity, addressing the negative impacts and downsides of globalization on culture. Strengthen the creation of a healthy cultural environment and life, linked to movements such as "All people unite to build a cultural life" and "Building new rural areas, civilized urban areas". Develop environmental awareness, and preserve and properly manage the environment for the goal of sustainable national development. Mobilize the resources of all social strata to invest in and organize cultural life, contributing to narrowing the cultural enjoyment gap between regions, and social strata. Delineate cultural fields that need state support and investment and those that can be regulated by market mechanisms according to state direction.

## **CONCLUSION**

Vietnam is a country with more than 4 thousand years of history, experiencing many changes and ups and downs caused by nature humans have accumulated, created, and promoted many values and cultural identities of the nation, forming the soul of the nation; at the same time, it has absorbed and contributed to the common culture of humanity. Culture is the spiritual foundation of society, the goal and driving force for national development. Culture plays an important role in forming human personality national identity and character. Today, culture is also identified as one of the factors that play a

decisive role in the strength and position of each nation and ethnic group in the international arena. The documents of the 13th National Party Congress emphasized the issue of promoting cultural values and the strength of the Vietnamese people to arouse the aspiration to develop a prosperous and happy country. The national renovation process over the past 35 years has achieved great achievements of historical significance, contributing to enhancing the position of the nation. As General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong has stated: "Our country has never had such a foundation as today". Developing Vietnamese culture and people is a fundamental part of the nation's revolutionary cause, an important task in the current renovation cause. Therefore, developing Vietnamese culture and people in response to the current requirements of sustainable national development is one of the top important tasks of the current Vietnamese revolution

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