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**APPLYING THE COMPREHENSIVE VIEWPOINT IN BUILDING
SOCIALISM AND THE PATH TOWARD SOCIALISM IN VIETNAM
THROUGH SELECTED WORKS OF NGUYEN PHU TRONG**

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INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale for the Study

Socialism is not only a long-term strategic objective but also a consistent ideal that the Communist Party of Vietnam and the Vietnamese people have steadfastly chosen. Entering a new stage of development - especially in the context of preparing for and implementing the major orientations of the 14th National Congress of the Party - the need to further clarify the theoretical and practical foundations of the path toward socialism in Vietnam has become increasingly urgent. The contemporary world is undergoing rapid and complex changes, marked by intense competition among different development models and value systems. This reality requires reaffirming the correctness, scientific basis, and sustainability of Vietnam's chosen path, while continuing to supplement and develop theory in line with new practical conditions.

In this context, reviewing, systematizing, and advancing theoretical thinking on socialism in Vietnam is of particular importance. It contributes to providing scientific arguments for policy-making and strategic orientations in the new period, in line with the spirit of the 14th National Congress. This is not only an immediate necessity but also a long-term strategic task for the cause of national construction and defense.

Notably, during his tenure as General Secretary, Comrade Nguyen Phu Trong made significant contributions to the development, deepening, and concretization of the theory of socialism and the path toward socialism in Vietnam. With a dialectical, comprehensive, and consistent mindset, he clarified the nature, objectives, driving forces, and methods of building socialism in a way that is appropriate to Vietnam's historical conditions, cultural context, and developmental characteristics. His viewpoints both selectively inherit and creatively develop Marxism- Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought, while also reflecting the practical demands of Vietnam's renewal process and deep international integration.

However, up to now, there have been relatively few in-depth, systematic, and comprehensive studies on the thought of Comrade Nguyen Phu Trong, particularly regarding the application of a comprehensive approach to the process of building socialism in Vietnam. This gap highlights the need for well-structured and thorough research to clarify the theoretical and practical value of these contributions.

From these urgent requirements, the doctoral candidate has chosen the research topic: “Applying the Comprehensive Approach in Building Socialism and the Path toward Socialism in Vietnam through Selected Works of Nguyen Phu Trong.” The findings of this dissertation are expected not only to contribute to clarifying and enriching the theoretical foundations that serve the country’s development orientation in the spirit of the 14th National Congress, but also to affirm the intellectual stature and profound practical value of Nguyen Phu Trong’s theoretical contributions, thereby enhancing the academic quality and significance of the dissertation.

2. Research Objectives and Research Tasks

2.1. Research Objective

Clarify the content of applying the holistic perspective in developing the theory of socialism and the path to socialism in Vietnam through selected works by Nguyễn Phú Trọng; assess its methodological value and the new theoretical issues arising today, thereby proposing orientations for the continued application of the holistic perspective in developing the theory of socialism and the path to socialism.

2.2. Research Tasks

- To clarify the theoretical foundations of the holistic perspective in Marxist–Leninist philosophy and the requirements for applying this perspective in the study of socialism and the path toward socialism in Vietnam.
- To analyze the application of the holistic perspective in selected representative works of Nguyễn Phú Trọng.
- To identify the methodological values and emerging issues in the ongoing development of socialist theory in Vietnam, and to propose orientations for enhancing the effectiveness of applying the holistic perspective in research and theoretical development concerning socialism in Vietnam.

3. Research Object and Scope

3.1. Research Object

The application of the holistic perspective in the development of the theory of socialism and the path toward socialism in Vietnam through selected works of Nguyễn Phú Trọng.

3.2. Research Scope

Content:

The dissertation focuses on the philosophical and methodological dimension of the subject and does not seek to examine Nguyễn Phú Trọng's entire system of political thought.

Sources:

The study examines selected representative works, articles, and speeches of Nguyễn Phú Trọng from the Renovation (*Đổi mới*) period to the present, especially *Some Theoretical and Practical Issues on Socialism and the Path toward Socialism in Vietnam*, as well as writings on the socialist-oriented market economy, Party building, culture, national unity, anti-corruption, and related topics.

4. Theoretical Foundations and Research Methods**4.1. Theoretical Foundations**

This dissertation is grounded in:

- Marxism–Leninism, particularly materialist dialectics, the principle of universal interconnectedness, and the principle of development;
- Hồ Chí Minh Thought on socialism and the path toward socialism in Vietnam;
- The viewpoints and guidelines of the Communist Party of Vietnam concerning socialism and the path toward socialism in Vietnam.

4.2. Research Methods

The dissertation employs the following methods:

- Analysis and synthesis;
- Historical and logical analysis;
- Systematic and structural analysis;
- Comparative analysis;
- Generalization;
- Political-philosophical text analysis.

Specifically:

- **Analysis and synthesis** are used to clarify and systematize arguments related to the research subject;
- **Historical and logical analysis** is employed to examine the formation, development, and internal logic of theoretical viewpoints;

- **Systematic and structural analysis** helps identify constituent elements and their interrelationships within the theory of socialism and the path toward socialism in Vietnam;
- **Comparative analysis** is used to identify continuity and innovation among different theoretical perspectives, while **generalization** facilitates the formulation of scientific conclusions;
- **Political-philosophical text analysis** is applied to Nguyễn Phú Trọng's works and Party documents in order to clarify the application of the holistic perspective in developing the theory of socialism and the path toward socialism in Vietnam.

5. Original Contributions of the Dissertation

- Clarifies the philosophical content of the application of the holistic perspective in the development of socialist theory in Vietnam.
- Demonstrates the systematic and dialectical nature of Nguyễn Phú Trọng's approach to the Vietnamese model of socialism.
- Contributes to strengthening the methodological foundations for research on socialism under contemporary conditions.

6. Significance of the Dissertation

6.1. Theoretical Significance

- Contributes to clarifying and further developing the content of the holistic perspective within Marxist–Leninist philosophy in the specific context of Vietnam.
- Supplements and systematizes theoretical arguments concerning socialism and the path toward socialism in Vietnam through the works of Nguyễn Phú Trọng.
- Serves as a reference source for research and teaching in political theory.

6.2. Practical Significance

- Contributes to enhancing awareness of the application of the holistic perspective in formulating and implementing national development policies.
- Provides scientific arguments for improving development strategies and policies in the new context.
- Serves as a reference source for researchers, educators, and policymakers.

7. Structure of the Dissertation

In addition to the **Introduction**, **Conclusion**, and **References**, the main body of the dissertation consists of **four chapters and thirteen sections**.

CHAPTER 1. LITERATURE REVIEW OF RESEARCH RELATED TO THE TOPIC

1.1. Studies on the Holistic Perspective and Its Application in Understanding Socialism and the Path toward Socialism in Vietnam

1.1.1. Studies on the Holistic Perspective as a Methodological Principle of Marxist–Leninist Philosophy

Existing studies have clarified the theoretical foundations, nature, functions, and structure of Marxist–Leninist methodology, in which materialist dialectics is regarded as the fundamental methodological basis for cognition and practical activity. Many works emphasize key principles such as objectivity, comprehensiveness (holism), historical concreteness, and the unity of theory and practice. In particular, the holistic perspective is understood as the requirement to examine objects and phenomena within the totality of their interconnections and processes of movement and development. These studies also highlight the inherited, creative, and widely applicable character of Marxist–Leninist methodology across various scientific disciplines and areas of social life.

1.1.2. Studies on the Application of the Holistic Perspective in Understanding Socialism and the Path toward Socialism in Vietnam

A substantial body of research has applied the holistic perspective to explain theoretical and practical issues arising from Vietnam’s process of renovation (Đổi mới) and socialist construction. These studies focus on the relationships among economic, political, cultural, social, defense, security, and foreign affairs dimensions; the relationship between economic reform and political reform; the relationship between economic growth and social progress and equity; and the relationship between national development and international integration. Over time, understandings of socialism and the path toward socialism in Vietnam have increasingly been approached in a systematic and multidimensional manner, closely linked to the country’s practical development under new conditions.

1.2. Studies on Nguyễn Phú Trọng's Thought and Theory on Socialism and the Path toward Socialism in Vietnam

1.2.1. Overview of Nguyễn Phú Trọng's Theoretical Works

Nguyễn Phú Trọng's body of work comprises more than forty books covering major fields such as socialism and the path toward socialism; Party building and the political system; anti-corruption and the fight against negative phenomena; national defense, security, and foreign affairs; culture, society, and national unity; socio-economic development; and the building of a socialist rule-of-law state. These works not only summarize the practical experience of the Renovation (Đổi mới) process but also contribute to the enrichment and development of the Communist Party of Vietnam's theory of socialism. They constitute an important source of theoretical and practical materials, reflecting Nguyễn Phú Trọng's strategic, systematic, and holistic thinking.

1.2.2. Domestic Studies on Nguyễn Phú Trọng's Thought and Theory on Socialism and the Path toward Socialism in Vietnam

Domestic studies, including monographs, academic conferences, and scholarly articles, have focused on clarifying Nguyễn Phú Trọng's contributions to the development of the Party's theory of socialism and the path toward socialism in Vietnam. Many studies emphasize that his thinking is characterized by a systematic and dialectical approach, closely linking theory with practice, and combining principled consistency with creative innovation.

Several representative works have identified Nguyễn Phú Trọng's holistic approach in addressing national development issues through the interrelationship among economic, political, cultural, social, defense, security, foreign affairs, and Party-building dimensions. However, most studies have concentrated on the content of his ideas and their practical significance, while research from a philosophical and methodological perspective—particularly concerning the application of the holistic perspective in his theoretical thinking—remains limited.

1.2.3. Foreign Studies on Nguyễn Phú Trọng's Thought and Theory on Socialism and the Path toward Socialism in Vietnam

Nguyễn Phú Trọng's thought and theoretical contributions have attracted the attention of numerous international scholars, political leaders, and researchers. Scholars from socialist countries and the international communist movement have highly appreciated his contributions to the development of theories concerning socialism, the socialist-oriented market economy, Party building, the socialist rule-of-law state, cultural development, and foreign affairs.

Meanwhile, Western scholars and independent researchers have generally approached Nguyễn Phú Trọng from the perspectives of political development, governance, anti-corruption, and foreign policy. Many studies commend his role in maintaining political stability, promoting economic growth, enhancing Vietnam's international standing, and developing the "bamboo diplomacy" approach.

Nevertheless, foreign studies have largely focused on practical achievements and governance outcomes. In contrast, in-depth research on the philosophical foundations and methodological dimensions of Nguyễn Phú Trọng's thought—particularly the application of the holistic perspective in his theoretical framework—remains scarce. This represents an important research gap that the present dissertation seeks to address.

1.3. Overview of Research Findings and Issues the Dissertation Continues to Address

1.3.1. Achieved Research Results

Domestic and international studies have established a substantial body of knowledge on the holistic viewpoint in Marxist–Leninist philosophy, on socialism and the path toward socialism in Vietnam, as well as on the ideological thought and theoretical activities of General Secretary Nguyễn Phú Trọng. Overall, these studies have clarified the content and methodological significance of the holistic viewpoint, affirming the requirement to examine objects as integrated wholes within complex, dialectical relationships.

In addition, many works have contributed to clarifying the development of the Communist Party of Vietnam's theoretical awareness of the socialist model in Vietnam, including its defining characteristics, driving forces, and key relationships during the period of transition. Studies on Nguyễn Phú Trọng have also gradually affirmed his role not only as a political leader but also as a theorist with significant

contributions to the development of the Party's theoretical thinking across multiple fields.

In particular, since 2021, a growing number of studies have focused on his ideological system, clarifying key contents such as the socialist-oriented market economy, building a socialist rule-of-law state, Party building, cultural and human development, national defense and security, and foreign affairs. Several notable works have approached his thought in a relatively systematic manner and have identified features such as systemic thinking, dialectical reasoning, and the unity of theory and practice.

Overall, both domestic and international studies affirm the practical value and influence of Nguyễn Phú Trọng's thought in Vietnam's reform process, while also providing an important foundation for further in-depth research.

1.3.2. Research Issues Addressed by the Dissertation

Despite these achievements, current research still has several limitations. Most studies primarily analyze Nguyễn Phú Trọng's viewpoints by individual fields, without fully clarifying the philosophical foundation, mode of thinking, and internal logic of his ideological system. Research directly approaching his thought from the perspective of the holistic viewpoint in Marxist–Leninist philosophy remains limited.

Furthermore, few studies examine the mechanism by which philosophical principles are transformed into political thinking and practical leadership actions, particularly in handling key relationships of Vietnam's transitional period toward socialism. A philosophical and methodological approach therefore remains underexplored.

Based on these gaps, the dissertation focuses on clarifying the theoretical foundation of the holistic viewpoint in Marxist–Leninist philosophy; analyzing its application in Nguyễn Phú Trọng's thought on socialism and the path toward socialism in Vietnam; clarifying key relationships in the transitional period; and assessing its theoretical, methodological, and practical significance. In doing so, the dissertation approaches his ideological system from the perspective of the holistic viewpoint as a fundamental methodological principle.

CHAPTER 2

THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE COMPREHENSIVE VIEWPOINT IN THE THEORETICAL DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIALISM AND THE PATH TO SOCIALISM IN VIETNAM BY NGUYEN PHU TRONG

2.1. The comprehensive viewpoint and its methodological significance for understanding socialism and the path to socialism

2.1.1. The basic content of the comprehensive viewpoint in Marxist–Leninist philosophy

The comprehensive viewpoint in Marxist–Leninist philosophy requires phenomena to be understood within their system of interrelations, in movement and development, rather than in isolation or through a one-sided approach. It is grounded in dialectical materialism and affirms that the world is a unified, constantly changing whole.

This viewpoint emphasizes the unity of universal relations and development, requiring thought to accurately reflect the objective relational structure of reality while also considering historical specificity and the movement of things. In doing so, it helps overcome metaphysical thinking and ensures scientific objectivity in cognition.

2.1.2. The methodological significance of the comprehensive viewpoint for understanding socialism and the path to socialism

The comprehensive viewpoint enables socialism to be understood as an integrated whole encompassing the economy, politics, culture, society, and external relations, thereby ensuring balanced and coordinated development.

It also requires identifying essential relationships and key driving factors of development in order to avoid dispersion of efforts, while linking development goals with the specific historical conditions of each country, rather than mechanically copying models.

In addition, this viewpoint calls for coordinated implementation across all fields and the harmonization of major relationships during the transitional period, while also overcoming dogmatic and voluntarist thinking.

In summary, it serves as an important methodological foundation for correctly understanding the nature and path of socialism in a scientific and reality-based manner.

2.2. Application of the holistic viewpoint in understanding socialism and the path to socialism before Nguyen Phu Trong

2.2.1. The Application of the Holistic Perspective in Hồ Chí Minh's Understanding of Socialism and the Path to Socialism

Ho Chi Minh viewed socialism as a comprehensive system covering the economy, politics, culture, society, and people, with humans at the center. He linked socialism to the goals of ensuring people's prosperity, freedom, and happiness, and emphasized balanced development across all fields. The path to socialism must suit Vietnam's conditions rather than copy foreign models. The transitional period is long and all-sided, requiring popular strength, step-by-step development, and the combination of national independence with socialism.

Application of the holistic viewpoint on Vietnam's path to socialism: Ho Chi Minh affirmed that Vietnam could bypass capitalism while still selectively inheriting humanity's achievements and developing all sectors comprehensively. The transitional period is a deep and broad transformation in which people are the central driving force, and it requires combining national independence with socialism as well as theory with practice.

2.2.2. The Application of the Holistic Perspective in Understanding Socialism and the Path to Socialism in the Theoretical Framework of the Communist Party of Vietnam during the Renovation Period

The Party renewed its thinking, defining socialism as a comprehensive system including the economy, politics, culture, society, and people. Through the 1991 and 2011 Platforms, this understanding became more complete, highlighting characteristics such as democracy, justice, civilization, and a socialist rule-of-law state. Socialism is developed in a holistic way, with the economy as the foundation, culture as the spiritual basis, and people as the center.

Application of the holistic viewpoint on Vietnam's path to socialism: The Party determined that Vietnam's path to socialism involves bypassing capitalism while selectively inheriting human achievements. The transitional period is long, comprehensive, and affects all fields. Renovation is carried out in a synchronized manner, with the economy as the focus and the "major relationships" being properly

handled to ensure harmonious, sustainable development in line with Vietnam's realities.

2.3. Factors Influencing Nguyễn Phú Trọng's Application of the Holistic Perspective in Developing the Theory of Socialism and the Path to Socialism in Vietnam

Nguyen Phu Trong's views on socialism and the path to socialism were formed through the combined impact of the international context, Vietnam's renovation (Đổi mới) practice, global ideological changes, and his personal qualities. This was a process shaped by both objective historical conditions and his subjective intellectual capacity, in the context of profound global transformations and Vietnam's new stage of development.

2.3.1. The international context and transformations of the era

Globalization, the scientific and technological revolution, and the digital economy have profoundly changed development models and raised new issues regarding relations of production, social equity, and sustainable development. Vietnam's deep international integration has created both opportunities and competitive pressures while maintaining its socialist orientation. These transformations provide an important practical basis for thinking about comprehensive development and the combination of independence, self-reliance, and integration.

2.3.2. The Crisis of the Real Socialist Model and the Transformations of Modern Capitalism

The collapse of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe led to a crisis of confidence and theoretical debates about socialism. At the same time, modern capitalism has revealed numerous contradictions such as economic crises, inequality, unemployment, and environmental problems. This reality has encouraged a re-evaluation of socialism in comparison with capitalism, thereby reinforcing awareness of the incompleteness of the capitalist model and the need for new theoretical development.

2.3.3. Renovation practice and national development in Vietnam

Nearly 40 years of Đổi mới serve as the decisive factor, providing the practical foundation for shaping and refining theoretical thinking. Vietnam has achieved significant progress in economic growth, poverty reduction, and international integration, while also facing new issues such as the socialist-oriented market

economy, multi-sector economic development, and building a socialist rule-of-law state. These realities have created the basis for generalizing and developing theoretical viewpoints on Vietnam's socialist model.

2.3.4. Challenges to Theoretical Understanding and the Requirements for Theoretical Development in the New Era

After 1991, various currents of thought rejecting socialism and Marxism–Leninism emerged, while the market economy in Vietnam also generated issues such as inequality, corruption, and moral decline. This situation requires both steadfast adherence to ideological foundations and continuous theoretical renewal, avoiding dogmatism while also resisting deviation from core values.

2.3.5. Revolutionary career, political qualities, and intellectual capacity of Nguyen Phu Trong

Nguyen Phu Trong's theoretical thinking was shaped through long-term study, research, and practical experience in key ideological and leadership institutions of the Party and State. His academic background, editorial and research work at the Communist Review, his role in the Central Theoretical Council, and various leadership positions helped develop a dialectical and holistic method of thinking. In particular, his role in drafting Party documents and addressing major “relationships” reflects his ability to generalize theory from practice. His firm political stance, systemic thinking, and broad intellectual background contributed to the formation of a consistent viewpoint on socialism and the path to socialism in Vietnam.

CHAPTER 3

CONTENT OF APPLYING THE COMPREHENSIVE VIEWPOINT IN SELECTED WORKS OF NGUYEN PHU TRONG

Chapter 3 clarifies how Nguyen Phu Trong applied the comprehensive viewpoint in his understanding of socialism in Vietnam, viewing socialism as an integrated whole consisting of the economy, politics, culture, society, and people, developed on the foundation of Marxism–Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought.

3.1. Applying the comprehensive viewpoint in understanding the nature and goals of socialism in Vietnam

Socialism is understood as a comprehensive development system, not only an economic issue but a multi-dimensional structure in which different fields are closely interconnected, with people as the center and the ultimate goal being the happiness of the people.

3.1.1. Socialism as a comprehensive developmental whole

Vietnamese socialism is defined through 8 basic characteristics and 8 major relationships, reflecting a systemic and dialectical approach to national development. It also emphasizes 5 core values, such as development for people, social justice, sustainable development, and the people's right to mastery.

From this, it can be affirmed that:

Socialism is inherently human-centered

It is a unified whole of economics, politics, culture, national defense, and foreign affairs

It aims at sustainable development in harmony with the environment

People are both the goal and the driving force of development

3.1.2. The Unity of Economic Growth and Social Progress and Equity in the Goals of Socialism

Economic growth is not an independent goal but must be closely linked with social progress, justice, culture, and human development. The quality of growth is more important than its speed, and development outcomes must be evaluated through people's living standards, not only GDP.

3.1.3. The Role of Culture, People, and Well-Being in the Goals of National Development

Culture is the spiritual foundation and driving force of development; people are the center of all development strategies. The happiness of the people is the highest measure of development, encompassing both material and spiritual dimensions.

In summary, the development of socialism in Vietnam is viewed as an integrated whole in which the economy, politics, culture, and people are organically connected, aiming toward the ultimate goal of a prosperous, civilized, and happy society. harmony among different sectors and promotes sustainable development.

3.2. Applying a comprehensive perspective in understanding Vietnam's path to socialism

3.2.1. Theory of the transition period to socialism bypassing capitalism

Vietnam's path to socialism is explained as the synthesis of historical, national, and global factors, reflecting an objective choice from practical experience. "Bypassing capitalism" does not mean rejecting all its achievements, but rather rejecting oppression and exploitation while selectively inheriting its civilizational values.

The transition period is viewed as a long and complex process in which socialist and non-socialist elements coexist and interact.

3.2.2. Theory of the socialist-oriented market economy

The socialist-oriented market economy is a model that combines market laws with socialist goals. It consists of multiple economic sectors, in which the state sector plays a leading role and the private sector is an important driving force.

The state regulates the economy, the market allocates resources, and society supervises. Economic growth must be linked with social equity and has been verified through Vietnam's renovation (Đổi mới) practice.

3.2.3. Awareness and handling of major relationships in the process of building socialism

Major relationships are viewed as a unified whole, typically including: innovation–stability–development; market economy–socialist orientation; and national construction–national defense. These relationships must be harmonized in a balanced way to avoid extremes and ensure sustainable development.

3.2.4. Key orientations in realizing socialism in Vietnam

The eight main orientations include: Party building; institutional improvement; industrialization and digital transformation; regional development; human development; cultural development; building a rule-of-law state; and strengthening national defense and foreign relations.

Together, they reflect a comprehensive approach integrating economic, political, and social dimensions toward sustainable development.

3.3. Applying the holistic perspective in understanding the subjects and driving forces of socialist development in Vietnam

3.3.1. The people as the central subject of socialist construction

The people are the center, the main subject, and the ultimate goal of development. All policies must derive from the interests of the people and be based on democracy and the principle: “people know, people discuss, people do, people monitor, people supervise, and people benefit.” The legitimacy and strength of the political system are closely tied to public trust. Democracy must go together with discipline and responsibility to serve the people.

3.3.2. Great national unity as a strategic driving force for development

Great national unity is a strategic source of strength, linked to the common national interest and the unity within diverse social interests. It is built on democracy, social consensus, and public trust, and is strengthened through anti-corruption efforts.

3.3.3. Science, technology, and innovation as new driving forces of development

Science, technology, and innovation are key drivers of development, closely associated with people and the goal of improving living standards. Intellectuals are an important force. Science and technology must be developed in a coordinated way with institutions, education, and other social fields to promote sustainable development.

3.4. Applying the comprehensive viewpoint in building the Party and the political system

3.4.1. Party building linked with national development tasks

Party building is a key task closely tied to national development. The Party must be comprehensively strong to effectively lead all areas of society. The relationship between the Party, the State, and the People is unified: the Party leads, the State

manages, and the People are the masters; the people are both the foundation and the goal of development.

3.4.2. Combining Party building and rectification with the fight against corruption and negativity

Corruption is a major threat to the Party and the regime, rooted in moral and political degradation and abuse of power. Therefore, Party building must be closely combined with anti-corruption efforts, implemented consistently, comprehensively, and without any “forbidden zones.” At the same time, it is necessary to strengthen power control, transparency, and discipline to reinforce public trust.

3.4.3. Improving the socialist rule-of-law State

The socialist rule-of-law State is an instrument for implementing the Party’s policies and carries the nature of “of the people, by the people, and for the people.” Democracy must go hand in hand with law and power control. Building the rule-of-law State must be linked with reforming the political system, improving governance effectiveness, and better serving the people.

CHAPTER 4

METHODOLOGICAL VALUES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CONTINUED APPLICATION OF THE HOLISTIC PERSPECTIVE IN DEVELOPING THE THEORY OF SOCIALISM AND THE PATH TO SOCIALISM IN VIETNAM TODAY

4.1. The Methodological Value of Nguyễn Phú Trọng’s Application of the Holistic Perspective in Developing the Theory of Socialism and the Path to Socialism in Vietnam

4.1.1. Contributing to overcoming one-sided and simplistic thinking about socialism

The comprehensive perspective helps overcome misconceptions that equate socialism with the Soviet model, reject the market economy, absolutize public ownership, misunderstand social justice, and oppose socialism to democracy, the rule of law, and human rights.

Nguyen Phu Trong emphasizes distinguishing the essence of socialism from specific models, recognizing the market economy and diverse forms of ownership in the transition period, and understanding social justice as equal opportunities for development. This forms a more comprehensive and dialectical understanding of socialism in Vietnam.

4.1.2. Developing dialectical awareness of major relationships in the transition period

An important contribution is the establishment of a system of “major relationships” as an integrated whole reflecting the laws of socialist development in Vietnam, such as: renovation–stability–development; economy–politics; market economy–socialist orientation; growth–equity–environment; independence–integration.

This approach shifts thinking from fragmented analysis to systemic thinking, enabling a more dialectical understanding and handling of development contradictions.

4.1.3. Contributing to the Reinforcement of the Historical-Specific Perspective in Understanding Socialism in Vietnam

The historical-specific viewpoint helps avoid dogmatism and mechanical model replication. Socialism is understood as a general trend, but its realization depends on each country's specific conditions.

This leads to a “Vietnamese path to socialism” approach and promotes a more objective and dialectical understanding of both capitalism and the transitional period.

4.1.4. Contributing to Strengthening the Unity between Theory and Practice and Developing Methods of Summarizing Practical Experience to Supplement and Develop the Theory of Socialism in Vietnam

The comprehensive perspective affirms that theory must originate from practice and return to guide practice, while practical summarization must be systematic.

Many new theoretical developments in Vietnam (such as the socialist-oriented market economy, socialist rule-of-law state, and major relationships of the transition period) have been shaped from renovation practice, contributing to the development of theory suited to new conditions.

4.2. New Issues Arising for the Development of the Theory of Socialism and the Path to Socialism in Vietnam Today

4.2.1. Requirements of globalization and the Fourth Industrial Revolution for the perception of socialism and the path toward socialism in Vietnam

On the perception of socialism in Vietnam: Globalization and the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) expand the understanding of socialism in a global direction, linking national interests with the interests of humanity; at the same time, they further clarify the relationship between independence and integration, as well as cooperation and struggle. The 4IR connects socialism with the digital economy, technology, and innovation, transforms the role of labor, and raises new issues of digital equity, cybersecurity, and digital sovereignty. Therefore, socialist theory needs to be further supplemented and developed in line with the new era.

On the path toward socialism in Vietnam: The path toward socialism is closely linked with international integration while maintaining independence and self-reliance; industrialization is based on science–technology and digital transformation. The socialist-oriented market economy continues to be refined toward modernity and

human-centered development, while emphasizing sustainable development and high-quality human resources. Therefore, the theory of the path toward socialism must be flexible and creative.

4.2.2. Requirements of sustainable development for the perception of socialism and the path toward socialism in Vietnam

Sustainable development requires an expanded understanding of socialism from economic growth alone to comprehensive human development, social equity, and environmental protection.

It emphasizes green development, the circular economy, reduced inequality, and climate change adaptation, while linking domestic development with international integration and global responsibility. Sustainable development is both a requirement and a methodological approach, promoting comprehensive, long-term, and systemic thinking in development.

4.3. Some Orientations for the Continued Application of the Holistic Perspective in Developing the Theory of Socialism and the Path to Socialism in Vietnam Today

4.3.1. Continuing research, supplementation, and development of the Party's renovation (Đổi mới) line

Continue summarizing practical experience to develop renovation theory in a modern, predictive, and guiding direction. The focus is on improving the socialist-oriented market economy model, clarifying the relationship between the State, the market, and society, and ensuring development linked with sustainability, international integration, and digital transformation. At the same time, further clarify the new development model based on science and technology, innovation, and the improvement of development institutions.

4.3.2. Improving the quality of practical summarization for theoretical development

Practical summarization should be regarded as the foundation of theoretical development, while research methods should be renewed in a scientific, empirical, and comprehensive direction. Strengthen coordination among institutions, develop high-

quality research teams, and invest in modern data systems and research infrastructure. At the same time, expand academic dialogue, critical debate, and international cooperation, linking research with practice and ensuring a democratic and scientific environment.

CONCLUSION

From the overall analysis, it can be affirmed that the comprehensive methodology of Marxism- Leninism is not only a theoretical cornerstone for the scientific understanding of the world, but also a guiding principle for practical action in a profound, effective, and sustainable manner. When applied to the study of the thought of the late General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong- a steadfast theorist with strategic vision- this methodology demonstrates its particular value in explaining Vietnam's development path toward socialism. Comprehensive thinking enables socialism to be viewed not as a rigid, closed model, but as a dynamic and flexible process capable of adapting to the complex changes of both domestic and global realities.

The comprehensive viewpoint also allows for a deeper recognition of the dialectical relationships between theory and practice, between tradition and modernity, and between core values and the demands of renewal-elements that are often perceived in a fragmented and linear manner. In the context of globalization, integration, and constant transformation, the proper understanding and application of comprehensive thinking not only help the Party and the State formulate appropriate development strategies, but also enable individuals to develop critical thinking, act with clarity, and assume responsibility.

Therefore, it can be said that the comprehensive viewpoint is not merely a philosophical principle, but also an expression of a profound development vision-a vision that the late General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong inherited, cultivated, and left as a lasting intellectual legacy, contributing to guiding the future of Vietnam's revolution in the new era. This is not only a continuation of the intellectual tradition of

Marxism- Leninism, but also a vivid testament to the vitality of socialism in Vietnam- a path chosen by our nation with intelligence, resilience, and an enduring aspiration.

LIST OF WORKS PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR RELATED TO THE TOPIC

1. Nguyen Phuong Thuy (2023), “From the book Resolutely and Persistently Struggling Against Corruption and Negative Phenomena to Contribute to Building Our Party and State Increasingly Clean and Strong by General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong: Reflections on the ‘fear of responsibility’ among cadres and Party members,” Proceedings of the scientific seminar: Theoretical and Practical Value of the Work “Resolutely and Persistently Struggling Against Corruption and Negative Phenomena to Contribute to Building Our Party and State Increasingly Clean and Strong”, Truth National Political Publishing House, Hanoi.

2. Nguyen Phuong Thuy (2025), “Applying a comprehensive methodological approach in studying the views of the late General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong on the path to socialism in Vietnam,” Journal of Theoretical Education, Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, Regional Academy I, No. 389/2025.

3. Nguyen Phuong Thuy (2025), “The theoretical legacy of the late General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong – Research and development orientations,” Journal of Political Theory and Communication, February 2025 special issue.

4. Nguyen Phuong Thuy (2026), “Theory of the Renovation (Doi Moi) line – The development of the Party’s theoretical thinking and its significance in the nation’s new development era,” Journal of Theoretical Education, Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, Regional Academy I, No. 403/2026.

5. Nguyen Phuong Thuy (2026), “Applying the comprehensive methodological approach of Marxism–Leninism in renovating and streamlining the political system’s organizational apparatus in Vietnam,” State Management Review (online), published

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