

To cite this article: Dang Anh Tuyet (2024). MARXIST-LENINIST VIEW ON THE COMBINATION OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITH NATIONAL DEFENSE, SECURITY, AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND ITS APPLICATION IN THE NORTHERN BORDER PROVINCES OF VIETNAM IN THE NEW CONTEXT, International Journal of Education and Social Science Research (IJESSR) 7 (5): 316-326 Article No. 989, Sub Id 1555

MARXIST-LENINIST VIEW ON THE COMBINATION OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITH NATIONAL DEFENSE, SECURITY, AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND ITS APPLICATION IN THE NORTHERN BORDER PROVINCES OF VIETNAM IN THE NEW CONTEXT

Dang Anh Tuyet

Faculty of Philosophy, Academy of Politics Region I,
15 Khuat Duy Tien, Thanh Xuan, Ha Noi, Viet Nam

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.37500/IJESSR.2024.7522>

ABSTRACT

Combining socio-economic development with national defense, security and foreign affairs is a universal principle in the development of nations that has been generalized into theory by the classics of Marxism. The mountainous provinces in the North of Vietnam, with their special geographical location and important tasks in national defense, security and foreign affairs, require socio-economic development to always be in harmony, adaptability, proactiveness and flexibility on the principle of balancing the needs of both building and protecting the Fatherland.

KEYWORDS: Marxism-Leninism; economics, defense, security, foreign affairs; northern mountainous region.

1. INTRODUCTION

In Vietnam, the issue of economic development associated with national defense, security, and foreign affairs is emphasized by the Communist Party of Vietnam: “The stability and sustainable development of all aspects of economic and social life is the solid foundation of national defense and security” [1]. From this guiding perspective, the development of the economy and society associated with national defense, security, and foreign affairs has been implemented in the practical activities of the state, and has achieved many important achievements so far. National defense and security have been constantly consolidated, resolutely and persistently fighting to maintain independence, sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity; foreign relations and international integration have become increasingly extensive and effective. However, in reality, there are still limitations that need to be overcome: “The combination of economy, culture, society with national defense and security in some localities and units is ineffective, still showing subjectivity, lack of vigilance, and a focus on purely economic and immediate interests. Foreign affairs and international integration activities are present, but sometimes they do not keep up with the developments of the situation, and they do not foresee all the adverse impacts. They have not yet effectively exploited and promoted the intertwined

interests with important partners” [2]. The above limitations, if not promptly overcome, can easily lead to unpredictable consequences in the performance of the task of protecting the Fatherland.

2. Marxist-Leninist viewpoint on the relationship between economy and national defense, security and foreign affairs.

Marxist theory on the relationship between the economy, national defense, security, and foreign affairs is primarily focused on the concepts of class, state, and nation. These are three elements that make up the political life of each country, and are the decisive factors for the survival of a social regime, a nation, and a people. In essence, these political elements are closely linked to the cause of defending the Fatherland.

When studying the history of the formation of nations, states, the history of war, national defense and security, based on the standpoint of Dialectical Materialism and Historical Materialism, the classics Marx, Engels, and Lenin discovered the law of national defense in conditions of war and peace. They affirmed that national defense in any conditions and circumstances requires the total mobilization of material conditions and spiritual factors in society.

National defense includes three aspects: *first*, national security protection is to prevent, stop, detect, fight, and defeat all activities that violate national security and eliminate risks to the security of the nation and people; *second*, national defense is the establishment and implementation of self-defense measures of a nation to deal with and prevent risks of invasion from outside; *third*, foreign affairs is the totality of activities and relations of a nation with the outside world to achieve political, economic, cultural, defense, and security goals. All activities to protect the Fatherland aim at the goal of the existence and stable development of the social regime, of state power, and the inviolability of independence, sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity of the Fatherland.

The Marxist-Leninist theoretical system of national defense is ultimately the ruling class, through state power, carrying out economic development activities associated with national defense, security, and foreign affairs to protect the social regime and the Fatherland. That theoretical system is reflected in the following contents:

2.1. The State is the political entity that decides on the economic, social, defense and security activities of a country.

According to the Marxist theory of class and state, the emergence of class and state originated from the emergence of private ownership of means of production, the division of society into antagonistic classes in economic interests, and the formation of political antagonism. When the antagonistic contradictions between classes in society cannot be reconciled, it inevitably leads to the emergence of the state. In which, the class representing the new mode of material production, holding economic domination, establishes the state and armed forces to protect political power, protect the economic

interests of the class and exercise the right to manage all activities of a country's social life in all fields of economy, society, national defense, security, and foreign affairs.

However, after the ruling class has seized political power and exercised its domination, a part of the other classes and strata in society always tends to struggle to escape the domination of the ruling class. Therefore, for the state, the central issue of political power is to gain, maintain and use state power. This is a continuous issue throughout the existence of a state.

Thus, the Marxist theory of class and state all point out that political power originates from the development of productive forces, from the private ownership regime, and is determined by the economic regime. Whether political power is guaranteed or not depends on the economic power of the ruling class. C. Marx affirmed: "First of all, any political power is initially based on an economic and social function" [3]. Political power in turn acts back and participates in consolidating economic power.

The condition for political power to be maintained depends on the state's organization of the implementation of the political domination function and the social function. In which, the political domination function is the state becoming a dictatorial tool of the ruling class to protect and maintain the ruling power, which is implemented through the activities of the armed forces established by the state to suppress opposition forces that tend to deny the power of the state. F. Engels pointed out: "The army has become the main purpose of the state, becoming a purpose in itself" [4]. The army becomes a tool to protect the state. At the same time as implementing the political domination function, the state performs the social function, managing all social activities in the fields of economy, society, national defense, security and foreign affairs to protect the economic interests, political interests of the ruling class and the common interests of the whole society.

The political domination function and the social function have an inseparable dialectical relationship. Therefore, the issue of gaining, maintaining and using state power is essentially the state's use of its power to resolve the relationship between economic and social development and national defense, security and foreign affairs to ensure a close connection between building and protecting the Fatherland.

2.2. Marxist-Leninist viewpoint on the relationship between socio-economics, national defense, security and foreign affairs.

The classics of Marxism-Leninism have pointed out that there is an organic, closely linked, inseparable relationship between the economy and national defense, security, and foreign affairs. During the period of struggle for power and protection of the leadership of the Russian Communist Party and the Soviet government, VI Lenin saw the urgency of carrying out the task of economic development in conjunction with national defense, security, and foreign affairs. He wrote: "The relationship between

a country's military organization and its entire economic and cultural system has never been as close as it is today" [5].

2.2.1. The role of economy in national defense, security and foreign affairs.

F. Engels, who extensively studied the history of war, identified the connection between economic factors and military operations in fulfilling the tasks of ensuring national defense and security. He affirmed, Economy plays a decisive role in the success or failure of national defense, security and foreign affairs.

In his work *Anti-Duhring*, F. Engels pointed out that the effectiveness of national defense and security activities depends on the economic conditions of the state that produced the armed forces. According to Engels: "...the entire organization and method of fighting of the army, and therefore its victory or defeat, clearly depend on material conditions, that is, economic conditions" [6].

Moreover, he also skillfully applied the Marxist principle of the development of material production methods to the activities of the army. He pointed out the decisive role of the development level of material production methods on the development of politics, society, national defense, and security; on the dependence of political and social aspects, especially of the army, on the economy. F. Engels argued: "Nothing depends more on economic premises than the army and the fleet itself. Equipment, organization, staffing, strategy, and tactics depend primarily on the corresponding level of production and on means of transport" [7]. The strength of the army depends primarily on economic conditions, the development level of weapons, equipment, and transport infrastructure. Economic conditions determine the entire operation of the army from organization, to ideology, methods, goals, and forces. F. Engels emphasized that the economy determines the success or failure of the army in the cause of protecting the state and the Fatherland. He wrote: "In short, anywhere and at any time, economic conditions and economic resources are what help violence win, without those conditions and resources, violence is no longer violence" [8]. Economic power is the lever to improve the level of development of weapons, is the tool of violence that demonstrates the power of the state in exercising dictatorial power over society, is the decisive factor in the effectiveness of the armed forces in protecting state power and protecting the Fatherland. From there, Engels came to the conclusion: "Indeed, what is the first thing that comes before violence itself? It is economic power" [9].

Affirming the views of Marx and Engels from the practice of the Russian revolution, in the conditions of building socialism from a feudal, pre-capitalist country and protecting Soviet Russia from the attack of imperialism, Lenin stated: "...without adequate economic preparation, conducting a modern war against advanced imperialism is impossible for an agricultural country..." [10].

In the context of protecting the Soviet state power from the attack of counter-revolutionary forces, Lenin directed: "We must exert all our strength to take advantage of the temporary truce that the opportunity has given us, to heal the extremely serious wounds caused by the war to the entire social

body of Russia, and to develop the national economy, otherwise it is impossible to talk about increasing Russia's defense capabilities to a relative level" [11]. Therefore, in all circumstances, there must always be proactive preparation of economic conditions and material resources to serve the army in order to improve the army's capacity and fighting strength.

Affirming the decisive role of the economy in the activities of the army in ensuring national defense, security, and foreign affairs, but not stopping there, the classics of Marxism also pointed out the role of the impact of national defense, security, and foreign affairs on the development of the economy.

2.2.2. The impact of defense, security and foreign affairs on economic development.

Analyzing the organic relationship between the economy and national defense, security, and foreign affairs, the classics of Marxism-Leninism affirmed that while national defense, security, and foreign affairs are determined by economic factors, these elements can, in turn, exert an influence on the economy and society.

First of all, national defense, security, and foreign affairs impact the economy, contributing to economic development and consolidating the political power of the state and the ruling class.

Marx and Engels, through their analysis of the history of wars, affirmed: "Military history confirms most clearly the correctness of our view on the relationship between productive forces and social relations. In general, the army plays an important role in economic development" [12]. This has been proven in practice. In each country, when national defense, security, and foreign affairs are stable and the power of the state is consolidated, the environment and conditions for economic development will be created.

Besides affirming the role of the impact of national defense, security, and foreign affairs on the economy, the classics especially noted that this impact can take place in two directions: either promoting or inhibiting economic development.

Engels explained: "After political power has become independent of society, it can act in two directions. Either it acts in the sense and direction of economic development and has a law-like character. In this way, there is no conflict between political power and economic development and economic development is accelerated. Or it opposes economic development, and then, with a few exceptions, it is usually under the pressure of economic development" [13].

Lenin pointed out that in the conditions of fighting to regain state power for the people and build a socialist regime, it is inevitable to use violence: "Without taking up arms to defend the socialist republic, we cannot survive. The ruling class will never cede power to the ruled class. But the ruled class must prove in practice that it is not only capable of overthrowing exploitation, but also capable of organizing itself and mobilizing everything to protect itself" [14].

Thus, Marxism has pointed out the organic relationship between politics and economics, between war and politics, between economics and national defense and security. Economic development creates material premises for the strong development of society in general and strengthens the potential of national defense, security and foreign affairs in particular. National defense, security and foreign affairs activities operate effectively only under certain economic conditions. On the contrary, strengthened national defense, security and foreign affairs potential contributes to creating a favorable environment and conditions for economic development.

Therefore, in any country, regardless of the situation, in war or peace, economic and social development associated with national defense, security, and foreign affairs to ensure the construction and protection of the Fatherland is always the top priority. Correctly perceiving the relationship between economic and social development associated with national defense, security, and foreign affairs and properly applying this relationship is a basic condition to protect the Party, protect the State, protect the regime and protect the people, ensuring national independence, national sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity.

3. Applying the Marxist-Leninist viewpoint on the relationship between economy and national defense, security, and foreign affairs in economic development associated with national defense, security, and foreign affairs in the northern mountainous provinces in the current context.

3.1. The impact of geographical location, socio-economics on economic development associated with national defense, security and foreign affairs in the northern mountainous provinces.

The Northern mountainous provinces are home to many potential natural resources for the development of forestry, mineral, agricultural, tourism and border trade economies. They are a multi-ethnic region with diverse cultures, religions and beliefs, creating a culturally rich environment.

In particular, the northern mountainous provinces have: “The Vietnam - China land border is 1,449.566 km long, of which 383.914 km of border follows rivers and streams, bordering the 7 provinces of Dien Bien, Lai Chau, Lao Cai, Ha Giang, Cao Bang, Lang Son and Quang Ninh of Vietnam with Yunnan province and the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of China” [15]. It is an important strategic area of the Fatherland, with an important position in terms of politics, socio-economy, national defense, security and foreign affairs.

The above characteristics are the advantages of the Northern mountainous provinces in economic and social development, national defense, security, and foreign affairs. However, there are still many characteristics of the region that have become factors that greatly influence economic development associated with national defense, security, and foreign affairs, in ensuring the construction and protection of the Fatherland.

The northern mountainous provinces and highland border areas have rugged terrain, many rivers and streams, complex natural disasters, unpredictable developments, and difficult transportation; the

population is mainly ethnic minorities, low population density, scattered population, some ethnic minority areas, small minorities still practice shifting cultivation and nomadic living; the area is large and rugged, the proportion of agricultural land is very low; awareness level, labor level, manual farming methods, fragmented, self-sufficient, low economic conditions, high poverty rate; border gate economy is mostly small-scale, unstable, unsustainable activities, the situation of trade fraud and illegal trading is complicated; society still has many backward customs and practices; The emergence of new and strange religious phenomena, illegal activities... all of these characteristics greatly limit the economic development potential of the region and activities to ensure security, national defense, and foreign affairs.

Furthermore, in reality, in recent times, the northern mountainous provinces have been frequently exploited by hostile forces, taking advantage of the area and the characteristics of ethnic minority areas to carry out activities that cause disturbances, riots, incite people to oppose the government, divide the great solidarity bloc, and threaten national independence, territorial integrity and national sovereignty of Vietnam.

The above situation requires that socio-economic development associated with national defense, security and foreign affairs in the northern mountainous region must be strengthened from the perspective of theory, awareness, viewpoints, principles and responsibilities of the entire political system and people in order to well perform the strategic task of building and protecting the socialist Vietnamese Fatherland.

3.2. Applying the theory of Marxism-Leninism on the relationship between socio-economics and national defense, security and foreign affairs in mountainous provinces at present.

In general, in the current context, there are still many difficulties and challenges for the development of economy, society, security, national defense and foreign affairs in the Northern mountainous region. To overcome the above difficulties and challenges, it is necessary to apply the theory of Marxism-Leninism on the relationship between economy - society and national defense, security and foreign affairs in a flexible and creative manner, suitable to the conditions and objective realities of the Northern mountainous provinces. Ensuring the unity between economic - social development associated with national defense, security and foreign affairs is to complete the task of building and protecting the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The combination of these factors must ensure the following requirements:

Firstly, socio-economic development is linked to national defense, security, and foreign affairs in accordance with the characteristics and specific conditions of each locality and region. Fully exploiting potentials and strengths, promoting internal resources, promoting regional comparative advantages, improving the qualifications of local labor resources to improve people's economic life, ensuring stable and regular supply of food on the spot for armed forces in the area.

As presented above, the classics of Marxism have pointed out: Military history confirms most clearly the correctness of our view on the relationship between productive forces and social relations; Equipment, organization, staffing, strategy, and tactics depend primarily on the corresponding level of production and on means of transport. This view shows the correlation between the level of productive forces and the level of social development, establishing a causal relationship between the socio-economics and national defense, security, and foreign affairs.

Applying this viewpoint raises the issue of the need for strategic measures that are both urgent and long-term to improve the level of production forces in the northern mountainous provinces. Currently, the production methods of local people are still backward, mainly at a low level, manual, fragmented, small-scale, and the terrain is fragmented, so the economic efficiency is not high. Production mainly meets the needs of self-sufficiency; life is still difficult. The products of the production sector have not yet become goods of high economic value. The exploitation of mineral resources is still ineffective, wasteful, and has a negative impact on the environment... If these resources are exploited effectively, they will become a great resource for national defense, security, and foreign affairs.

For that reason, in the coming time, there needs to be an appropriate roadmap to improve the qualifications, awareness, and skills of local labor resources. Change backward production practices, shift production to apply science, engineering, and technology. Gradually improve the economic conditions of local people and communities, creating resources for the development of national defense, security, and foreign affairs.

Second, socio-economic development is closely related to national defense, security, and foreign affairs. Do not overemphasize the role of the economy, and do not disregard national defense, security, and foreign affairs for economic benefits.

Socio-economic development is linked to national defense, security, and foreign affairs to ensure flexibility and diversity. Forming economic infrastructure according to the structure of economic components, industry structure, and economic sector structure closely linked to the defense, security, and foreign affairs position of each locality and region.

The northern mountainous provinces have an important role in national defense and security, have long borders, are favorable for the development of border trade economy, tourism economy, economy with foreign elements, etc. Each economic sector present in the area has a direct impact on national defense, security, and foreign affairs. Therefore, it is necessary to have strict control by Party committees and local authorities in managing economic types with foreign elements in terms of purpose, motive, and method of operation to prevent and combat acts that cause division in the great national unity bloc, negatively affecting security and order, national defense, and foreign affairs in the area. Effectively combat activities that infringe on sovereignty and border security, ensuring stable and sustainable border development.

In key areas of national defense, focus on developing defense economic zones. The armed forces themselves are an economic organization. Enhance the proactive and adaptive capacity of the armed forces in all circumstances, both in wartime and peacetime. For areas in strategic defense and security positions, promote defense and security tasks to ensure the ultimate goal of protecting the Fatherland. At the same time, promote the role of the armed forces in influencing the socio-economic development of the locality. Guide and support local people in production, stabilize their lives, ensure security, create a stable environment for people to study and work with peace of mind, contributing to socio-economic development. “Strengthen the all-people national defense posture associated with the people's security posture and the all-people border defense posture in border areas” [16].

Third, promote all human resources in the northern mountainous provinces according to the motto that each person is both a worker and producer and a force participating in ensuring order, security, national defense and foreign affairs.

Every citizen living in a strategic defense and security area needs to be aware of the role and importance of the area in carrying out the task of protecting the Fatherland. It is necessary to have knowledge and skills to proactively prevent and detect phenomena that threaten security, order and social safety in the border area. To do that: “Localities need to promote education and training on defense and security knowledge; training on knowledge and experience in combining socio-economic development with strengthening defense and security for subjects, especially key local officials and ethnic minority officials, as a basis for operating the leadership, direction and implementation mechanism. At the same time, research and have specific mechanisms and appropriate sanctions so that the combination of socio-economic development with strengthening defense and security is carried out effectively” [17].

Fourth, the system of national target programs for socio-economic development in the northern mountainous region needs to be considered a defense, security, and foreign policy.

Ensure national defense, security, and foreign affairs in each socio-economic policy. Integrate the socio-economic development strategy with the strategy to protect the socialist Vietnamese Fatherland in the northern mountainous provinces. Establish a system of guiding principles to ensure harmonious development between socio-economics and national defense, security, and foreign affairs. Form a system of concepts of economic security in border areas, economic defense in border areas, and economic foreign affairs in border areas, concretizing them into principles as a basis for planning and organizing the implementation of socio-economic development tasks associated with national defense, security, and foreign affairs to firmly protect the borders of the Fatherland by Party organizations and local authorities in the northern mountainous provinces.

4. CONCLUSION

Combining socio-economic development with strengthening national defense, security and foreign affairs potential is an objective law for the birth, existence and development of nations and peoples. The northern mountainous provinces of Vietnam have an important geo-strategic position in terms of national defense, security and foreign affairs. Ensuring the relationship between socio-economic development and national defense, security, and foreign affairs is both urgent and of long-term importance. It requires flexible, creative and appropriate application of Marxist theory to the actual situation of the locality. The difficulties, challenges and limitations in socio-economic development associated with national defense, security and foreign affairs of the region in the current period have become a practical basis for continuing to perfect the theory of national defense in Vietnam.

REFERENCES:

- [1]. Communist Party of Vietnam (2011), *Documents of the 11th National Congress of Delegates*, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, p. 82.
- [2]. Communist Party of Vietnam (2021), *Documents of the 13th National Congress of Delegates*, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, vol. 1, p. 88.
- [3]. K. Marx and F. Engels (1996), *Complete Works*, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, volume 29, page 257.
- [4]. K. Marx and F. Engels: *Complete Works*, vol.20, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 1994, p.240.
- [5]. V.I. Lenin (2005), *Complete Works*, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, volume 9, page 192.
- [6]. K. Marx and F. Engels: *Complete Works*, vol.20, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 1994, p.241.
- [7]. K. Marx and F. Engels: *Complete Works*, vol.20, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 1994, p.235.
- [8]. K. Marx and F. Engels: *Complete Works*, vol.20, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 1994, p.242.
- [9]. K. Marx and F. Engels: *Complete Works*, vol.20, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 1994, p.245.
- [10]. V.I. Lenin, *Complete Works*, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, volume 35, p. 475.
- [11]. VI Lenin, *Complete Works*, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, volume 36, p. 204.
- [12]. K. Marx and F. Engels (1996), *Complete Works*, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, volume 29, page 246.
- [13]. K. Marx and F. Engels (1996), *Complete Works*, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, volume 29, page 257.
- [14]. V.I. Lenin (2005), *Complete Works*, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, volume 38, pp.165 - 166.
- [15]. <http://bienphongvietnam.gov.vn/tong-quan-ve-bien-gioi-tren-dat-lien-viet-nam-trung-quoc.html>



- [16]. <http://tapchiquptd.vn/vi/an-pham-tap-chi-in/may-van-de-ve-ket-hop-Kinh-te-voi-quoc-phong-an-ninh-o-vung-bien-gioi-cua-to-quoc/2827.html>
- [17]. <http://tapchiquptd.vn/vi/nghien-cuu-trao-doi/ket-hop-phat-trien-Kinh-te-xa-hoi-voi-tang-cuong-quoc-phong-an-ninh-tren-dia-ban-tay-bac/11271.html>