



INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM IN HO CHI MINH'S 1945 DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE: HISTORICAL AND REALISTIC VALUES

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Abstract

Ho Chi Minh drafted and delivered the 1945 Declaration of Independence at Ba Dinh Square on September 2, 1945. Throughout its creation, he sought input from various comrades within the Party Central Standing Committee, members of the Interim Government, and even Archimedes LA Patti, a US officer among the Allies. This Declaration stands as a cornerstone of the nation's founding, symbolizing the birth of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. At its heart lies Ho Chi Minh's vision of independence and freedom, a philosophy that retains its historical importance and relevance even today.

Keywords: Independence, freedom Ho Chi Minh, the 1945 Declaration of Independence

Introduction

Ho Chi Minh, hailing from a colonized nation, intimately understood the anguish of losing one's homeland, freedom, and happiness. Determined to liberate his country, he embarked on a journey spanning over three decades across five continents. He delved into France, the purported "protector" of Vietnam, yet in reality, exploiting the noble ideals of Libert ,  galit , Fraternit  to oppress its people. Through rigorous study of revolutionary history and Vietnam's social fabric, Ho Chi Minh reached profound conclusions: that in the tapestry of contemporary history, nothing outweighs the pursuit of freedom and independence for the Vietnamese people. His ideological tenets on national independence revolved around the relentless struggle against imperialism, the eradication of foreign dominance and exploitation, and the attainment of national sovereignty and self-determination. Central to this was the liberation of the populace, with national independence standing as its cornerstone (Nguyen, 2007). Following the achievement of independence, Ho Chi Minh envisioned the establishment of a democratic and peaceful state, ultimately leading to a communist society that guarantees the populace's freedom and happiness.

These principles, encapsulated in the 1945 Declaration of Independence penned by his own hand, epitomize a culmination of prolonged introspection, experimentation, and the crystallization of profound ideals. This immortal document bears deep historical significance, proclaiming the sanctity and inviolability of independence and national freedom. It underscores the rights of self-determination and national equality as paramount, while also enshrining the people's entitlement to life, liberty, democracy, and the pursuit of happiness.

Literature Review

Up to now, there have been a number of related researchers on Ho Chi Minh's idea of independence and freedom in the 1945 Declaration of Independence. Specifically, Nguyen Trong Phuc and Nguyen Cao Son (2015) in the article "Declaration Independence in 1945 - historical value and era significance" (National Defense Magazine). In this article, the authors affirmed the statement: "All peoples in the world are born equal, every nation has the right to life, the right to happiness and freedom" in the Declaration of Independence 1945 "is a truth of the times" (Nguyen, 2015). Or as the research group Trinh Nhu (editor) in the work Chronicle of the Communist Party of Vietnam, volume 2, by the Publishing House. The National Politics released in 2013 also emphasized: "The Declaration of Independence is a historical document with profound practical and ideological value and significance. The Declaration of Independence is the development to the pinnacle of privacy. The idea of free independence and freedom was expressed in the "claim" to the Vxai Conference, in "Duong Kach Fate", in "Brief Politics", in "Political Essay", in other Party documents as well as that of the Viet Minh Secret Battle. The Declaration of Independence crystallizes the basic interests and most earnest aspirations of the Vietnamese people, is an eloquent manifestation of the people's indomitable will and resilience. Vietnamese race" (Trinh, 2013).

In the research article "Historical value and the significance of the era of the Declaration of Independence" (State Organization Journal, 2018), researcher Nguyen Manh Ha concludes: "Historical value of the Declaration of Independence It also shows in that: this is a document signaling a new age, the era of liberating peoples from oppression and exploitation of colonialism on a worldwide scale, regaining the right to live in monopoly. Independence and freedom The Declaration of Independence has opened a new stage in the development history of the Vietnamese nation, the period of building the people's democracy and moving towards socialism" (Nguyen, 2020). Likewise, Archimedes L. A. Patti in Why Vietnam, Da Nang Publishing House (2007) said that Ho Chi Minh contacted the Declaration of Independence 1776 of the US to provide the content of thought for the Declaration of Independence 1945.

Especially in the Ho Chi Minh Thought Textbook of the Ministry of Education and Training by Pham Ngoc Anh (edited) by the Publishing House. National Politics released in 2017. In this work, based on the content of the 1945 Declaration of Independence, the authors affirm: "In Ho Chi Minh's conception, democratic independence must be an independence truly, completely, associated with peace, unity, territorial integrity of the country" (Pham, 2017).

In general, up to now, there have been a number of research papers referring to the historical content and significance of Ho Chi Minh's ideology on independence and freedom in the Declaration of Independence in 1945. However, there is still no work. Which research has in-depth to find out specifically Ho Chi Minh's thought on freedom and independence embodied in the 1945 Declaration of Independence, especially research on the current significance of that inner thought in the important document. This immortal. Therefore, in this article, we will focus on research on the current value and significance of Ho Chi Minh's independent and free thought expressed in the Declaration of Independence in 1945.

Material and Method

We mainly rely on the theory of "Social consciousness morality" and "Dialectical materialism, historical materialism" of Marxism-Leninism to study the problems raised in this article. Marxism- Leninism provides the researcher with theories about the form of social

consciousness, epistemology. On the other hand, the Marxist-Leninist theory with the principle of popular relationship and the principle of development. This theory will help the researcher to be aware of the common relationships between things and phenomena in basic categories such as: the common - the private and the unitary, of course and coincidence; nature and phenomenon; causes and results, possibilities and reality; content and form in the development of things that phenomenon follows three laws: The law of transformation from quantitative changes to qualitative changes and vice versa; the law of unification and struggle between opposing sides; the law of the negation of the negation.

Besides, we also rely on the theory of "geopolitics" to study the relationships between geographic data with the politics of countries around the world. In other words, the study of the history of political ideas in the relationship between geographical location (shape, area, population...) with the nature of government, political institutions. In the current trend of globalization, geostrategic competition is taking place and there are unexpected factors. In the twenty-first century, geopolitics were greatly affected by the nuclear problem, the science-technology revolution, disease, the environment and the market economy. In addition, modern geopolitics argues that whoever controls space will control the behavior of every subject in the world. Geopolitical theory will help the author of the article to realize clearly historical value and current significance of the content of Ho Chi Minh's thought on independence and freedom expressed in the Declaration of Independence in 1945.

Results and Discussion

The content of independence and freedom in Ho Chi Minh's 1945 Declaration of Independence

Stems from human rights to generalize to the rights of the nation. Ho Chi Minh conceived that the Vietnamese nation was a sovereign, unified and territorial integrity country, the living place of all Vietnamese people sharing the same history, culture and social environment. People believe that the Vietnamese nation is synonymous with the Vietnamese nation - the Vietnamese Fatherland. In the 1945 Declaration of Independence, this thought was most evident in Ho Chi Minh's fiercely condemning the French imperial division of our country: "They enforced barbaric laws. They established three other regimes. To prevent the unification of our country, to prevent our people from unifying" (Ho, 2011e, p. 73).

On the other hand, Ho Chi Minh asserted that the masses made history. At the beginning of the Declaration of Independence in 1945, with the question "My compatriots of the whole country" (Ho, 2011d: 1), then came the question when the reader came in the middle: "I said dong. Do you hear me clearly?" (Archimedes, 2007, p. 250). These two sentences exuded nationality and popularity in Ho Chi Minh's thought on national rights. It is really a solemn but still close statement for the people of Vietnam to understand that I have been the owner of an independent people ever since.

Standing on the working-class stance in social awareness, Ho Chi Minh considered man as the sum of social relations, the masses of people are the makers of history: "Human literal, narrow meaning family, brothers, relatives, companionship" (Ho, 2011e, p. 644). Broadly means the people of the whole country. He has approached from human rights and based on human liberty to affirm the right of independence and freedom for the Vietnamese people. Specifically in the 1945 Declaration of Independence, President Ho Chi Minh used the method of logical reasoning, quoting an immortal statement in the Declaration of Independence (1776): "Everyone is born has equal rights. The Creator gives them rights that cannot be inviolable; in those rights, the right to life, the right to freedom and

the right to seek happiness". He extended from that sentence to make a truthful argument: "All peoples in the world are born equal; every nation has the right to life, the right to happiness and the right to freedom" (Ho, 2011d, p. 1).

Ho Chi Minh's recognition and incorporation of the ideals expressed in the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America into the Declaration of Independence of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam is a significant and strategic move. By drawing parallels between the struggles for independence of both nations and invoking the principles of democracy and equality championed by the United States, Ho Chi Minh aimed to garner international support for Vietnam's cause and highlight the universal nature of the quest for freedom and self-determination.

The quotation from the American Declaration of Independence, particularly the assertion that "all men are created equal" and endowed with certain unalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, resonated deeply with Ho Chi Minh's vision for Vietnam. Despite the historical context of the phrase in the United States, where it initially applied only to white, property-owning men, Ho Chi Minh interpreted it more broadly, extending its principles to encompass all people regardless of race or social status. This reinterpretation reflects the progressive and inclusive values of Ho Chi Minh's leadership and underscores his commitment to human rights and equality.

Moreover, by referencing the United States' role as a champion of democracy and independence, Ho Chi Minh sought to appeal to American ideals and values, thereby potentially gaining sympathy and support from the American public and government. Additionally, highlighting the historical connection between the struggles of the United States and Vietnam for independence reinforces the narrative of solidarity among nations fighting against colonialism and oppression. Overall, Ho Chi Minh's strategic use of rhetoric and symbolism from the American Declaration of Independence not only underscored the universality of the struggle for freedom but also aimed to leverage international support for Vietnam's cause while emphasizing the shared values and aspirations of both nations.

To further emphasize the truthfulness and universality of this argument, he further cites the essential ideological content of the French Revolution's Declaration of Human Rights and Civil Rights (1791): "People are born free and equality of rights; and always freedom and equality of interests" (Ho, 2011d, p. 1).

In the course of human history, human freedoms and equality are the human ideal, a symbol of civilization. The fight for human freedom and equality in particular and of each nation in general is a humanistic goal, a common ideal of progressive humanity. By quoting the Declarations of the United States and France, Ho Chi Minh wanted to emphasize that those divine rights were objective reality. At the same time, with this quote, he has put Vietnam's struggle for independence and freedom into the stream of progressive human history. Ho Chi Minh made logical deductions on the basis of practice and history. The word "all people" is extended to "all peoples". Thus, according to him, the human right to freedom and happiness relates dialectically and is the basis for ensuring national independence. He pointed out an obvious truth that human rights and national rights are always closely linked, dialectically united. Accordingly, like all nations in the world, the Vietnamese people must also have those legitimate rights. This is Ho Chi Minh's correct and creative thesis and thought.

Independence, freedom is an inviolable spiritual right. He quotes the immortal content from the Declaration of the Rights of the French Revolution and the Declaration of Independence of the United States that once raised human rights, national rights to affirm truth and law human development says: "The Creator gives them rights that cannot be inviolable" (Ho, 2011d, p. 1). A.L.A Patti, an American staffing officer in the OSS, who was invited by Ho Chi Minh to consult on the Declaration of Independence, wrote in *Why Vietnam* that he was extremely surprised when President Ho Chi Minh I used a sentence in the Declaration of America as a reference to the Declaration of the Vietnamese people: "I stopped the translator and turned to ask Mr. Ho if he really intended to use that sentence in the version. His declaration is not... He asked me softly: "Can't I use that question"? I felt embarrassed and confused: "Of course!" (Archimedes, 2007, p.381-382).

Before the outbreak of the August Revolution, the schemes of invasion and expansion, overthrow and destructive siege of the imperialist and their henchmen had not ended, but on the contrary were more complicated and dangerous. We know that, in 1945, the French colonialists were trying to return to invade our country, directly threatening the independence and territorial integrity of Vietnam. Meanwhile, although the US has not yet enough conditions to invade Vietnam, it is supporting the ROC troops into our country. After that, the US gradually lifted the French port to invade Vietnam. With foresight, vision, sensitivity, understanding of historical circumstances, nature and conspiracy of the forces that have been, are and will be implementing in the territory of Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh is fully aware of the situation "thousand pounds hanging hair" in keeping the background independent. Therefore, citing the "immortal" sentences of the United States and France, Ho Chi Minh also wanted to express an implication: to immediately use the noble reason, "truth can not be invaded" but the French people as well as the American people poured a lot of new blood, sharp weapons, against the very conspiracy of those who are trying to invade Vietnam. This can be seen as a delicate reminder, for France and the US as well as other forces, do not continue to contradict yourself, go against the ideals of freedom, independence, equality, charity that they used and continue to want to represent, if they carry out the plot of colonization again in Vietnam. From this argument, Ho Chi Minh came to declare: "All peoples in the world are born equal, every nation has the right to life, the right to happiness and the right to freedom". However, Vietnam must also have all of these rights. "Those are undeniable truths" (Ho, 2011d, p. 1).

Historical reality has proved that the success of the August Revolution is the result of so many struggles and sacrifices of the people of Vietnam. The 1945 Declaration of Independence provides convincing evidence to emphasize the indispensable nature of the independence and freedom of the Vietnamese people that countries cannot deny: "The truth is from the autumn of 1940, our country became a Japanese colony, not a French colony. When Japan surrendered to the Allies, our people all over the country rebelled to take power, founding the Democratic Republic of Vietnam; the truth is our people took back Vietnam from Japan, not from the French; France ran, Japan surrendered, King Bao Dai abdicated. Our people had knocked down the chains of colonialism for nearly 100 years to create Vietnam. The South is independent. Our people overthrew the monarchy in decades and established the Democratic Republican regime" (Ho, 2011d, p. 2-3).

Especially in the 1945 Independence Declaration, Ho Chi Minh also clearly stated: "our people regained the country of Vietnam" to affirm that the Vietnamese people are inherently under the

inviolable ownership of the Vietnamese people. Due to being robbed and oppressed, the Vietnamese had to shed blood and blood to "regain" that freedom and independence. "A people that has bravely opposed French slavery for more than 80 years, a people has bravely sided with the Allies against the fascist for many years, that people must be free! Create!". (Ho, 2011d, p. 2-3).

The country of Vietnam has the right to enjoy freedom and independence, and in fact has become a free and independent country. Thus, the Declaration of Independence has affirmed to the public that all acts of infringing upon the independence and sovereignty of Vietnam violate international law, contrary to the aspirations of the Vietnamese people, the trend of progress of mankind. Therefore, "the entire Vietnamese nation is determined to bring all spirit and force, life and wealth to maintain that freedom of independence". In other words, the right to independence and freedom of the nation in general and of Vietnam in particular is sacred and inviolable. When we regained our independence, "we would rather sacrifice everything, but definitely refuse to lose our country, and definitely refuse to be slaves" (Ho, 2011d, p. 440). Reality shows that, without independence, there will never be freedom, happiness. A.L.A Patti added that, in the Declaration of Independence, when quoting the immortal demand from the Declaration of the United States of America, Ho Chi Minh changed the position of the words "freedom" and "right to life", He explained: "Yes, there cannot be freedom without the right to live, nor can there be happiness without freedom". Thus, in Ho Chi Minh's thought, national independence must be associated with freedom, democracy and happiness of the people. Independence is the prerequisite for freedom, democracy and happiness. This argument also clearly shows his thought of ceaseless revolution: liberating the people to proceed to class liberation, human liberation. Although the Declaration of Independence in 1945 was brief, President Ho Chi Minh used the word "Democratic Republic" three times to confirm the birth of a new progressive regime in the territory of Vietnam. According to him, one of the manifestations of national independence was "the government was in the hands of the people"; "After expelling the French imperialism, Japan, it will establish the people's government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam...That government is elected by the national congress". In the 1945 Declaration of Independence, Ho Chi Minh's thoughts were summarized into clear and solemn arguments declaring to the world that the Vietnamese people had: "established the Democratic Republic of the Republic". This declaration sets a milestone, giving birth to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, bringing the Vietnamese people into a new era - the era of independence, freedom and happiness.

National independence encompasses the rights of freedoms, democracy and the people's pursuit of happiness. According to Ho Chi Minh's conception, the right to independence, freedom and happiness of the nation includes the right to life and the right to seek happiness of each person. "Freedom for my people, independence for my country, that's all I want; that's all I understand" (Tran, 1994, p. 44). In fact, all his life he fought for those divine, lofty rights. In the Declaration of Independence 194 these ideas are boldly expressed in the content of comprehensive and radical criticism of colonialism. Ho Chi Minh quoted a content in the Declaration of Human Rights and Civil Rights of the French revolution as a premise to point out contradictions and inequalities: "Yet for over 80 years, the French colonialists have benefited. Using the flags of freedom, equality, charity, to rob our country, oppress our people . . . Politically, they absolutely do not give our people any democratic freedom; They enforce the laws They set up three different regimes in Central,

South and North to prevent the unification of our country, to prevent our people from unifying; They set up more prisons than schools. They kill our patriots, they bathe our revolts in pools of blood; they bind public opinion, enforce foolish policies; they use drugs and alcohol to degrade our race. Economically, they exploit our people to the bone marrow... our people bear two layers of chains: France and Japan. Since then, our people are more miserable and poor" (Ho, 2011d, p. 1).

Reality shows that, without independence, there will never be freedom, happiness. ALA Patti added a detail, in the Declaration of Independence, citing the immortal demand from the Declaration of the United States of America, Ho Chi Minh changed the position of the words "freedom" and "right to life", He explained: "Yes, there cannot be freedom without the right to live, nor can there be happiness without freedom" (Archimedes, 2007, p.381-382). Thus, in Ho Chi Minh's thought, national independence must be associated with freedom, democracy and happiness of the people. Independence is the prerequisite for freedom, democracy and happiness. This thesis also clearly shows his thought of ceaseless revolution: liberating the people to proceed to class liberation, human liberation. Although the Declaration of Independence in 1945 was brief, President Ho Chi Minh used the word "democratic Republic of Vietnam" three times to confirm the birth of a new progressive regime in the territory of Vietnam. According to him, one of the manifestations of national independence was that "the government was in the hands of the people" (Ho, 2010d, p. 43). After expelling the French imperialism, Japan, it will establish the people's government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam... That government is elected by the national congress" (Ho, 2011f, p.150). In the 1945 Declaration of Independence, Ho Chi Minh's thoughts were summarized into clear and solemn arguments declaring to the world that the Vietnamese people had: "Established the Democratic Republic of the Republic" (Ho, 2011b: 2). This declaration sets a milestone, giving birth to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, bringing the Vietnamese people into a new era - the era of independence, freedom and happiness.

People who live in an independent country can enjoy freedom, prosperity, and happiness. That is the quality of life of the people in the new regime. National independence, in the end how to bring freedom and happiness to all people. In other words, independence, freedom, happiness is the goal of fighting, the driving force that creates the strength to win. "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom" (Ho, 2011i: 108). Immediately after the date of declaration of independence (September 3, 1945), in the priority and urgent program of the new administration, President Ho Chi Minh proposed the policy of organizing the general election according to the popular suffrage regime elect the National Assembly to issue the constitution. On November 9, 1946, the first People's Democratic National Constitution in the nation's history was passed by the 1st National Assembly, which clearly states: "All domestic authority belongs to the whole. People, regardless of race, girl, boy, wealth, class, religion... Things related to the national destiny will make the people decide, if two-thirds of the total number of congressmen agree" (Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, 2020). It can be said that the 1945 Declaration of Independence is a legal document on human rights, about the struggle for spiritual interests between ethnic groups and each people of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, demonstrating the concentration in the right to life, equal rights, liberty, the right to pursue happiness.

Independence and freedom are also manifested in self-determination and equality between peoples. Eequal rights among ethnic groups. As early as 1919, Nguyen Ai Quoc wrote: "The

world will only have ultimate peace when all the peoples come to an agreement with each other to destroy the imperialist monster everywhere they meet it" (Ho, 2011a, p.1). The Declaration of Independence of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam began with an immortal quote from the Declaration of Independence of the United States and the Declaration of Human Rights and Civil Rights of France. This invocation is intended to affirm Vietnam's equal rights with the peoples of the world. According to him, equality among ethnic groups here is first of all the equality of "right to life, right to happiness and right to freedom" (Ho, 2011d, p. 1).

Stemming from the universal truths outlined in the two American Declarations of Independence and the French Declaration of Human Rights and Civil Rights to come to a logical and dialectic conclusion: "All the peoples of the world Gender is born equal; every nation has the right to life, the right to happiness and the right to freedom" (Ho, 2011d, p. 1). This also wants to declare that the Declaration of Independence of Vietnam is inheriting popular ideas and values and is the achievement of human civilization. In 1945, when the French-Japanese imperialism and fascism caused devastating corruption to the Vietnamese people, the Declaration of Independence with contents affirmed human rights and the right to freedom and independence. The nation for Vietnam can be seen as a joint statement for the oppressed and exploited people of the aspiration of freedom and independence, equality and happiness.

On the other hand, considering the historical circumstances at that time, the victory of the August Revolution - the first people's democratic revolution in Southeast Asia, but in the world its influence, due to many weaknesses subjective and objective factors are different, still not have a big echo. Most of the world still does not know about an independent Vietnam. The prestige and influence of our country in the international arena have not been confirmed. The colonial and imperialist forces even did not want an independent Vietnam. Therefore, the quoting of the immortal declarations that the entire humanity has honored as the theme to proclaim Vietnam's independence, is a very clever, sensitive and profound way to create a "legal corridor" to ensure the independence, freedom and equality for Vietnam.

Shortly after declaring independence, President Ho Chi Minh continued to speak with the desire that Vietnam would be treated equally: "Following the example of the US Revolution of 1776, the August Revolution fought autonomy against foreign aggression. Like the French Revolution of 1789, the August Revolution practiced the ideal: Freedom, Equality, and Charity Following the China 1911 Revolution, the August Revolution implemented nationalism, civil rights, and people" (Ho, 2011e: 218); "The Vietnamese people welcomed the Allies into Vietnam to disarm the Japanese, but firmly opposed the French pulling into Vietnam, for their purpose was only to restrain the Vietnamese people into the first round of servitude Again" (Ho, 2011h, p. 10).

The 1945 Declaration of Independence stated that Vietnam would "completely break away from colonial relations with France" (Ho, 2011c, p. 3). However, the escape here is the escape from the colonial regime, the northern imperialists, and the exploitation of the Vietnamese people. Escape for independence and affirm equal rights among peoples, not seek isolation: "The Allies recognized the principles of equal nationalism at the Conferences of Teresa and

Former Kim Son, decided not to can not recognize the independence of the Vietnamese people". Because "Vietnam has the right to enjoy freedom and independence, and in fact has become a free and independent country" (Ho, 2011c, p. 3). The act of "sided with the Allies" of Vietnam further affirms that the birth of the independent Democratic Republic of Vietnam is not just an important political - legal event for the history of the Vietnamese nation. National self-determination. National self-determination is the thesis of modern international law mentioned by Ho Chi Minh in the 1945 Declaration of Independence. According to him, the self-determination of the peoples of Vietnam is basically expressed in the contents after:

Vietnam was really freed from the yoke of colonialism, imperialism and exploitation. This is the basis to ensure self-determination for the Vietnamese people.

From denunciation to rejection of the "protection" regime of colonialism, French imperialism and Japanese fascism in Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh declared: "Therefore, we, provisionally Chinh the government of the new Vietnam country, a representative for the entire Vietnamese people, declared a complete break from relations with France, abolished all the treaties that France had signed on Vietnam, and all French privileges above Vietnam country" (Ho, 2011d, p.3).

The independent Vietnam must be respected and have the right to live in freedom and peace.

"All nations in the world are born equal; every nation has the right to life, the right to happiness and the right to freedom" (Ho, 2011d, p. 1).

Vietnam must have full authority to decide on its internal governance, choose its national-national development path as well as have the right to equally participate in foreign affairs in solving common problems.

Through the 1945 Independence Declaration, Ho Chi Minh formally proclaimed to the world: "Our people have demolished the chains of colonialism for nearly 100 years to build an independent Vietnam. Our people overthrew the regime again the monarchy of decades that established the Democratic Republican regime". This clearly affirms the development path of Vietnam in the form of a democratic republic, with a state of the people, by the people and for the people.

Historical and realistic values independence and freedom in Ho Chi Minh's 1945 Declaration of Independence

The historical context you've provided highlights the ongoing struggles for self-determination and sovereignty faced by nations, including Vietnam, in the contemporary world. The examples you've cited, particularly concerning China's assertiveness in territorial disputes and its growing influence through initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), underscore the complexities and challenges of navigating international relations in the 21st century. China's expansionist policies and assertive behavior in territorial disputes have raised concerns among its neighbors and the international community. The disputes over the South China Sea islands, the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands, and others reflect not only historical tensions but also contemporary power dynamics and geopolitical ambitions. China's "big country diplomacy" and "new big country relations" initiatives, along with the BRI, demonstrate its efforts to

expand its influence and shape the global order according to its interests. The concept of "debt-trap diplomacy" associated with Chinese projects in various countries raises concerns about China's motives and the potential for neocolonial exploitation. While infrastructure projects under the BRI can offer economic benefits to participating countries, there are also concerns about debt burdens, lack of transparency, and environmental and social impacts associated with these projects. The ultimate goal of China to fulfill its "Chinese dream" and assert its hegemony in the world by 2049, the 100th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, reflects a vision of global power and influence that may conflict with the interests and sovereignty of other nations. In this context, nations like Vietnam must navigate complex geopolitical dynamics, assert their sovereignty, and protect their interests while also engaging diplomatically with regional and global powers. The legacy of struggles for independence and self-determination, as exemplified by Ho Chi Minh's Declaration of Independence, remains relevant as nations continue to assert their rights and sovereignty in the face of contemporary challenges.

Considering the historical context of humanity after the birth of the 1945 Declaration of Independence, the Vietnamese still have to continue to fight to regain the right of self-determination for their people. Ethnic oppression still exists in the world until now and has increasingly manifested through complex forms. For example, with Vietnam's neighbor China, has now "improved" relations with 14 neighboring countries, but has not really trusted any country - and vice versa. "Since 1949, China has been in contact with Russia, engaged in war with the United Nations in Korea, with India, and with Vietnam . . . China has loudly claimed sovereignty over the South China Sea, perhaps because of its maritime potential. Over the past 36 years, China has been in conflict over the Hoang Sa archipelago with Vietnam (1974); on Hoang Sa with Vietnam (1988) and the Philippines (1994); with South Korea on Socotra Rock (2006); and with Japan on Okinotori Islands (2004) and Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands (2010)" (Nguyen, 2013). Notably in recent times, the new point in the foreign policy of the Xi Jinping government can be expressed in two concepts "big country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics" and "new big country relations". On the other hand, "Debt-trap diplomacy" with Chinese projects in Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Malaysia... "has created concerns about China's" neo-colonialism "in these regions" (Tran & Dang, 2020, p. 1). The Belt and Road Strategy (BRI) is an "initiative" connecting China's land, sea and air infrastructure between China and the world. "All of the above objectives, if successful, will be mutual and help China succeed, the ultimate goal of 2049, the 100th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, China will fulfill the Chinese dream, back to the role of leading and hegemony in the world" (Trinh, 2020, p. 48).

As for Russia today, the Vladimir Putin Government also has a drastic change in direction, when prioritizing its foreign policy during the twenty-first century is "rotating the axis to the East". Russia established a Ministry of Development of the Far East, specializing in large-scale tasks in this direction to advise and advise the government. During this period Russia waged war with Georgia (2008) in recognition of independence for South Ossetia and Abkhazia, while North Ossetia was a Russian republic, and annexed Crimea into the Russian Federation and

provoking separatism conflict in Ukraine and continued intervention in Xiri, Turkey as well as the Middle East and North Africa.

Meanwhile, if only after 9/11/2001, the Washington government gave Iraq a pro-Iran Shiite government, helping to restore the Taliban movement in Afghanistan and contribute to the growth of a branch. The Taliban in the region along the Pakistani border. Clearly, the US administration has contributed to the turmoil and growing poverty throughout the Middle East. President Bush has launched two wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, with limited attacks on three other countries: Yemen, Pakistan and Somalia. Colonel Tim Nye, spokesperson for the US Special Operations Command revealed: "Every day the elite US squadrons are on duty in 70 countries, and by the end of 2011, the numbers are can be up to 120 countries" (Nguyen, 2013). The issue of the South China Sea still becomes one of the most important contents of the US Asia-Pacific policy since the Cold War, which is reflected in the move to change the stance from "not involved". Participate in a level manner "in the 90s of the twentieth century to" actively involved".

Through some specific examples mentioned above, although not enough, it also shows that independence and freedom have not become a reality in many residential areas on this planet since 1945. It can be said, on the world side. A humiliating reality still exists in the world today. It is war, local conflict still happens, terrorism and cruelty to the human right to life. In particular, a big country with extreme nationalism and interests, blatantly invades the independence, sovereignty of territory, territorial waters, islands of small countries, in defiance of ethics, reason and international law. That fact destabilizes the international and regional situation, threatens peace, cooperation and development. Nations and peoples need to unite, act unified, strive for a world of peace, cooperation, friendliness and development. Whether big or small countries must respect each other's sovereignty, on the basis of real history and international law. In that process, human history also witnessed the rise of ruled peoples to reclaim their independence and freedom. After 1945, in Africa, Asia and Latin America, which had been enslaved by the European and American empires more than a century earlier, there was room for the creation of more than 100 new nations. In other words, in the current globalization context, the world and the regional situation still has many complicated and unpredictable developments, international relations have both advantages and challenges today, The Department has determined that the ultimate goal is to protect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the sea and islands associated with ensuring human rights, a peaceful, prosperous, and happy life for everyone.

Practices that have been happening in the world today have increasingly confirmed the current significance of Ho Chi Minh's thought on independence and freedom in the 1945 Declaration of Independence. True to UNESCO in the Resolution of the 24th session (1987) honored Ho Chi Minh as "Vietnam's eminent hero of national liberation, outstanding cultural house" also affirmed: "Ho Chi Minh's thought represents the aspirations of all nations to assert their foundation. Their unifying culture and promote mutual understanding ". The Declaration is truly a document of epochal significance and of high theoretical value when it contains in it the universal truth of humanity about human rights and the rights of peoples, clearly showing a thesis in the process of human history: where there is oppression, there is struggle. In other

words, the 1945 Declaration of Independence has transcendental significance, when Ho Chi Minh's ideas and views on independence and freedom still remain valid. Particularly for Vietnam, the spirit, aspiration, cause and culture of Vietnam that President Ho Chi Minh expressed in the Declaration of Independence are fundamental values for Vietnam to successfully integrate into the world and make friends with all countries, do not make animosity towards anyone. It is the dialectical unity between the right to national independence and the right to life of each human being. Because up to now, that thought is still the expression between the aspiration to live in peace and freedom. In the context of the current complicated developments of infringement, sovereignty disputes and territorial integrity, more than ever, it is necessary to thoroughly understand Ho Chi Minh's thought in the Declaration of Independence to firmly hold a position as a in the fight to protect independence, sovereignty and freedom, happiness. It is the inheritance and continuation of the resilient and indomitable will of the Vietnamese people that, 76 years ago, President Ho Chi Minh eloquently affirmed: "The country of Vietnam has the right to freedom and independence, and it truly became a free and independent country. Therefore, generations of Vietnamese today have the right to be proud of the revolutionary achievements of their fathers during the August Revolution of 1945 and the obligation and responsibility to take all mind and strength to protect that historical achievement" (Ho, 2011d, p. 3).

Conclusion

The Declaration of Independence of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, as articulated by Ho Chi Minh in 1945, carries profound and enduring messages that resonate across generations of Vietnamese people. It serves as a sacred oath, reminding each successive generation of their duty to safeguard the independence, freedom, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the Vietnamese homeland. Over the past 76 years, with more than three decades of national reform, the Vietnamese people have deepened their appreciation for the values of independence and freedom, as well as the profound insights of Ho Chi Minh's thought on human rights and national liberation. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam is steadfastly committed to the goal of building a prosperous, strong, democratic, fair, and civilized nation, reflecting the aspirations of the Vietnamese people as articulated in the Declaration of Independence. In the face of the challenges and opportunities presented by the international landscape, the spirit, aspirations, righteousness, and culture embodied in the 1945 Declaration continue to guide the actions of the Vietnamese Party, State, and people in the defense and development of the Fatherland. The Declaration's enduring relevance lies in its encapsulation of universal values pertaining to the rights to happiness, independence, and freedom for all peoples. As Vietnam progresses into the future, the principles articulated in the Declaration of Independence serve as a beacon, guiding the nation towards the realization of its goals while upholding the rights and dignity of its people. The Declaration stands as a testament to the timeless ideals of justice, freedom, and self-determination, resonating not only within Vietnam but also echoing across the broader landscape of humanity.

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