

THE THREE GREATEST PERILS JEOPARDIZING THE FUTURE OF THE VIETNAMESE

By Tôn Thất Thiện

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The current communist regime and the policies that the leaders of the Communist Party are pursuing blindly have placed the Vietnamese people before three greatest perils – transforming them into lethargic and dimwitted scoundrels – and the frightful results, if they exceed a certain level, will be irreversible and the people will be pushed backward to a savage state.

Through the information gathered from many different sources, at home and abroad, we could see a pattern clearly emerging in Vietnam: the pattern of a country and a society no longer with any foundation in intellect, knowledge, ethics, legal and administrative structures in order to survive and develop. The Vietnamese people are being dragged along by the flood of the existentialist philosophy. Vietnamese people's intellect, conscience, pride, and dignity are being eclipsed and severely debilitated.

A people becoming lethargic

Timid: not daring to oppose; not daring to protest; not daring to speak out their disagreement; not daring to have their own opinions; and not daring to think.

Aping: speaking as if one talked with power and authority, and saying only what the authorities allow.

Eluding and evading: saying nothing about an obviously erroneous point of view; remaining completely silent on policies which are unsuitable and unmistakably detrimental to the country.

Indifferent: not defending people who are unjustly oppressed; not speaking out nor complaining about injustice, even for themselves.

The above attitudes can be summarized in one word: lethargy.

Through 4000 years of history, the Vietnamese have never faced the threat of becoming so severely lethargic. During the periods of crushing oppression, even for several centuries under the domination of China, a giant and aggressive neighboring country with a desire to annex and annihilate Vietnam, the Vietnamese had never lost their fine virtues. During the 100 years of French colonialism, in spite of the loss of their national sovereignty, the Vietnamese had never completely lost the virtues necessary for the self-respect, dignity, survival and development for a country and a people. Today, national sovereignty has been regained, but what is more important than sovereignty in order to rebuild the country is being annihilated! Instead of being truly liberated, the Vietnamese are now victim of the peril of becoming lethargic, continuing to live under slavery conditions, but to a neocolonial class, the "local" colonialist, that a Vietnamese scholar called "native colonialist" (Buu Sao, Angst of the Vietnamese of Both Shores, Publisher Tan Lac, New York, 1994, p. 12).

A people becoming dimwitted

A second special condition is that people who are currently living in Vietnam are almost ignorant of events happening in the country, even around them, and these very people are surprised why, from abroad, we know more about the domestic situation, especially "political" developments.

Besides, everyone knows that the Vietnamese education is falling into an alarming state. A large number of children cannot attend school because their family is unable to pay the tuition fee; the very small number of schools; the overcrowded classrooms; the critical shortage of teachers, a great number of whom have to leave their profession for private businesses in order to make ends meet; lack of updated educational materials required to catch up with international standards, etc.

Over and beyond the above difficulties and deprivation, the condescending attitude toward intellectuals by Stalin and Mao Zedong -- that Mr. Ho has stuffed in the mind of his communist cadres since the creation of the Party -- is still saturating the whole country. Whoever has done some routine research probably know about the policy by Lenin and Stalin to eliminate intellectuals and the bourgeois class that Mr. Ho had absorbed in an "exemplary manner" during his study/ instruction period in Moscow and imported into Vietnam in the period 1925-1945. For Mao Zedong, his concept that "intellectuals are not even equal to excrements" was extensively disseminated among the rank-and-file communist party cadres and is still the decisive criterion for employing people, and the employment for many cadres who are currently holding high-ranking and important positions in the Party and State.

Finally, as a pretext to oppose the "peaceful evolution ", the Party leaders are adopting a policy of mind control and severe repression over groups of people with ideas that they consider as "divergent", not in line with their policy to "resolutely follow the socialist path" that the Party has approved during the recent VIII Congress.

Under the above rules, policies, and repressive measures, the Vietnamese people could not absorb the flow of new ideas and knowledge necessary to make correct decisions, to modernize the country so as to move forward rapidly and to catch up with advanced countries. On the contrary, the Vietnamese people are being made more and more stupid. Stupidity leads to ignorance, foolishness, and idiocy, and in the end, going back to the state of "birds and beasts."

A people becoming scoundrel

A third danger is the immoral, unprincipled, undisciplined, and unorganized state. State employees and party officials, including those in the leadership ranks, do not have any sense of responsibility and concern for the protection of national resources and the provision of essential public services. Cadres and civil servants have no sense of justice, and only know about profiteering, having power but no ethics, competing among themselves in the corruption race, extorting like a double-headed sucking leech – one sucking away the national resources, the other people's property. Among the inhabitants, it is considered plainly normal when people cheat each other (including kindred), and strip one another of properties; there is no longer any rules or laws; there is no more benevolence and righteousness in the conduct toward one another.

The term trust is a term devoid of content, which no one speaks of as a value to be respected and appreciated. Father and son relationship, friendship among friends, teacher and student relationship are waning. Every man/woman is for himself/herself, no one has compassion for anyone, no one cares for

anyone, no one believes in anyone, no one can rely on anyone. The whole nation and the whole society are being turned into scoundrel, living according to the law of the jungle.

The above situation is the results of intimidating and terrorist policies, pushing people into just toiling for daily meals, and avoiding the dangers of being oppressed, or imprisonment. They are forced to do illegal things and to live outside the law. Their biggest concern is how to avoid the tyranny and the authority of the Party in order to survive. They become brazen and shameless, turning into scoundrels in order to make a living. For them, there is nothing to honor or to respect. If the government is inhuman, one is justified to be a scoundrel! The rulers set the example and the ruled will imitate and follow. The people of the past saw this danger very clearly and had warned: *Fish begins to stink at the head*. If the rulers above are crooked/unrighteous, the people they rule will subsequently ignore society rules and regulations.

Whose responsibility?

The above situation is currently causing the disintegration of Vietnamese society and threatening the future of the next generations. Who is responsible for this outcome? Why Vietnam and the Vietnamese people, who are a steadfast, intelligent and civilized people are facing the danger of becoming a lethargic and stupid nation filled with scoundrels? This is a question that each Vietnamese, especially the communists -- who are the leaders with far-reaching power in guiding the nation and the people, and who are naturally responsible for whatever happens to the people and the country -- must answer.

In the search for answers to these questions, there is one fact that no one can deny: That is this situation which can only be observed since the day the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) took complete control of the Vietnamese territory and imposed its complete dictatorship over the whole country. This fact poses the inevitable question: does the current CPV leadership team wants to transform the Vietnamese into a people who are lethargic, stupid and scoundrels in order to be able to dominate them easily? One has the impression of reading the book The Trial of the French Colonialist by Nguyen Ai Quoc; where the word "French" is replaced by "Vietnamese Communist": The Trial of the Vietnamese Communist Colonialist.

At any rate, this situation has happened and continued because during the years 1945-1950, a number of Vietnamese people between the age of 18-30, loving their country and their people, aspiring to fight for national independence and idealistically wishing to bring about liberty and equality to the society, had followed the Viet Minh and subsequently the CPV. Only with their wholehearted support and dedicated collaboration could the CPV seize power, consolidate it, expand it and acquire more strength, means and conditions to oppress the Vietnamese people, creating today's situation.

May be, as Messrs. Nguyen Ho, Vu Can and Tran Do explained, from the day they joined the Party, the youngsters full of ideal and goodwill have become prisoners of the Party and forced to become hypocrites. At any rate, purposely or unintentionally, they have contributed enormously to the task of turning the Vietnamese into a people who are lethargic, stupid and scoundrels. Today, they themselves are at more risk of becoming lethargic, stupid and scoundrels than anyone. They are the ones who hold the obligation to lead the task of searching for the way out.

The way out

The way out is at a first glance very difficult because they have manoeuvred themselves into a dead end by acquiescing absolutely to the Party discipline. However, the job is really very easy done. They only need to consider the reason why they followed the Viet Minh and joined the CPV. Between them and the party, was there any spiritual commitment to a social contract through the Declaration of Independence of September 1945 and the Constitution of November 9, 1946? According to these two documents, they were only bound by two objectives: independence and democracy. There was absolutely no mention of the establishment of a socialist regime and dictatorship of the proletariat under a Marxist-Leninist ideology and in the name of "the proletariat class", exercising discrimination and repression towards their own compatriots.

The Party already tore the said contract in 1951, when it announced publically its allegiance to socialism, its adoption of Marxism-Leninism and its firm stand in the rank of the communist bloc. Thus, they are no longer bound to the Party and have the right to free themselves and to contribute to the national liberation movement, like Nguyen Ho, Ha Si Phu, Tieu Dao Bao Cu, Hoang Minh Chinh and some others who did so. If they continue to support the current policies of the Communist Party, they will be guilty in the face of history for their effective contribution to the business of turning the Vietnamese into a bunch of lethargic and stupid scoundrels, and pushing the Vietnamese into the path of degeneration and perdition.

Ton That Thien

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