



Improving the Critical Thinking Capacity of the Subject Protecting the Ideological Foundation of the Communist Party of Vietnam from a Logical Approach



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Abstract

Critical thinking plays an extremely important role in the awareness and practical activities of people in society in general, and particularly for those who protect the ideological foundation of the Communist Party of Vietnam in the current period. Facing increasingly sophisticated and complex schemes and tactics by hostile forces, this team needs to strive to enhance their critical thinking capacity to ensure the most effective protection of the Party's ideological foundation. Therefore, the study of critical thinking from a logical approach, which suggests requirements and solutions to improve the critical thinking capacity of those protecting the Party's ideological foundation, holds significant theoretical and practical importance. This is aimed at successfully implementing Resolution No. 35-NQ/TW of the 12th Politburo on *Strengthening the protection of the Party's ideological foundation and combating wrong and hostile views in the new situation*.

Keywords: logic; Critical thinking capacity; Party's ideological foundation; Content; Form.

1. Introduction

Since 1986, Vietnam has undergone nearly 40 years of renovation, marked by many historical ups and downs. Over these four decades, under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the country has achieved significant milestones on its path to socialism. The Communist Party of Vietnam has consistently applied Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thought in planning policies and guidelines, and in leading their implementation. Alongside these achievements, it is essential to acknowledge the many difficulties and challenges still facing the Party and the people. Nonetheless, the correctness of Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's thought, and the skillful leadership of the Party, as evidenced by Vietnam's series of socio-economic accomplishments over the past decades, are undeniable.

However, dissenting voices continue to attack the Party's ideological foundation and deny Vietnam's path to socialism. The Resolution of the 13th National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam states: "Strengthen the protection of the Party's ideological foundation, resolutely and regularly fight against wrong and hostile views, political opportunism; combat, prevent, and repel the deterioration of political ideology, ethics, lifestyle, and manifestations of 'self-evolution' and 'self-transformation' within the Party" (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2021). Thus, strengthening the protection of the Party's ideological foundation in the current period is a necessary and urgent task.

Consequently, the role of the personnel performing this work becomes even more significant in the current context. For this work to be carried out effectively and meet the requirements, selecting a scientific approach to identify and guide the enhancement of critical thinking capacity for those protecting the Party's ideological foundation is essential. Addressing this issue, the theoretical content of logic provides a systematic, comprehensive, and scientific approach to critical thinking and critical thinking capacity. This will help identify the critical thinking

capacity of those protecting the Party's ideological foundation and guide recommendations to improve this capacity in the current period.

2. Literature Review

Starting from the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam's Resolution 35-NQ/TW dated October 22, 2018, on strengthening the protection of the Party's ideological foundation and combating wrong and hostile views in the new situation, numerous research projects (mainly in Vietnam) have emerged on this topic. These projects can be divided into two main groups:

The first group includes works that provide arguments and evidence to refute views opposing Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's ideology. For instance, Le Quoc Ly's edited book (Le Q. L., 2020) introduces theoretical issues, current situations, methods, and solutions to improve and innovate ways of protecting the Party's ideological foundation up to 2025, with a vision to 2030. Similarly, Mai Duc Ngoc's edited book (Mai, 2022) focuses on theoretical issues regarding orientation, methods, and solutions to protect the Party's ideological foundation on social networks. Nguyen Minh Thang's edited book (Nguyen M. T., 2023), "Identifying and combating wrong and hostile views, protecting the Party's ideological foundation in the new situation", underscores the critical task of protecting the Party's ideological foundation.

The second group emphasizes the function and role of specific groups in protecting the ideological foundation of the Communist Party of Vietnam. Le Van Thang's edited book (Le V. T., 2019) discusses the People's Public Security's role in combating arguments that distort Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thought. It identifies the methods of sabotage used by hostile forces and proposes solutions for improving this work. Nguyen Van Diem and Nguyen The Hanh's scientific paper (Nguyenm, 2023) explores the factors affecting the capacity for scientific criticism among social science and humanities lecturers at military officer schools. In the paper "Building a team of officials in the field of fighting to protect the Party's ideological foundation in the current context" (Nguyen H. P., 2020), author Nguyen Huy Phong highlighted the requirement to build a team of officials dedicated to protecting the Party's ideological foundation. The author then analyzes the factors affecting the construction and development of this team of officials and proposes several solutions to improve the quality of building and developing the team of officials working to protect the Party's ideological foundation.

Through this review, it is evident that protecting the ideological foundation of the Communist Party of Vietnam has been widely discussed. Comprehensive arguments and counterarguments are provided against views opposing Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's ideology. The roles of various groups in this work are also well recognized. However, only Nguyen Van Diem and Nguyen The Hanh's work directly addresses the critical thinking capacity of a specific group (social science and humanities lecturers at military officer schools). This study does not approach critical thinking capacity from a logical perspective and focuses on a limited subject group.

Therefore, this paper will approach critical thinking and the critical thinking capacity of those defending the Party's ideological foundation from a logical perspective. We will propose recommendations to further improve the critical thinking capacity of this team, directly contributing to enhancing the quality and effectiveness of protecting the ideological foundation of the Communist Party of Vietnam in the current period.

3. Methodology

The paper is based on the dialectical materialist methodology of Marxist-Leninist philosophy and the principles of logic to conduct research on critical thinking through its content and form. Clearly identifying what critical thinking is will be a prerequisite for explaining critical thinking capacity. Next, combining quantitative and qualitative methods, through data collected from existing documents on the critical thinking capacity of those protecting the Party's ideological foundation, the author will analyze the role of critical thinking in protecting the Party's ideological foundation in the current period. This analysis will serve as the basis for proposing and suggesting recommendations that will contribute to improving the critical thinking capacity of the aforementioned team in the future, in order to meet the requirements of activities to protect the Party's ideological foundation.

4. Results

4.1. On "Critical Thinking" and "Critical Thinking Capacity" of the Cognitive Subject

The concept of "critical thinking" has been widely and comprehensively studied in Vietnam and around the world. In general, the concepts of critical thinking can be summarized in the following main approaches: "(i) critical thinking is a type of thinking directed towards solving an individual's problem; (ii) critical thinking is "thinking about thinking" or in other words, it expresses reflectiveness in the subject's thinking; (iii) critical thinking as a process of analysis, evaluation, and reasoning to negate or affirm the problems posed by oneself and others; (iv) critical thinking in terms of approaching competencies, skills, and actions that need to be implemented" (Bui, 2021). In this paper, we want to contribute an approach to critical thinking from the perspective of the dialectical unity between the content and form of thinking in terms of logic.

As we all know: "Thinking is an indirect reflection and generalization of objective reality in the human mind, performed by social people in the process of practical activities to change the surrounding world" (Nguyen T. V. and Nguyen, 2020). As a reflection of reality, thinking has a definite reflective content and form. Accordingly, the content of thinking is the rich and diverse knowledge about the objectively real world. The form of thinking is its internal structure, how the parts of thinking combine with each other. Based on this approach, critical thinking can be shaped as follows:

Firstly, in terms of the content of thinking, critical thinking contains knowledge that re-evaluates and normalizes the results of previous thinking/results of other thinking processes. With this perspective, critical thinking “appears” as “thinking about thinking.” In other words, if thinking has the content of reflected reality, then the content of critical thinking is essentially the reflected reality, but more specifically, it is the reality of thinking that is reflected. This thinking reality can be the thinking reality of the individual conducting critical thinking (self-criticizing) or the thinking reality of another individual or group of individuals. In addition, this “reflection” is not an ordinary, general reflection but a reflection aimed at the purpose of reconsidering, re-evaluating, and possibly even leading to criticism of the previous content as the result of past thinking activities in the case of the appearance of conflicting views and the establishment of more reasonable and persuasive content.

Secondly, in terms of the form of thinking, critical thinking is also composed of primary forms of thinking such as concepts, judgments, inferences, and proofs. However, since the content of thinking determines the form of thinking and, in turn, the form of thinking affects the content of thinking, the basic forms of critical thinking, but first of all, concepts and judgments, will be in an opposing relationship, even contradicting previous concepts and judgments that have been made as the object to which critical thinking is aimed. At the same time, it is also because the content determines the form, so proving (in a broad sense, that is, the form of thinking that establishes the truth or falsity of other knowledge based on a specific basis) is the most appropriate form to convey the content of critical thinking. In turn, proof (in the broad sense) involves proof (in the narrow sense, the argument for the veracity of the thesis) and refutation (which is the argument for falsity or unprovability of the thesis). Thus, critical thinking is not merely refuting but also proving the veracity of these differences from those mentioned before to give more comprehensive, accurate, and reasonable content.

In summary, if we look at critical thinking from the perspective of the dialectical unity between the content and form of thinking, it can be affirmed that: *critical thinking is the identification and rejection of contradictions in the reflected reality of thinking, combined with proving the truth and correctness of other theses through forms of thinking and rules of logical thinking, implemented by social people in perception and practical activities.*

With the concept of critical thinking mentioned above, it is necessary to affirm that, although everyone has been, is, and will be thinking about a particular issue, thinking capacity in general and critical thinking capacity, in particular, are not the same among each person; there is even a significant difference between individuals or groups of individuals. Therefore, the stated concept of critical thinking will be a tool to approach critical thinking capacity.

According to the approach of Professor Benjamin Bloom, a competency scale based on cognitive categories was built and published in 1956, according to which capacities are concretized into knowledge, skills, and attitudes. Therefore, the structure of capacity in general and thinking capacity in particular always includes the three essential components mentioned above. However, to form these three components of thinking capacity, thinking qualities cannot be ignored. These are the psychological, physiological, and intellectual qualities that are created and developed in the “survival” of the cognitive subject.

From the identification of critical thinking as above and based on the structure of thinking capacity, the concept of critical thinking capacity of the cognitive subject can be made as follows: *critical thinking capacity is the summation of the subject's thinking qualities, expressed at a certain level of knowledge in a particular field to identify and refute the contradictions in thinking arising in related contents, simultaneously proving the truth and correctness of other theses through the content and form of thinking as well as logical thinking rules, based on an objective and scientific attitude.*

Identifying critical thinking and critical thinking capacity is a prerequisite for identifying the critical thinking capacity of the subject who protects the Party's ideological foundation.

4.2. On “the Critical Thinking Capacity of the Subject Who Protects the Ideological Foundation of the Party”

First of all, to determine the *critical thinking capacity of the subject who defends the ideological foundation of the Party*, we need to have a clear understanding of *the ideological foundation of the Party*, *the protection of the ideological foundation of the Party*, and *the subject who protects the ideological foundation of the Party*.

Firstly, regarding *the Party's ideological foundation*, our Party has clearly defined this through *the Platform for National Construction in the Transitional Period to Socialism* (the 1991 Platform) and has continued to maintain a steadfast stance and unification of views, as expressed in the content of *the Platform for National Construction in the Transitional Period to Socialism* (Supplemented and Developed in 2011): “The Party takes Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's Thought as the ideological foundation and the guideline for action” (Communist Party of Vietnam, 1991); “The Party takes Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's Thought as the ideological foundation and the guideline for action” (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2011).

Secondly, on *protecting the Party's ideological foundation*, it can be seen that: “*Protecting the ideological foundation of the Party is an active, positive, creative, and planned activity of the actors to promote the value of the Party's ideological foundation while fighting against all denials, distortions, and blackening of the Party's ideological foundation*” (Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, 2022).

Thirdly, regarding *the subject who protects the Party's ideological foundation*, our Party has determined: “*Protecting the Party's ideological foundation and fighting against wrong and hostile views is the most important task of the entire Party, the entire army, and the entire people, with press agencies at all levels playing a core role; it is the voluntary and regular work of Party committees, organizations, authorities, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, and socio-political organizations at all levels; of each locality, agency, unit, cadre, and party member, first of all, the leader*” (Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, 2022).

From the notions mentioned above, it can be affirmed that: *the critical thinking capacity of the subject who protects the Party's ideological foundation is the synthesis of the thinking qualities of the subject who protects the Party's ideological foundation, expressed through a level of understanding of Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's Thought, and social practice, to demonstrate the enduring vitality of this scientific theoretical system. At the same time, through forms and rules of logical thinking and based on an objective, scientific attitude, it aims to identify and refute the fallacies that deny and distort the ideological foundation of the Party.*

5. Discussion

Critical thinking is extremely important in the cognitive and practical activities of people and society in all fields. On the front of protecting the Party's ideological foundation, critical thinking plays an even more significant role because it is one of the fundamental factors determining the victory in the fierce battle against the distortion, denial, and blackening of the value of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's ideology through fabricated fallacies by hostile forces.

From a logical approach, a fallacy “occurs when, for some reason, motive, or self-interest, people deliberately misrepresent objective reality to turn false into true, unreasonable into reasonable” (Nguyen H. P., 2020). With the goal of abolishing socialist ideology, abolishing Vietnam's political institutions, abolishing the leadership role of the Communist Party of Vietnam over the State and society, and implementing “peaceful evolution,” hostile forces have aggressively fabricated fallacies to distort, smear, and deny the Party's ideological foundation with various contents. Therefore, to be able to fight and defeat the plots and tricks of hostile forces, in addition to having solid political courage and revolutionary enthusiasm, the subject of protecting the Party's ideological foundation needs to have sharp critical thinking to expose and demolish all fallacies and distorting arguments of hostile forces. Based on the critical thinking approach analyzed above, it is possible to identify the central roles of critical thinking in the activities of the subjects protecting the Party's ideological foundation in the current period as follows:

Firstly, critical thinking helps the defenders of the Party's ideological foundation to clearly identify the fallacies in the anti-Party and distorting arguments of hostile forces regarding Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's ideology, and the guidelines and policies of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

As analyzed above, fallacies appear when thinking makes logical mistakes and violates the manipulations and rules of logical thinking to achieve the set purpose, which is the reactionary purpose of hostile forces. Therefore, critical thinking based on the forms and rules of logical thinking can identify the fallacies of hostile forces and detect the loopholes in their arguments. This identification is essential because without the ability to identify, it is impossible to uncover the distorted and misleading content that the enemy has subtly embedded in each thesis they present. Furthermore, correctly identifying fallacies is a prerequisite for building solid and convincing rebuttal arguments.

Secondly, critical thinking helps the subject who protects the Party's ideological foundation to refute the fallacies in the anti-Party and distorting arguments of hostile forces regarding Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's ideology, and the guidelines and policies of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

Critical thinking's role is not only to correctly identify contradictions and irrationalities in the fallacies of hostile forces but also to logically *refute* those distorting arguments. As we all know, *refutation* is a special type of proof, which is the argument for the falsity of the thesis through valid arguments, specifically the argument for the falsity of the distorting claims that hostile forces make to attack the ideological foundation of the Communist Party of Vietnam. The fallacy will be exposed through refutation due to its lack of conviction, leading to the complete defeat of plots and countermeasures. Critical thinking, with its essential characteristics of logic and rigor, will effectively assist the subjects in protecting the ideological foundation in refuting false information and illogical fallacies presented by hostile forces. At the same time, through refutation, the subjects clearly demonstrate their critical thinking ability and reveal the malice and nature of the opponents.

Thirdly, critical thinking helps the subject protect the Party's ideological foundation by proving the enduring values, scientific and revolutionary nature of Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's ideology, and the correctness of the guidelines and policies of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

As analyzed above regarding the nature of critical thinking, besides identifying and refuting contradictions, critical thinking also proves the truth and correctness of other theses, which in this case, are the enduring value, scientific and revolutionary nature of Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's ideology, and the guidelines and policies of the Communist Party of Vietnam. Similar to refutation, proof (in the narrow sense) needs to ensure certain rules of logic to achieve the set goal, which is an indispensable element of critical thinking. Hostile forces often attack, degrade, and deny the Party's ideological foundation through baseless fallacies. Therefore, proving the value and significance of Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's ideology, and the Party's viewpoints is a staunch counter-argument to the distorting claims made by hostile forces; at the same time, it also creates widespread dissemination of correct conceptions of the Party's ideological foundation to strongly reinforce trust and sentiments among the entire population.

Fourthly, critical thinking helps subjects defending the Party's ideological foundation to self-criticize their own thinking results, directly or indirectly contributing to improving the effectiveness of protecting the Party's ideological foundation in each subject.

Since the object of critical thinking is the reflected reality of thought, it can be the thinking reality of an individual or group of individuals as the object of the reviewer's interaction or the reality of the reviewer's own thinking when they conduct self-criticism. In this case, critical thinking is still shown through identifying and refuting contradictions in fallacies and proving other correct and more reasonable theses. Through self-reflection on

the results of their own thinking, the subject who defends the Party's ideological foundation can directly improve the effectiveness of this work in activities to directly fight against hostile forces or indirectly improve efficiency in related activities, supporting actions to protect the Party's ideological foundation.

Fifthly, critical thinking promotes the creative ability of the subject who protects the Party's ideological foundation, practically proving the value, vitality, and scientific and revolutionary nature of Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's ideology, and the viewpoints of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

It can be seen that creativity is formed from many different factors, including the ability to “take off” from identifying and refuting incorrect, invalid, and unscientific views. From this approach, critical thinking will be a premise to establish and promote the creative ability of each subject, including the subject who protects the Party's ideological foundation. Because it is from identifying and rejecting false claims that the above subject can form new ideas, different approaches, and perspectives on related issues. Then, the views created from new perspectives will be critical in demonstrating the significance and value of the Party's ideological foundation.

In Vietnam, to contribute to improving the capacity of relevant entities to protect the ideological foundation, agencies under the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam have organized “Political essay writing contests to protect the Party's ideological foundation” from 2021 to the present. Over the three iterations of the contest, the quantity and quality of entries have increased significantly. This demonstrates the improvement in qualifications and capacity of those protecting the Party's ideological foundation over the years, including their critical thinking skills.

Specifically, in the first Scientific Essay Writing Contest “Political essay writing contests to protect the Party's ideological foundation”: “After nearly 3 months of launching, from May 19, 2021, to August 15, 2021, there were 8,129 articles submitted to participate in the contest, including 5,691 articles in the scientific magazine category and 2,438 articles in the electronic newspaper category” (Nguyen T. L., 2021).

By the second contest, the quality and quantity of the articles had increased significantly: “After more than 8 months of launching, the contest created a widespread influence in the political system across 63 provinces and cities nationwide, with 116,252 entries. There were 15 units and localities receiving 1,000 works or more, typically the Central Military Commission with 56,243 entries, the Bac Giang Provincial Party Committee with 10,577 entries, the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics with 7,230 articles, the Thanh Hoa Provincial Party Committee with 6,883 articles, the Kien Giang Provincial Party Committee with 6,450 articles, and the Hanoi City Party Committee with 5,488 articles. After receiving the submitted articles, units and localities conducted multiple rounds and levels of screening and evaluation, selecting the best quality works to submit to the central level contest...” (Trung, 2022).

In the third iteration of the contest: “After nearly 9 months of implementation, with more than 301,000 entries, this year's contest has become an extensive political event, creating a widespread influence in the political system across 63 provinces and cities nationwide. By the end of July 31, 2023, the whole country had received 301,365 entries in all 5 types: Magazine, Newspaper, Radio, Television, and Video clips, nearly 3 times more than in 2022. The total number of works received by the Central Organizing Committee was 11,856 works, including: 5,285 works in the Magazine category, 6,059 works in the Newspaper category, 151 works in Radio, 252 in Television, and 109 Video clips. After receiving applications and contest products from units/localities, the Central Contest Organizing Committee conducted the initial screening based on the contest rules and included 3,155 works in the preliminary judging, meeting the requirements of format, presentation, and the contest theme, including 1,412 works in the Magazine category, 1,487 works in the Newspaper category, 77 works in the Radio category, 124 in Television, and 55 Video clips” (Le M. L., 2023).

Thus, it is clear that the Communist Party of Vietnam and the entities involved in protecting its ideological foundation are very aware of the role and significance of this activity. They are always proactive and make efforts to improve their capacity, including critical thinking skills, to carry out the work of protecting the Party's ideological foundation more effectively. The regular organization of the contest over three iterations, with increasing scale and quality, is a clear testament to this commitment. In the new situation, hostile forces are increasingly frenzied in their destruction through various methods, with increasingly sophisticated and malicious conspiracies and tricks. The subject of protecting the Party's ideological foundation needs to meet specific requirements for critical thinking capacity that the current context has posed.

6. Policy Suggestion

6.1. The Requirements for the Critical Thinking Capacity of the Subject Who Protects the Party's Ideological Foundation in the Current Period

From a structural perspective, *capacity* includes *knowledge*, *skills*, and *attitudes*, as analyzed above. Therefore, the requirements for the critical thinking capacity of the subject who defends the Party's ideological foundation in the current period will be analyzed in these three aspects:

Firstly, in terms of knowledge, the subject who protects the Party's ideological foundation needs to meet the following criteria: (1) deeply understand Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's ideology, the Party's guidelines and policies, and state laws; (2) comprehend the socio-economic development of Vietnam from 1986 to the present; (3) master and understand the knowledge of thinking sciences, especially logic (including formal logic and dialectical logic).

Secondly, in terms of skills, the subject who protects the Party's ideological foundation needs to meet the following criteria: (1) apply knowledge in the three fields mentioned above to identify and refute the fallacies and distorting arguments of hostile forces, and prove the value and significance of the Party's ideological foundation; (2)

build models to protect the Party's ideological foundation in various circumstances, especially in cyberspace; (3) supplement and develop Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's ideology in the present day.

Thirdly, in terms of attitude, the subject who protects the Party's ideological foundation needs to meet the following criteria: (1) absolutely believe in Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's ideology, the Party's guidelines, and state policies and laws; (2) firmly fight against false and hostile views aimed at distorting, misrepresenting, and denying the Party's ideological foundation; (3) actively share and spread the values and content of Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's ideology, the Party's guidelines and policies, and state laws widely.

6.2. Some Recommendations to Improve the Critical Thinking Capacity of the Subject Who Protects the Party's Ideological Foundation in the Current Period

Based on the above requirements, we suggest several recommendations to improve the critical thinking capacity of the subject who protects the Party's ideological foundation in the current period. These recommendations are grouped into three primary categories:

Firstly, recommendations related to the knowledge of the subject who protects the Party's ideological foundation:

First, the subject who protects the Party's ideological foundation should actively and diligently study and comprehensively research the content, significance, and values of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's ideology. One of the most effective forms of learning that the subject protecting the Party's ideological foundation should regularly practice is systematically reading and studying the classic works of K. Marx, F. Engels, V.I. Lenin, and President Ho Chi Minh to understand them thoroughly and deeply.

Second, the subject who protects the Party's ideological foundation needs to firmly grasp the Party's guidelines and policies and the state's policies and laws, especially the guiding viewpoints of the Party in the renovation period from 1986 to the present. Similar to the above, the study and research of these contents also need to be conducted actively, voluntarily, regularly, continuously, and seriously, first through research and study sessions to grasp the Party's resolutions. Since our Party takes Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's ideology as the ideological foundation and guideline for action, studying and learning the Party's resolutions is not only a prerequisite for putting the resolution into practice but also helps the subject who protects the Party's ideological foundation to clearly see the creative application of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's ideology by our Party in Vietnamese practice, thereby gaining more sharp "weapons" for the struggle, refuting the distorting arguments of hostile forces.

Third, besides theoretical knowledge about Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's ideology, the subject who protects the Party's ideological foundation must continuously update information on the socio-economic development of the country, especially the significant achievements that Vietnam has achieved in the Doi Moi period from 1986 to the present. These achievements are compelling evidence of our Party's wise and correct adherence to Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's ideology. At the same time, these achievements affirm the Party's creativity and fluency in applying these scientific theories to building and developing the country. Additionally, the subject who protects the ideological foundation needs to clearly and objectively identify the limitations that Vietnam still faces after nearly 40 years of renovation to have a basis to counter the conspiracies and tricks of hostile forces that aim to exaggerate and magnify these negative aspects to incite and upset public opinion and degrade the prestige of our Party.

Fourth, to improve critical thinking ability, the subject who protects the Party's ideological foundation must pay special attention to cultivating knowledge of logic (including formal and dialectical logic). Logic is the science of the forms and laws of correct thinking that lead to the truth. Therefore, learning and researching logic actively and self-disciplinedly will effectively enhance the critical thinking capacity of cognitive subjects.

Secondly, recommendations related to the skills of the subject who protects the Party's ideological foundation:

First, based on existing knowledge, the subject who defends the Party's ideological foundation should practice the skills of identifying and refuting fallacies and distorting arguments posed by hostile forces. Accordingly, the identification of fallacies is reflected in the ability of the subject who defends the Party's ideological foundation to identify the type of fallacy being used by the opponent. This will be the basis for detecting mistakes in the argument and refuting them based on logical rules and laws. To master this skill, the subject who defends the Party's ideological foundation needs to study various types of fallacies and discover the basic fallacies and the main areas or aspects that hostile forces focus on to regularly practice their skills of identifying and refuting fallacies.

Second, based on existing knowledge, the subject who protects the Party's ideological foundation should practice the skills to prove the merit and significance of Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's ideology, and the correctness and creativity of the Communist Party of Vietnam's guidelines and policies. Accordingly, the proof must be conducted scientifically according to the principles and rules of logic with the whole basic structure and following the laws of logical thinking.

Third, based on existing knowledge, the subject who protects the Party's ideological foundation should regularly summarize reality to have a basis for supplementing and developing Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's ideology in the new situation.

Thirdly, recommendations related to the attitude of the subject who protects the Party's ideological foundation:

First, seminars, conferences, and scientific forums with content related to Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's ideology, and the Party's guidelines and policies should be held continuously so that the subject who protects the ideological foundation has the opportunity to participate, research, and learn to understand the value and significance, and strengthen absolute belief in the above-mentioned scientific reasoning system.

Second, propaganda and education should be promoted and renewed to spread and share helpful information and knowledge about the Party's ideological foundation. At the same time, the plots, tricks, and malice of hostile forces should also be exposed and widely condemned and criticized so that the entire population can grasp and strengthen the determination of the subject who protects the Party's ideological foundation in defeating the plots of the opposing forces.

Third, *scientific skepticism* plays a vital role in improving the critical thinking capacity of the subject who protects the Party's ideological foundation. On the one hand, this skepticism will always arise in the face of falsified and fabricated claims made by hostile forces; on the other hand, the subject who protects the Party's ideological foundation needs to think, ponder, and self-critique in the process of preserving the Party's ideological foundation to further improve the quality of this work. Additionally, researching and teaching Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's ideology, the Party's guidelines and policies, and the science of logic need to be given more attention than ever in the current period. These are the fundamental premises for forming a "critical culture" for all classes of society in general and for the subject who protects the Party's ideological foundation in particular.

7. Conclusion

In summary, critical thinking plays a vital role for people and society in general and for the subject who protects the Party's ideological foundation in the current period in particular. From a logical approach, critical thinking is depicted with the essential characteristic of dialectical unity between the content and form of thinking. This is the basis for shaping the critical thinking capacity of the subject who protects the Party's ideological foundation. Hostile forces try to destroy and attack Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's ideology with sophisticated, malicious conspiracies and tricks in the new situation. Therefore, it is necessary to set requirements and propose recommendations to improve the critical thinking capacity of the subject who protects the Party's ideological foundation, making this work more and more effective, serving the construction and defense of the socialist Fatherland effectively in the renovation period.

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