

POLICIES OF RELIGION IN VIETNAM'S IN INTERNATIONAL INTEGRAL

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Abstract: For a long time, the Party and State of Vietnam have always paid attention to religious activities and issued guidelines and policies to create conditions for religions to operate in accordance with the principles, purposes, and the Constitution and the law. The consistent view of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the State of Vietnam is to respect and ensure the people's right to freedom of belief and religion, the right to follow or not to follow religion, and to ensure equality and non-discrimination. to be treated for reasons of religion or belief, and to protect the activities of religious organizations by law. These consistent views have been enshrined in the Constitution, from the 1946 Constitution to the 2013 Constitution.

Keywords: Religion, Religious policy; International integration; Vietnam.

INTRODUCTION

Religion is not only a form of social consciousness, but also a special social phenomenon, so the legal system of each country is interested in this issue.

A good legal system on religion will create a favorable legal corridor to ensure rights and obligations for religious organizations and followers in their activities; At the same time, it is an effective tool for the State to manage.

In the context of deepening international integration, the challenges posed by the Government of Vietnam in dealing with religious issues are increasing, so religious policy in Vietnam has been and continues to be perfected according to the following guidelines. following policy:

Respect and ensure the people's right to freedom of belief and religion and the freedom of non-belief and religion. All citizens have equal rights and obligations before the law, regardless of religion, non-religion or between religions. This is the principle that Uncle Ho and our Party have consistently implemented from 1945 to the present, which is clearly reflected in all the promulgated Vietnamese Constitutions.

Standing together with religious and non-religious compatriots in the unity of the whole people. This policy has created strength to unite all people of all religions in the defense and construction of the Fatherland.

All individuals and organizations of religion and belief must comply with the Constitution and laws and have the obligation to protect the interests of the nation and nation; preserve national independence and sovereignty. This is the principle that has helped religions to harmonize with national movements, showing patriotism and sticking together with the nation.

Religious activities for the benefit of the country and the people, in accordance with the legitimate and legitimate aspirations and interests of believers are guaranteed. This policy has helped religions bring religion into the world, open up religious resources, and promote religious values into the development of the country.

Any act of taking advantage of religious activities to disrupt social order and safety to sabotage the policy of national unity and oppose the State of Vietnam... will be handled according to law. This policy is to distinguish between legitimate religious needs and the exploitation of religion, thereby being wary of the plots of hostile forces to take advantage of the issue of religious belief to incite division of the union. national union.

To carry out the national renewal, the Party and State of Vietnam have adopted many guidelines and policies on religion and religious work, such as Resolution No. 24 of the 6th Politburo, October 1990 on increasing strengthen religious work in the new situation. This is a breakthrough document, opening a turning point in the reform of religious policy of the Communist Party of Vietnam. The resolution was born in the wake of the collapse of the socialist countries in Eastern Europe, but leftist views on religion still prevailed. In fact, in some localities at that time, there was still a situation of limiting people's religious needs. Therefore, the birth of the resolution has shown a new thinking on religious issues, thereby overcoming the short-sighted perception towards religion and the narrow, prejudiced and discriminatory attitude towards religious compatriots.

Especially after the Resolution 25/NQ-TW dated March 12, 2003 of the Central Committee of the Party (the IX term) on "religious work". All provinces and cities have developed action plans. Many provinces and cities have thematic resolutions on religious work, establishing a steering committee for religious work to direct the unity of the political system to carry out religious work.

Up to now, the Party's viewpoints and guiding principles on religious policy in Vietnam have been institutionalized by the Law on Beliefs and Religions, approved by the 14th National Assembly, second session, on November 18. 2016, took effect from 01/01/2018. This is a legal document that directly regulates the field of belief and religion, with the highest legal value ever in Vietnam.

The birth of the Law on Belief and Religion is the concretization of the spirit of the 2013 Constitution, which focuses on the management of society by law, gradually perfecting the socialist rule of law state. It is important that the law emphasizes human rights, including freedom of religion.

The Law on Belief and Religion has institutionalized some basic issues of the Party's views on religion. The Law has made many outstanding advances compared to previous legal documents such as:

- Clarifying everyone's right to freedom of belief, in which the law has expanded the subject to exercise the right to freedom of belief and religion.
- Decentralize clearly and specifically the State management of beliefs and religions at central agencies.
- The law has more clearly defined the issue of legal status of religious organizations, which emphasizes that religious organizations are non-commercial legal entities from the date they are recognized by competent State agencies.
- The law has provided for the separation and delineation of dignitaries and positions; the ordination or election of dignitaries and the appointment, election, and nomination to a position.
- The law has made clearer and more favorable regulations on religious training institutions and opening training courses on religion.
- Additional law to create more favorable conditions for foreigners to legally reside in.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In the Party's documents, the view is always consistent: Belief and religion are a spiritual need of a part of the people who are and will exist with the nation in the process of building socialism in Vietnam. our country. Religious compatriots are part of the great national unity bloc. Consistently implementing the policy of respecting and ensuring the right to freedom of belief, following or not following a religion, the right to normal religious activities in accordance with the law. Religions operate within the framework of the law and are equal before the law.

The Platform for National Construction in the Transitional Period to Socialism in Vietnam (supplemented and developed in 2011) - a document with the highest legal value of the Communist Party of Vietnam also clearly states: "Respect and protect ensure the people's right to freedom of belief and religion and non-belief and religion in accordance with law. To fight and strictly handle all acts of violating freedom of belief and religion and taking advantage of religious beliefs to harm the interests of the Fatherland and the people.

In separate documents on religion and belief, you can see Decree No. 69/ND-HDBT dated March 21, 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam "Regulations on religious activities". catechism" is the opening text. On June 4, 1993, the Government issued Decree No. 37-CP stipulating the tasks, powers and organizational

structure of the Government's Committee on Religion, the agency with the function of State management over religious activities. education nationwide. After that, a series of other documents were issued such as: Decree 26/1999/ND-CP dated April 19, 1999 of the Government on religious activities, Decision No. 125/QĐ-TTg of the Prime Minister Government, dated June 18, 2003 on approving the Government's action plan to implement Resolution 7 of the Central Committee (Session IX) on religious work

On October 16, 1990, the Politburo of the Communist Party of Vietnam, term VI, issued Resolution No. 24/NQ-TW on strengthening religious work in the new situation. This is considered the opening milestone for the development of religious awareness of the Communist Party of Vietnam. This Resolution has two "breakthrough" arguments: Religious beliefs are the spiritual needs of a section of the People and religions have cultural and moral values suitable for the new regime. On March 12, 2004, the Communist Party of Vietnam issued Resolution No. 25-NQ/TW on religious work. Up to now, this Resolution is still considered as a "guideline" for religious work and religious life in Vietnam. Resolution 25-NQ/TW affirms the consistent policies of the Communist Party of Vietnam towards religion. The Resolution affirms that belief and religion are the spiritual needs of a part of the people, which are and will exist with the nation in the process of building socialism in Vietnam. Religious compatriots are part of the great national unity bloc. The Party and State of Vietnam consistently implement the policy of respecting and guaranteeing the right to freedom of belief, to follow or not to follow any religion, and the right to normal religious activities in accordance with the law. Religions operate within the framework of the law and are equal before the law. All believers have the right to freely practice their religion at home and at lawful places of worship according to the provisions of law. Religious organizations recognized by the State shall operate under the law and are protected by law. The opening of schools for training dignitaries and monks, publishing scriptures and preserving, repairing and building their own religious worship establishments in accordance with law are facilitated. The Resolution also stipulates that religious observance and propagation as well as all other religious activities must comply with the Constitution and the law; must not take advantage of religion to propagate evil religions, conduct superstitious activities, and must not force people to follow religion. Prohibition of religious organizations and illegal methods of preaching, violating the provisions of the Constitution and the law, etc.

Another important milestone to mention is that on June 18, 2004, the President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam signed and promulgated the Ordinance on Belief and Religion. Continuing to implement the views and policies of the Party and State regarding religion, the Law on Beliefs and Religions was approved by the XIV National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at its 2nd session on November 18, 2020. 2016 and signed by the State President Order No: 12/2016/L-CTN dated December 1, 2016 promulgating the Law on Belief and Religion. The promulgation of the Law on Belief and Religion is the concretization of the Vietnamese Communist Party's viewpoints and policies on religion, a consistent expression of the policy of respecting the people's freedom of belief and religion. The Law on Belief and Religion also concretizes the provisions of the 2013 Constitution on human rights and citizenship related to everyone's right to freedom of belief and religion. New contents of the

Law on Belief and Religion were also added to make it compatible with international law in the context of Vietnam's deep integration with the world, signing and implementation of many agreements.

From these consistent guidelines, the State of Vietnam has issued many policies to ensure the people's right to freedom of religion and belief. All rights of people regarding religion are clearly defined by the State of Vietnam from the management, practice, and propagation of religion... Places of worship of religions are protected by Vietnamese law. Of course, Vietnamese law also stipulates that the establishment of a religious organization must be permitted by a competent State agency; Belief and religious activities must comply with the provisions of law, in accordance with the nation's morality, culture and fine customs.

Like all countries in the world, the State of Vietnam exercises its right to manage society in the territory of Vietnam in all areas of social life, including religion. In order for the State management of religion to be really effective, bring into play its effectiveness, and create all favorable conditions for people's religious activities, belief and religious activities, of course the State of Vietnam must apply measures to prevent violations of citizens' rights to freedom of belief and religion, and especially actions that take advantage of religion for various purposes that are contrary to the Constitution and laws of Vietnam. Male.

RESEARCH METHODS

In Vietnam today, the major holidays of religions, especially Buddha's Birthday, Vu Lan, Noel ... are not only for the followers of religions but have become common happy days and great festivals of the people. Perhaps that is why in recent years, the number of followers of religions has increased continuously, many new religions and religious denominations have been licensed by the State of Vietnam. Religious organizations operating in accordance with the law, in accordance with their principles and purposes are always interested, respected and facilitated by the State and authorities.

Human rights and religious freedom in Vietnam are better and better guaranteed; religions have grown rapidly both in terms of number of adherents and establishments of worship. If in 2006, there were only 6 religions and 16 religious organizations recognized and registered in the whole country, but so far there have been 38 organizations of 16 different religions recognized (data up to June 6). 2020). The whole country has about 25 million followers, over 110,000 dignitaries and monks (data up to the end of 2019). Worshiping facilities of religions have been built more and more spaciouly and many social and charity facilities have made an important contribution to the implementation of social work. Training institutions for religious dignitaries of all levels, such as: Buddhist Academy, Christian Seminary and colleges and intermediate schools of religions have been operating with the help of local government level. Religious publications are facilitated by the State in printing and distribution.

Every year in Vietnam, about 8,500 religious and belief festivals are held. In the hierarchy of religions today, many of them are facilitated by the State to go and train in countries around

the world. Many major religious festivals in Vietnam have been held such as the United Nations Vesak Day in 2008, 2014; Closing Ceremony of the Holy Year 2011 of the Catholic Church of Vietnam was solemnly held in La Vang parish, Quang Tri province; The Great Celebration of the 72nd Anniversary of the Enlightenment of Hoa Hao Buddhism; The great celebration of the 30th founding anniversary of the Vietnam Buddhist Sangha and receiving the Ho Chi Minh Medal; Since 2011, the Vatican has sent a non-resident representative to Vietnam and this non-resident special envoy has made many visits to most of the provinces in Vietnam. Vietnam.

It can be said that, in harmony with the deep international integration and the development of all aspects of the country, religious activities in Vietnam are more and more vibrant, the guidelines and policies of the Party and State of Vietnam on religion is becoming more and more open, creating more favorable conditions for religious activities.

Jonathan Turner (1997) has defined social institutions, as follows: "Social institutions are "a complex set of positions, roles, norms and values embedded in certain types of social structures". and organize relatively stable types of human activities in solving fundamental problems in order to create resources for the sustainable development of life, in the improvement of individuals, and in the maintenance of social structures in a given environment".

That definition can help us imagine the structure of a social institution (Social institution) including: besides the state's powerful agencies, political parties, businesses, families... there is an important part outside the state that we are used to calling the "civil society" sector, including religious organizations.

During more than 30 years of implementing religious policy reform (from Resolution 24 of the Politburo in 1990 to present), through many congresses of the Party, the process of renewing "religious policy" has always been placed in the framework for building and perfecting a socialist rule of law state on religion. This right path increasingly clarifies many theoretical and practical issues within a familiar area, but contains very new contents.

The transformation of religious policy reform in Vietnam from 1990 to now can be divided into two phases:

The first phase: Continuing to perfect the familiar "religious policies" that were still interested in the pre-1990s, in which the new needs of religious life were paid great attention, this is most obvious. in the National Assembly's adoption of the Ordinance on Belief and Religion (2004).

The main achievements in religious work during this period can be mentioned as the initial expansion of the recognition of legally qualified religious organizations. From the fact that the State only recognizes 6 main religions (Buddhism, Catholicism, Protestantism, Islam, Cao Dai and Hoa Hao Buddhism), after the Directive on Protestant work (January 2005), the number This has gradually increased and so far, there are 43 organizations of 16 religions with over 25

million followers, accounting for about 27% of the population.

In addition, there are a series of new policies on whether religious organizations are allowed to expand training for dignitaries, favorable changes in the use, appointment, rotation, and facilitation of facilities, religious land. Especially for the first time the state was interested in the international relations of religions. But it is also impossible to ignore another important achievement that is preventing and neutralizing activities that take advantage of religion to oppose the revolutionary cause of our nation (political riots in the Central Highlands in 2001, 2008; “Kingdom of the Mongols” in the Northwest; peaceful developments on religion and human rights).

The second phase: Building and gradually perfecting the state ruled by law over religion, with the highlight being that since the 2013 Amendment to the Constitution, the issue of human rights was officially affirmed for the first time. This is the period when our Party and State have made important changes in continuing to deal with the relationship between religion and the state; promoting religious law, perfecting public policy on religion, considered as one of the most important bases for building a secular state model in our country. The important achievements in this policy are the promulgation of the Law on Belief and Religion (November 2016), many other important decrees and directives of the Party and State, the improvement of religious work of the Party and State. The whole political system has led to new successes, besides better institutionalizing the people's right to freedom of belief and religion under the 2013 Constitution, the improvement of the legal basis on organization and operation movement of religion or belief; create conditions for religious organizations to participate more deeply in the social field; policies on property protection, worship facilities, better adjustment of religious activities of foreigners residing in Vietnam.

It can be said that up to now, a public policy on religion has emerged, or more broadly, it is a socialist secular state model of religion in our country that has been formed and is gradually being completed. pretty basic.

CONCLUSULTION

The construction of religious policy from the perspective of public policy is a sign of social progress. The institutionalization of religious issues into regulations serves as the basis for the adjustment of religious activities and behaviors of religious organizations and individuals within the legal framework. In our country, a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious country with a tradition of religious and social harmony, the religious community in general is closely linked with the nation in the cause of building and protecting the nation. Country.

In the current renovation conditions of the country, that tradition has been enhanced on a new level of the cause of building socialism, aiming towards a rich people society, strong country and democracy. This is also the most common consensus with the progressive ideals of religions, which President Ho Chi Minh has long advised. These are the necessary guarantees for an increasingly complete state ruled by law on religion in Vietnam.

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