

PalArch's Journal of Archaeology  
of Egypt / Egyptology

**HO CHI MINH'S IDEOLOGY ON PROTECTING VIETNAM'S  
SOVEREIGNTY OVER SEA AND ISLANDS(\*)**

**Assoc. Prof.Dr. Cao Xuan Long<sup>1</sup>, Assoc. Prof.Dr. Ha Trong Tha<sup>2</sup>**

**<sup>1</sup>(University of social sciences and humanities – VNU - HCM)**

**<sup>2</sup>(People's Security University)**

**Assoc. Prof.Dr. Cao Xuan Long , Assoc. Prof.Dr. Ha Trong Tha , Ho Chi Minh's  
Ideology On Protecting Vietnam's Sovereignty Over Sea And Islands(\*) , Palarch's  
Journal Of Archaeology Of Egypt/Egyptology 18(8). ISSN 1567-214x.**

**Key words: sea, protect, sovereignty, islands, Ho Chi Minh's ideology.**

**Abstract:**

Sea and islands are sacred and inviolable parts of territory of any coastal states. Vietnam is located at the gateway to the East Sea (internationally known as the South China Sea), so the sea and islands play an important role in the country's economy, politics, culture, national defense, security, and foreign affairs. During his lifetime, Ho Chi Minh not only specified the potential and economic advantages of Vietnam's sea and islands, but also had a special interest in the protection of the sovereignty over the sacred sea and islands. This paper analyzes aspects of Ho Chi Minh's ideology on the protection of the sovereignty over the sea and islands with the following contents: the position and the importance of the sea and island protection; forces involved in the task of protecting the sovereignty over the sea and islands; the principles of protecting the sovereignty over the sea and islands of Vietnam.

**ARTICLE**

**Introduction:**

Sea and islands are national borders, part of sacred and inviolable territory of each coastal state, also the place bearing a strong mark on each nation's spiritual vitality and culture, and the gateway to expand exchange and cooperation with other countries. In the development of each coastal state, besides creating a living space, forming culture, and establishing trade relations

with neighboring countries, the sea and islands also play a key role in establishing the sovereignty, security, and national defense. From the past to the present, the sea and islands have always been a sensitive and complex issue with encroachments, disputes, conflicts, and wars in different parts of the world.

Vietnam is a country located at the gateway to the East Sea with a coastline of over 3,260 kilometers, which is ranked 27th out of 157 coastal states, island nations and territories in the world. Out of the 64 provinces and cities of the country, 28 border the seas and nearly half of the population lives in coastal areas ~~provinces and cities~~. Vietnam's sea and islands have large reserves of oil and gas, resources of rich marine life and potential for tourism development, which are not only an advantage for Vietnam to develop the marine economy but also an important bridge to the major maritime shipping routes between the Indian and Pacific Oceans, between Europe, the Middle East and China, between Japan and other countries in the East Sea. Vietnam's sea and islands have an important geostrategic position, which is the "front line", the "gateway", and the solid wall of the national territory protecting Vietnam for thousand years of existence and development. Therefore, it is essential that we should establish the effective territory defense strategies and plans to maintain peace and stability for national development.

With a timeless strategic vision, Ho Chi Minh not only specified the potential and economic advantages of the sea - the "silver sea" of Vietnam, but also had a special interest in the protection of the sovereignty over the sacred sea and islands.

### **The main contents:**

Ho Chi Minh's ideology on protecting the sovereignty over sea and islands of Vietnam is a comprehensive, scientific, and creative perspective system through the following basic issues:

#### **Firstly, the viewpoint on the position and the importance of the sea and island protection**

During the journey in pursuit of national salvation, Ho Chi Minh spent years at sea, so he gained better insights into the potential, position and role of the sea and islands. In 1955, when referring to Vietnam's sovereignty, he wrote "Vietnam's sky, land, Dien Bien Phu, forests and mountains, rivers and seas permanently belong to Vietnamese people." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011i, p. 490). When talking to the People's Deputies of Hai Phong city, Ho Chi Minh stated "The golden forest and silver sea are ours. They are owned by our people." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011i, p. 540). It is an imperative which must be instilled into each Vietnamese citizen. Although his words are simple, they help each Vietnamese citizen gain better understanding of their country - "The nation is seen from the sea."; We must protect the sea and islands to maintain Vietnam's independence and sovereignty.

In his lifetime, Ho Chi Minh repeatedly stated the importance of the sea and islands to Vietnam. At the Research Conference on the History of the Communist Party of Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh proudly said "Our country has the golden forest and silver sea." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011i, p. 333). At the 7<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Central Committee of the Labor Party of Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh indicated the key role of the sea and islands in building the country and contributing to the people's livelihood "Our country is blessed with tropical climate, golden forest, silver sea, and fertile soil. The people are brave and thrifty. The neighboring countries are very supportive of us. Therefore, we have all three advantages: clement weather, favorable terrain and concord among people - to build the country towards socialism, that is to create an environment for building prosperous, progressive and happy Vietnamese families." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011m, p. 374). On the

occasion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Hero and Emulation Soldier Congress, Ho Chi Minh reiterated the importance of the sea and islands "Our country has the golden forest and silver sea with potential natural resources. The neighboring countries are very supportive of us. These are very fundamental advantages for national development so we can be fully confident that our future will be bright and glorious." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011m, p.387). In 1961, when visiting naval forces, he said: "Before we had only nights and jungles, today, we have days with the sky and the sea. Our coast is long and beautiful so we must know how to preserve it. Our coastline has an important position. Therefore, the immediate and long-term responsibility of the navy is very heavy but also very glorious." (Ho Chi Minh, 2008, p.46). Ho Chi Minh's advice to the naval forces at that day gave a brief overview of the tradition and history of the country, the potential of Vietnam's sea, and the responsibility of every Vietnamese generation to exploit, manage, and protect the sovereignty over the sea and islands of Vietnam.

Protecting the national sovereignty over the sea and islands is a very important and sacred duty. In the letter sent to the Vietnamese People, the French People and the People of the Allied Nations (1946), Ho Chi Minh expressed his displeasure with the French colonialists at "encircling the sea mouth of Hai Phong, which prevented the Chinese, the Vietnamese, other foreigners, and even the French from trading." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011d, p.535). He condemned the French colonialists on suppressing the Vietnamese people and violating Vietnam's national sovereignty by sending tanks, airplanes, artillery, and warships to massacre the Vietnamese people and "occupy the sea mouth of Hai Phong and other riverside provinces ..." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011d, p.535). However, with his high determination, he stated to the world about the strong will of the Vietnamese people in resolutely protecting the national sovereignty which also encompasses the sea and islands "The Vietnamese people do not allow anybody to come back again to dominate them. No! The Vietnamese people never want to return to slavery. The Vietnamese people would rather die than lose our independence and freedom." (Ho Chi Minh City, 2011d, p.536). During the resistance war against the American imperialists, Ho Chi Minh advised the Vietnamese people to protect the Fatherland in general and thesea and islands in particular "Our people need peace to build a new life and socialism. That is why we must strive to promote production, always raise our vigilance, be ready to fight and protect our country. If American imperialism frantically invaded our country, the people of our country would definitely defeat them. Justice will definitely win!" (Ho Chi Minh, 2011n, p. 372).

### **Secondly, the viewpoint on the force protecting the sea and islands of Vietnam:**

From Ho Chi Minh's point of view, the force protecting the sea and islands is all the Vietnamese people, in which the People's Army is the core. He wrote "Revolution is the career of the people and not the career of any individuals or heroes" (Ho Chi Minh, 2011l, page 672), "Without the people, regardless how small and easy a task is, it could not be completed, while with the people's support, regardless of how difficult the task is, it will be completed." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011g, p.176). The more dangerous the place is, the more important it is to rely on the people. Since then, he has always put the mission of protecting and preserving the sea and islands of the country as a sacred duty of each Vietnamese. In his viewpoint, we must use the power of the people to protect and preserve thesea and islands of Vietnam. Besides, he also emphasized "Fighting invaders and vandals is the mission of soldiers and the police in particular and the Vietnamese people in general; It is the task that the army and the police must be due to the people to accomplish well ... When the people are gathered and united, we can do everything." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011l, p.154).

When analyzing the reasons for the force protecting the sovereignty over the sea and islands as the whole Vietnamese nation, in the article *Today's Form of the War* (9/1946), Ho Chi Minh pointed out "Today war is extremely complicated. In the past, only the military fought in the front lines and on the ground or in the water, so it was called the war on a scale. Today fighting occurs in the sky and in the front lines as well as in the homefront, so it is called the cube war. In the past, we fought only on the military but today we fight in all aspects: military, economy, politics, and ideology, so it is called the total war." (Ho Chi Minh City, 2011d, p.342). He also pointed out the forms of war fought in the sea and on islands "a - The fleets of both sides fighting each other, b- Blocking the enemy with a warship, c- Cutting off the transportation routes of the enemy and finding ways to protect our own roads, and d - Destroying naval bases." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011d, p.342-343). Thus, he concluded "In short, today's war is complicated and very difficult. It is impossible to win without using the full power of the people in all aspects to cope with it." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011d, p.344). The people's forces who protect the sovereignty over the sea and islands are large in the bloc of the great national solidarity of the whole people. He emphasized "A boat must have a rower or a boatman. Only either one of them is not enough so the rower and the boatman must unite together." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011j, p. 310). In the call to unite all the elders, he said "Since the French invaders occupied our three regions; At first, they damaged our coast making the waves along the shore furious, and then they invaded the territory of our country making the trees in the deep jungles resentful. Therefore, the talented people and the ones with great enthusiasm and a strong will all got up one after another." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011c, p.232). At the display of the People's Army of Vietnam, he pointed out the strength of the whole people's solidarity and the solidarity between the people and the army in protecting the sea and islands "We have plains, cities, seas, forests, and convenient transportation from Hanoi to Berlin. The policy of the great solidarity of all the Vietnamese people, the spirit of endurance, self-sacrifice, and determination to overcome difficulties together with the heroic tradition of our army and people to gain victories, which have brought us the victories in the resistance wars, will ensure success and peace." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011i, p.293). The fact has shown that thanks to the power of the strong solidarity, any foreign forces that invade Vietnam will fail. In May 1968, he assessed the bloc's unmatched power of the great national solidarity in protecting the sea and islands "In recent days, from Tri - Thien to Ca Mau, from the plains, and from the coasts to the Central Highlands, the army and people of the Southern Vietnam have simultaneously attacked the US - the puppet regime and gained great victories, which made them even more bewildered as failure comes after failures. Thus, the entire army and the people of the Southern Vietnam, heroes, the old and young, girls and boys, Kinh and Montagnard people, the main army, the local army, and the guerrilla militia have all made excellent achievements." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011e, p.456).

In the bloc of the great national solidarity, Ho Chi Minh highly appreciates the role of people living along the coastlines and on islands in protecting the sea and islands because they are the forces that directly fight to protect the sea and islands and their interests will be affected first if the sea or island war happens. At the Conference of the Coastal Reformers (4/1956), Ho Chi Minh said "In the coastal region, the militias are in need. To illustrate it: The plain is the home and the sea is the door. Is it good to keep the home but not to keep the door? Where does the theft come in first? He might enter the door first. Therefore, we have to educate the people to protect the coastlines because the enemies often dispatch secret agents to hide in the coastal regions to conduct sabotage. If we let them in, the people who suffered first was the people of the coastal regions. If we do not focus on the protection of the sea, fishing and salt-making will not

be done in peace.

Therefore, an important mission of people living on the coastlines is to protect the coast. The coastal people are the doorkeeper of our country.”(Ho Chi Minh, 2011j, p.311).The protection of the sea and islands is a difficult, complex, and long-term process, requiring the whole-heartedness of the participating forces. Therefore, in order to be able to protect the solid sovereignty over the sea and islands, he said “The closer the victory is, the more arduous the steps are. So the army and the people of the coastal region must make their effort harder and strive forever until the complete victory.” (Ho Chi Minh, 2011e, p.85). At the Conference of the Vietnamese Fatherland Front of Ha Tinh province (6/1957), he commended “Ha Tinh soldiers and militia have bravely fought against the enemy’s raids in coastal regions... Those are remarkable achievements, which contributed to the glorious victory of our country's resistance war. Thanks to our victorious resistance war, Vietnam's status is increasingly enhanced in the international arena.” (Ho Chi Minh, 2011j, p.263). From the fact of protecting the sovereignty over the sea and islands, he affirmed the strength and the will of the people in the coastal and island region “The patriotism and determination of the army and people in the coastal region are very high. In the history of the resistance war for national salvation, the people in the coastal region have written a very glorious historical page.” (Ho Chi Minh, 2011e, p.84).

Among the forces protecting the national sovereignty over the sea and islands, Ho Chi Minh affirmed that the people's army made up the core force, especially the navy and air force. With the strategy of building the all-people national defense, Ho Chi Minh led the army and the people of Vietnam to defeat the destructive war of the US imperialism in the overflights and seas to firmly protect the sovereignty independence of Democratic Republic of Vietnam. Whenever the military force gained achievements in protecting the national sovereignty over the sea and islands, he directly visited or wrote letters of praise and encouragement in time when he was busy with work. During a talk with the military units in the 4th Military Region of People's Army of Vietnam (6/1957), Ho Chi Minh said “You have tried to protect the sea and borders of our country, and you together with the people maintain our security and order, which is a commendable achievement.” (Ho Chi Minh, 2011j, p.628). He twice sent the letters of praise and encouragement to the heroic soldiers of Con Co Island who shot down the US planes. In the letter of praise to the soldiers of Con Co Island (6/1968), Ho Chi Minh wrote “On behalf the Central Committee of the Communist Party and Government of Vietnam, I am pleased to praise the cadres and soldiers of Con Co Island for their brave and clever fight on May 31, 1968 when the four American planes were shot down. Con Co Island deserves to be a small yet heroic island.” (Ho Chi Minh, 2011o, p.460). In the letter of praise to the soldiers and cadres of Con Co Island down a lot of planes, and chased the US commando ships away from the sea of Vietnam. You are true inheritors of the heroic traditions of our army and people.” (Ho Chi Minh, 2011n, p.535). The outstanding achievements of the army in the sea and islands were always praised by Ho Chi Minh on important holidays of the army or he directly commended merits at conferences of the entire armed forces for replicating such practices across the whole army in shooting down aircrafts and destroying warships which conducted provocative activities and bombing missions over the the sea and islands of Vietnam. In the letter to the naval cadres and soldiers, on the occasion of this force’s 10 anniversary (8/1965), he wrote “In spite of its young age, thanks to the wise leadership of the Party, the trust, and support of the people as well as your ceaseless efforts, our navy has bravely fought, defeated the enemy, shot down planes, and chased US warships away from the sovereignty of Vietnam, united to make merits, and protected the people, the sky, and the sea of Vietnam. You have upheld the heroic tradition of our nation.” (Ho Chi Minh,

2011n, p.597). At the emulation congress "Determination to Defeat US Invaders" of the people's armed forces (8/1965), Ho Chi Minh set the example of the armed forces of Con Co Island "The armed forces of Con Co Island resiliently and bravely defeated hundreds of attacks with the aircrafts and warships of the enemy and shot down 22 US aircrafts." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011n, p.594), "The 7<sup>th</sup> naval division is excellently trained and have shot down the aircrafts and the commando ships of the enemy. Hopefully, the localities and the units all strive to emulate each other to become exemplary. Our nation is a heroic one." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011n, p.594). It can be said that with the solidarity of the whole nation, the core forces, who are the army and the people in the sea regions and islands, form a solid wall to protect the sovereignty over the sea and islands of Vietnam

### **Thirdly, the viewpoint on the principles of the sea and island protection:**

The first principle is to closely combine cultural and economic development including marine and island economy together with maintaining the sovereignty over the sea and islands. Ho Chi Minh pointed out that culture cannot stand out from politics and economic activities. Cultural development must be associated with economic development; culture is the intangible force that promotes the sustainable socio-economic development. Culture must be associated with production and economic development, especially, which can be performed in the sea regions and islands. With a higher level of education, the economic development will be sustainable. On the contrary, without economic development, the people can neither settle down their lives nor protect the sea and islands. Along with the cultural development, the economy must be also developed and the people's lives must be taken care of, especially the people living in the sea and islands, so that they protect the sea and islands. Ho Chi Minh said that the people "owning" the sea and islands are the people, who protect and exploit resources from the sea, to improve the people's lives. In the economic development, the marine economy is an important field. Ho Chi Minh advised "Both fishing and salt making must be promoted in term of production and consumption.", "Pay attention to afforestation on the coast." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011j, p.213). During his lifetime, Ho Chi Minh had travelled to a lot of sea regions and islands, as a result, he offered essential and specific advices based on insightful understandings regarding geographical features, natural resources and people of each region. When talking to the crewmen of the HC.15 ship at Haiphong port, Ho Chi Minh express his appreciation over the role of seaports in the economic development "Our port is the gateway to the socialist North. All the people in the North are on the course of a revolution so that they could become no longer poor and backward. Obviously, we must have economic and technical difficulties as we want to build a socialist country, we must have modern industry, transportation and ports, etc. Therefore, you must produce to gain high loading and unloading productivity and use up the full capacity of the machinery. Your safety and the port's must be assured." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011j, p.561). In the visit to the naval base at Van Hoa Island in Quang Ninh, he told the soldiers to love the island like their own home and work hard to renovate as well as build the island into a rich and beautiful region which benefits both themselves and the nation. At the Congress of the Communist Party of Nam Dinh province (5/1963), he said "Nam Dinh has a rich coastal region but this resource has not been fully exploited. You must expand the areas of salt making, develop fishing trade, and grow more cyperus and coconut trees ... " (Ho Chi Minh, 2011n, p.102).

Coming to Thai Binh province, he said "Thai Binh has a lot of wasteland along beaches, rivers, lakes, roads, etc. but the tree planting movement is so poor. The Party Committee and the

government of Quang Ninh and Thai Binh need a practical plan to plant more and better trees elsewhere.” (Ho Chi Minh, 2011n, p.250). In the Letter sent to the Executive Committee of the Labor Party of Vietnam in Nghe An province, he wrote “Nghe An has forests and sea. Our people said "golden forest, silver sea". It is necessary to better harvest timber and forest products; There is a plan to plant trees and protect forests; You must quickly restore and develop fishing as well as salt making.” (Ho Chi Minh, 2011o, p.596). Paying a visit to the people of Co To Island in Quang Ninh province, he advised “It is necessary to promote fishing and salt making and to nurture and protect sea cucumbers, pearlfish, etc. To do those jobs properly , you need to improve technology, fishing nets and ships. ...Planting trees will give the people a great benefit and make our country more beautiful.” (Ho Chi Minh, 2011m, p.129). He stated to the people living in the sea regions and islands “The people must closely unite, eagerly emulate each other to increase production and practise thrift, and must try harder to make their life more and more prosperous and joyful.” (Ho Chi Minh, 2011m, p.130). With those very specific guidance , the government, the army and the people of these localities have constantly strived to reach many high achievements in economic development, which makes an important contribution to the protection of the sovereignty over the sea and islands of Vietnam.

According to Ho Chi Minh, in order for the people and the army to be able to effectively protect the sovereignty over the sea and islands, we must take care of the lives of the people and the army.. Ho Chi Minh gives a special affection to the people of the sea and islands. He said to the cadres and people of Hai Ninh province (now Quang Ninh province) “Although Hanoi capital is far from the islands, the Party and the Government always care about the people of the islands and hope them to unite, strive, and progress. The cadres of Hai Ninh province must guide and help the people of the islands so that they contribute to the socialism construction in the North and fight to protect the peace and unification of the country.” (Ho Chi Minh, 2011m, p.130). In order to improve the lives of the people in the sea and islands, he requested to reform the coastal regions “The reformation in the coastal regions is just as necessary as the reformation in the plain, because the working people in the coastal regions are hard –working the ones in the plain. Therefore, in order to improve the people's material and psychological life, the reformation must be done. If you eat fully and dress warmly and don't study, it is unacceptable.” (Ho Chi Minh, 2011j, p.309).

The second principle is to promote the internal strength while taking advantage of the international support in the protection of the sovereignty over the sea and islands. According to Ho Chi Minh, in order to protect Vietnam's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, it is important to promote the internal strength to enhance the country's position in foreign relations as he affirmed “If we are strong, they will stay away from us. If we are weak, we are only a tool in others' hands, even though that person is our ally.” (The Communist Party of Vietnam, 2001, p.277). In order to promote the internal strength, it is necessary to build up a strong army e in general and a strong sea and island protection forces in particular to meet the requirements of protecting over the sea and islands. In 1961, in his visit to the Vietnam People's Navy, after listening to the report on the development of warships, Ho Chi Minh praised “You have made such a lot of effort, which is good. At present, we do not have many warships and weapons and we must arm them step by step. Immediately, we need to preserve what we have had to fight the enemy when necessary.” (Ho Chi Minh, 2008, p.46). Ho Chi Minh told the soldiers of Con Co Island “You must strengthen solidarity, must always raise your vigilance, must drill constantly, must be ready to fight, must be determined to smash all the enemy's plans and tricks, and must win more and more great victories.” (Ho Chi Minh, 2011o, p.460) “Not to

be discouraged when it is hard and arrogant when it is victorious. Be determined to defeat the US invaders.” (Ho Chi Minh, 2011n, p.535). At the emulation congress "Determination to defeat the American invaders" of the people's armed forces (August 1965), Ho Chi Minh advised the armed forces to do these 5 things well "- Promote the glorious tradition of being determined to fight to gain victories, uphold the spirit of patriotism and the love for socialism. - Always be on your guard, ready to fight and fight bravely, strive to defeat the enemy, and successfully complete all the tasks assigned by the Party and State. – Both fight and build, fight the enemy well, train well, and build more “determined winning units” "" - Good democracy, strict discipline, internal solidarity, and army and people unity. - Manage the soldiers well and ensure good material and mental/psychological life in all circumstances.” (Ho Chi Minh, 2011n, p.594). At the Third Commendation Ceremony of the Military Heroes (5/1956), Ho Chi Minh said that in order to be formalized and modernized, the army "must make the effort to study politics, military, and culture; must emulate the fulfilment of the duties of border, coastal, and urban protection and keep order and security for the people.” (Ho Chi Minh, 2011j, p.324). In the talk with the military units in the Military Region 4 (6/1957), he advised the military force on 5 issues: First, raising vigilance; Second, doing well in your learning and political correction; Third, trying to learn military techniques and professional skills; Fourth, fighting against waste and embezzlement; Fifth, maintaining close solidarity (Ho Chi Minh, 2011j, p.269). At the commendation ceremony of the air and naval units (8/1964), he advised “The units of the army, the people's armed police, the self-defence militia, and localities need to learn from experience to improve shortcomings and promote strengths. You must continue to promote all aspects of work, always raise your vigilance, and be ready to fight to defend the country.” (Ho Chi Minh, 2011n, p.367). In the Letter to the naval officers and soldiers, he said “You have raised the heroic traditions of our people. Please try your best to promote your strengths and fix the weaknesses, do not be discouraged when having difficulties, do not be arrogant when winning, be together with other units and the people being determined to defeat the US invaders, make a worthy contribution to the defense of the North, and support the liberation revolution of the South towards peace and unification of the country.” (Ho Chi Minh, 2011n, p.597).

The Age in which Ho Chi Minh lived and performed his political activities was the one of deepening the international relations when each nation's destiny was attached to the destiny of humanity. Therefore, in the protection of the sovereignty over the sea and islands, we must combine the national power with international strength, and the genuine patriotism with the pure internationalism. Ho Chi Minh pointed out “The spirit of patriotism is the determinant to preserve the integrity of our country's land, independence, and freedom. The international spirit is to unite with other countries and the people of other countries to maintain the world peace and fight against the aggression and war-monging policies of the imperialist powers ... Maintaining the world peace means maintaining benefits of our country. For the benefit of the labor people in the world, it is agreed.”(Ho Chi Minh, 2011h, p.272-273). To protect the sovereignty over the sea and islands, we need to take advantage of international support in protecting the sovereignty over the sea and islands. When speaking to the People's Deputies of Hai Phong city (6/1955), he said “Our people unite and work hard. Our Party is determined, our Government is transparent, and the Party and Government are working wholeheartedly for the country and the people. Our allies are willing to help. At the beginning of the resistance war, we encountered many more difficulties and at that time we had only two empty hands. However, we won. Now in peace time, we unite, strive, have strength, capital and determination, and have friends to help us, so we definitely overcome difficulties and gain victories.” (Ho Chi Minh City, 2011i, p.504-505). In



March 1965, he said "Our country is truly a golden forest, a silver sea, the people ... precious. With the proper leadership of the Party and Government, and the disinterested assistance of our friends, Vietnam will definitely develop into a rich and powerful country." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011j, p.286).

Ho Chi Minh not only takes advantages of the support of the socialist countries but also the help of the people of peace-loving countries in the world, including the French and American people. In the letter to the Vietnamese people, the French people, the people of allied countries, Ho Chi Minh wrote "The Vietnamese government and people are determined to fight for national independence and unification, but are willing to cooperate with the French people in a friendly way." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011d, p.535). He talked to the French people "We have common ideals: freedom, equality, and independence." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011d, p.536). He advised the Vietnamese People "We do not hate the French people and the country of France. We are only resolute against the slavery and merciless policies of the French colonialists." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011d, page 104). He appealed to the allied countries "The people of the allied countries! After the last great war, the democratic countries are reconstructing peace, yet the French reactionaries are trampling on the Atlantic Charter and the San Francisco Charter. They are waging a war of aggression in Vietnam. They must take the full responsibility for it. The Vietnamese people request your intervention." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011d, p.537). In the resistance war against the American imperialists, Ho Chi Minh supposed that "All over the five continents on the Earth, our brother countries, our friends, organizations, scholars loving peace, and justice all strictly condemn the American imperialists and all strongly support us." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011n, p.371). He sent the message to the American people "The Vietnamese people treasure the friendship with the great American people who are continuing the tradition of Washington and Lincoln fighting for independence and democracy." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011o, p.3) because he knows that "Progressive American people strictly condemn American imperialists and strongly support Vietnam" (Ho Chi Minh, 2011o, page 168). It can be said that by combining the national strength with the international support in protecting the sovereignty over the sea and islands, Vietnam has taken advantage of international consensus and support, and mobilized the strength of the progressive and peace-loving forces, which contributes greatly to Vietnam's victory in protecting the sovereignty over the sea and the islands.

The third principle is to carry out the strategy of "using immutability to deal with volatility" in protecting the sovereignty over the sea and islands. This principle can be understood generally that using the state of motionlessness (immutability) deals with all changes; while dealing with all changes (volatility) is used in protecting, consolidating, and developing the immutability. In defending the sovereignty over the sea and islands, Ho Chi Minh always thinks that "the national independence", thenational sovereignty is immutable principle to deal with flexibly arising situations. This viewpoint was expressed right after the success of the August Revolution in 1945. He sent the message to the countries of the world affirming that Vietnam is an independent country. He affirmed that Vietnam performs the independent foreign policy, autonomy, peace, and cooperation with other countries on the basis of "mutual respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty, non-infringement, non-interference in internal affairs, equality and mutual benefits, and peaceful coexistence." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011j, p.114) In the Call to the United Nations, on the behalf of Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh wrote "Our people sincerely wish for peace but our people are also determined to fight to the end to protect the most sacred rights: the territorial integrity and independence of the country." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011d, p.522). In the declaration on the foreign policy of Vietnam's Government sent to governments in the world (1950), Ho Chi

Minh affirmed "The Government of Democratic Republic of Vietnam is willing to establish diplomatic relations with any governments which respect Vietnam's rights, independence, and autonomy on equal terms." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011n, p.763). At the Sixth Conference of the Party Central Executive Committee (Session II) (7/1954), he outlined five principles in international relations that the Premier of the People's Republic of China - Zhou Enlai from Geneva together with the Prime Minister of India and the Prime Minister of Burma stated in the peace statement. Ho Chi Minh said that although the five principles in that statement "are brief, they are very clear, true, and welcomed by the people of the world, especially the people of Asia, and at the same time, they defeated the US plot to destroy the solidarity of the Asian people. These five principles are: 1- Respect each other's territorial sovereignty; 2. Do not infringe on each other; 3- Do not interfere in each other's internal affairs; 4- Treat each other equally and friendly; 5. Coexist peacefully." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011h, pp. 549-550). In the calling on the occasion of the August Revolution Anniversary and the National Day of September 2 (9/1954), he solemnly reiterated the principles of "respect", "equality", and "mutual benefit" in international relations directly with France "We are resolute in respecting and implementing the armistice agreement signed with France. We will protect the economic and cultural interests of the French in Vietnam. We are ready to continue to negotiate with the French Government to restore a good relationship between our country and France on the principle of equality and mutual benefits. At the same time, we hope that the French Government will also respect and implement the armistice agreement, and ensure full realization of what is in the declaration of the Geneva Conference." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011i, p.37). These are Ho Chi Minh's major views and fundamental points in the protection of sovereignty over the sea and islands.

On the basis of the immutability of independence and national sovereignty, Ho Chi Minh was always flexible in assessing and behaving reasonably, appropriately and harmoniously with various subjects. He said "A proverb has a saying, "For the weak, we should overwhelm them, for the tough, we should give in them." It is true. Whenever the people are shy and hesitant, the more aggressive the enemy becomes. If the people are determined and bold, the enemy must step back." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011e, p. 408). On that Ho Chi Minh affirmed "If you want to make the revolution victorious, you must make a clear distinction between who is a friend and who is a foe and must make more friends and fewer foes ." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011m, p. 453). For a small nation like Vietnam, in order to protect the sovereignty of the Fatherland and to confront powerful enemies, it becomes more urgent to make Vietnam have fewer enemies and more allies. According to him "Anyone who does anything to benefit the people or to our country is a friend. Anyone who does anything harmful to our people and our country is an enemy." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011i, p.264). On the Founding Ceremony of the People's Police Force, he told to them "Be cautious and suppress the inside and outside enemy. The inside enemies are the reactionaries and those who sabotage the construction of socialism; The external enemies are imperialists and invaders." (Ho Chi Minh, 2011l, p.154). It can be found that Ho Chi Minh did not "similarly consider" identifying the enemy in the defense of the sea and island sovereignty. Ho Chi Minh's thought on "using immutability to deal with volatility" in protecting sovereignty over seas and islands is not only the motto that directs the perception and action of our army and people when he leads the Vietnamese revolution, but still has a great value, which has been enlightening the career of defending Vietnam's sovereignty nowadays and in the future.

### **Conclusion:**

The sea and islands are an integral and sacred part of Vietnam and have a special importance in

national construction and development. The sea and islands are a place imprinted with passionate patriotism and Vietnamese prudence and bravery, where many glorious victories took place in the history of our ancestors' fights against foreign invasions. In his time, Ho Chi Minh not only understood the importance of the sea and islands, but he also had a strategic vision and thought on asserting Vietnam's sovereignty of the sea and islands. He highly appreciated the potential, advantages and important role of the sea and islands and devoted his life to national liberation, including the sovereignty of the sea and islands and the happiness of the Vietnamese people.

Today, the defense of the sea and island sovereignty plays an increasingly important role in Vietnam's nation building and defense. Ho Chi Minh's thought on the protection of sovereignty over the sea and islands remains a "guideline" for building and defending the country, especially in the context that the sea and islands are a heated current affair issue in international relations. Therefore, the promotion of the value in Ho Chi Minh's thought and action on the protection of sovereignty over the sea and islands is extremely important, which not only eliminates the germs and conditions that may cause the infringement of the border sovereignty of coastal states, but also firmly consolidates "border areas", protects territorial sovereignty and border security "from afar", and creates the basis and conditions for building friendship among ethnic groups in the current globalization trend.

#### **References:**

1. Ho Chi Minh: Chronicle of Biography, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2008.
2. Ho Chi Minh: Whole Works, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2011a, p.1.
3. Ho Chi Minh: Whole Works, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2011b, p.2.
4. Ho Chi Minh: Whole Works, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2011c, t.3.
5. Ho Chi Minh: Whole Works, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2011d, p.4.
6. Ho Chi Minh: Whole Works, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2011e, p.5.
7. Ho Chi Minh: Whole Works, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2011f, p.6.
8. Ho Chi Minh: Whole Works, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2011g, p.7.
9. Ho Chi Minh: Whole Works, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2011h, p.8.
10. Ho Chi Minh: Whole Works, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2011i, p.9.
11. Ho Chi Minh: Whole Works, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2011j, p.10.
12. Ho Chi Minh: Whole Works, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2011k, p.11.
13. Ho Chi Minh: Whole Works, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2011l, p.12.
14. Ho Chi Minh: Whole Works, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2011m, p.13.
15. Ho Chi Minh: Whole Works, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2011n, p.14.
16. Ho Chi Minh: Whole Works, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2011o, p.15.
17. The Communist Party of Vietnam: The views of President Ho Chi Minh and the Communist Party of Vietnam on the work of the border defense, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2001.