

Foundations of Studies of Vietnamese Economic Thoughts

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To integrate into the world community effectively, developing and making the best use of internal strengths are of great importance, including the development of systems of political and economic thoughts. Therefore, studying economic thoughts in Vietnam is indispensable when developing and perfecting logic background of the socialism-oriented economy in Vietnam.

As part of the superstructure, the Vietnamese thoughts, and economic ones in particular, exist and develop in parallel, and are determined by the infrastructure, or the socioeconomic life, over times. So we must make clear what "Economic thoughts in Vietnam" and "History of economic thoughts in Vietnam" are.

In Vietnam, along with appearance of national community, thoughts, viewpoints and philosophy have come into being very soon. We can say that the period when the Vietnamese people shaped their nation (some 4,000 years from now) is also the time in which basic foundations of Vietnamese thoughts took shape and developed. The system of thoughts grew more diverse and reached peaks over times along with developments of the Vietnamese society.

Speaking of the system of thoughts and the history of Vietnamese thought, we want to mention such basic components as history of philosophical ideas, religion, culture, law and the state, and economic thoughts.

In fact, the economic thoughts and their history are still new problems in Vietnam. First of all we

must affirm that the system of Vietnamese economic thoughts came into being and developed in parallel with the system of thoughts. Speaking more exactly, we could consider the system of economic thoughts as a product of the socioeconomic development and affected and regulated by the infrastructure, or social conditions, over different periods. Identifying contents of economic thoughts over times is no easy task. And it is even a very complicated one. The lack of a systematic study of the system of economic thoughts in Vietnam up till now is perhaps due to this complexity and difficulty. In my opinion, we must examine the following foundations in order to identify the contents of Vietnamese economic thoughts:

(1) Economic laws and policies adopted by the ruling class: Vietnam, because of its need to establish and protect its territory, has soon formed

its government. Through many ups and downs, its government form was beefed up and perfected. Wills, viewpoints and economic thoughts of the ruling classes have reflected themselves in economic policies over periods and they could provide us with the most important foundation of the study of Vietnamese economic thoughts.

(2) Thoughts and viewpoints of influential figures in the history: Historical reality shows that national leaders and heroes didn't leave many writing works. Their philosophy reflects itself in actions that aimed at ensuring independence and happiness for the people. That is why we couldn't find many works of historical figures although they were an important source of materials.

(3) Folk memories of socioeconomic problems: In the struggle against nature and suppression to improve the living stan-

dard, the grass roots have established their experience, philosophy and economic thoughts needed for their lives. Folklore, therefore, becomes a source of materials for researchers.

(4) Achievements in the economic development over periods: All economic activities were affected and regulated by economic laws and policies adopted by the ruling classes, or driven by viewpoints and experiences acquired by the grass roots, so we can see economic achievements as results of these factors, thereby identifying economic thoughts of the people in the past.

At present, there is a gap in study of the history of Vietnamese economic thoughts and it requires great efforts to bridge this gap. This effort not only contributes to the economic study in general, but also helps solve problems arising from the economic development of the country. ■

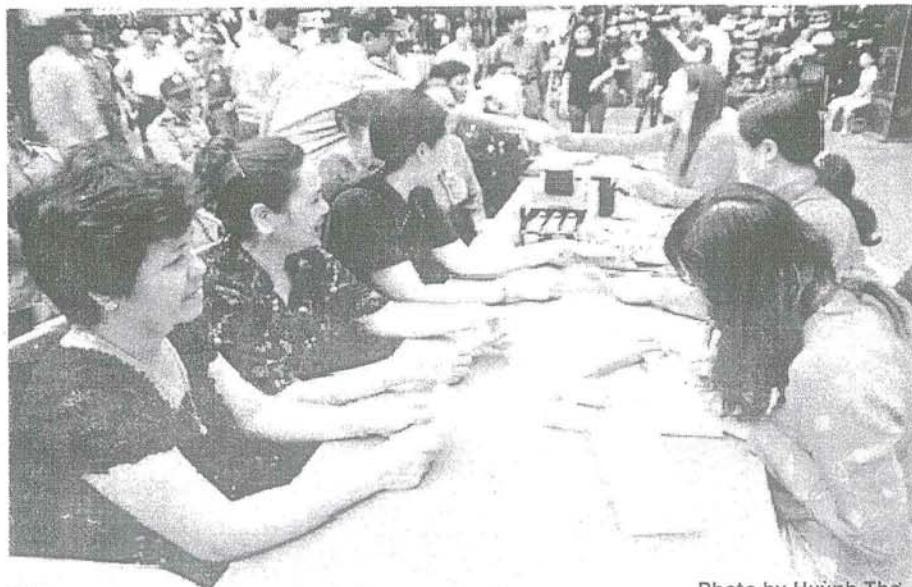


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