



Research Paper

Educating the Philosophy of Patriotism Linked To National Independence and Sovereignty for Vietnamese Youth in the Current Period

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Abstract

Nurturing patriotism rooted in national independence and sovereignty among young individuals is a crucial strategic task in the continuation of building and safeguarding the socialist Vietnamese Fatherland. In the face of globalization, profound international integration, and rapid digital transformation, Vietnamese youth are presented with significant development opportunities but also encounter intricate challenges concerning political awareness, cultural values, and civic responsibilities. This article explores the necessity of instilling patriotism tied to national independence and sovereignty in young Vietnamese citizens today. It simultaneously outlines educational strategies suited to the evolving socio-political context. The research primarily employs document analysis and synthesis, incorporating an interdisciplinary approach that blends philosophy, education, and political science.

Keywords: *philosophy of patriotism, national independence, national sovereignty, Vietnamese youth, education.*

I. Introduction

Patriotism has been a defining spiritual value throughout Vietnamese history, forming the ideological backbone for both nation-building and defense. From wars of resistance against foreign domination to national reconstruction during peacetime, patriotism, intertwined with the pursuit of independence and sovereignty, has continually served as a driving force for Vietnam's growth and resilience. In the 21st century, Vietnam finds itself deeply integrated into the global community, steering a socialist-oriented market economy while embracing profound digital transformation. Against this backdrop, youth—constituting a vibrant, dynamic, and innovative demographic—play a pivotal role in the modern era. However, the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the accelerating wave of globalization have introduced critical challenges. These include safeguarding national identity, reinforcing political trust, and fostering an awareness of independence and sovereignty amidst external influences. Instilling a philosophy of patriotism in young generations, aligned with national independence and sovereignty, is not merely a customary obligation. It is a fundamental strategy critical for ensuring Vietnam's sustainable development. This effort goes beyond imparting historical facts—it involves cultivating a normative system of values, beliefs, attitudes, and responsible behaviors suited to present-day realities.

II. Content

2.1 The Philosophy of Vietnamese Patriotism and Its Core Foundations

Philosophy represents distilled knowledge that offers practical guidance for human interactions and societal engagements. Typically articulated through concise language or inferred from human behavior, philosophical frameworks provide foundational insights into various aspects of life. According to the *Dictionary of Philosophy*, patriotism is described as “a moral and political principle, a social sentiment characterized by love and loyalty to one’s country, pride in its past and present, and a commitment to protecting its interests” [9, p.712]. From this general perspective, patriotism is universal to nations worldwide. It manifests in interpersonal behaviors that signify affection, respect for one's people, pride in one's country, and an inherent responsibility to safeguard national cohesion and security. Emotionally, patriotism emerges as a profound feeling of love for one’s country, reflected in one’s sensitivity towards its socio-political events and public affairs. On an intellectual level, patriotism translates into attitudes, behaviors, and actions that align with the immediate needs and realities of one’s society. As such, patriotism is defined as “the thought and sensation embodying people’s loyalty to their homeland alongside their willpower to achieve independence, freedom, and prosperity for their country” [8, p.34]. In Vietnam specifically, patriotism is regarded as both an emotive sentiment and an intellectual pursuit—a philosophy in its own right [3, p.42]. The Vietnamese people exhibit

deep love for their nation not just as an emotional reflex but also through reasoned actions. Patriotic expression extends beyond poetic words or cultural artifacts to acts demonstrating self-sacrifice, dedication, and service for the nation's benefit. Traditionally regarded as a "moral imperative," this enduring ethos has evolved into an emblematic tradition—a synthesis of genuine patriotism and nationalism—ingrained in Vietnamese identity. The philosophy of Vietnamese patriotism articulates principles that capture love for the homeland alongside pride in the cultural heritage and character of Vietnam's people. In its essence, it embodies loyalty, steadfast commitment, purposeful direction, and aspirational goals critical to building, safeguarding, and advancing the Fatherland while securing collective national interests.

Regarding the cultural basis, Vietnam possesses a very distinctive, diverse, and rich culture. The Vietnamese people always strive to preserve, build, and develop their national cultural values; always have the awareness of "training culture into a sharp weapon" to prevent and repel cultural assimilation, protect national culture; at the same time, continuously absorb and filter the quintessence of human culture to enrich Vietnamese culture.

The Vietnamese philosophy of patriotism is a spiritual product with theoretical character, distilled from the history of nation-building and nation-defence of the people. It consists of profound, concise thoughts and viewpoints about the love and loyalty of Vietnamese people toward their country. That philosophy has been applied in specific historical circumstances.

2.2. The necessity of educating the philosophy of patriotism linked to national independence and sovereignty for Vietnamese youth today

National independence and sovereignty form the core of Vietnam's patriotic philosophy. President Hồ Chí Minh's statement, "nothing is more precious than independence and freedom," reflects the historical truth that a nation can only thrive when it controls its own destiny. For Vietnamese people, patriotism has always been tied to defending independence and territorial integrity. Through centuries of struggle and resilience, the commitment to safeguarding sovereignty has become deeply ingrained in the nation's identity. Vietnamese youth play a key role in shaping the nation's future, as highlighted in the Communist Party of Vietnam's 13th National Congress. Representing the country's most dynamic social group—well-educated, creative, and adaptable—they are driving innovation, digital transformation, and Vietnam's global image. However, some young individuals lack awareness of Vietnam's historical struggles, territorial sovereignty, or their civic responsibilities. This gap emphasizes the need for stronger patriotic education to inspire political engagement and deeper national pride. Globalization has fostered economic and cultural interdependence but not at the expense of sovereignty. National self-determination now extends to areas such as economic autonomy, cultural preservation, and cyberspace governance. Young people, as active participants in the digital economy and global discourse, face risks of misinformation and ideological distortions. Without a solid understanding of modern sovereignty, they may unknowingly harm national interests. Teaching patriotism adapted to today's challenges ensures that youth remain vigilant in defending core values amidst digital-age complexities. National development demands more than economic progress; it requires political stability and societal cohesion. Education in patriotism and sovereignty is vital to building trust, unity, and resilience against non-traditional threats like cybersecurity risks, cultural erosion, and resource vulnerabilities. Patriotism must translate into practical efforts that actively protect Vietnam's sovereignty across all domains. In a globalized world marked by cultural diversity, preserving Vietnam's identity and values has become increasingly urgent. While exposure to different cultures can be enriching, it also introduces risks if critical thinking is lacking. A solid ideological foundation helps youth navigate this landscape thoughtfully, avoiding value crises or harmful ideologies. By instilling patriotism rooted in independence and sovereignty, Vietnamese youth can embrace positive aspects of globalization while safeguarding their cultural heritage and national resilience in an ever-changing world.

2.3. Content of educating the philosophy of patriotism linked to national independence and sovereignty for Vietnamese youth today

2.3.1. Educating love for homeland and country for Vietnamese youth today

Homeland holds a profound significance for the Vietnamese people. It is the place where they are born and nurtured, imbued with unforgettable memories and cherished images. It serves as the cradle of childhood dreams, the guardian of distinct cultural values, and the foundation of a thousand-year-old civilization. From the moment of birth, individuals are embraced and protected by their homeland, provided with every opportunity for comprehensive personal growth. In essence, the homeland represents the nation, embodying roots and strong foundations that shape each person's identity. For the Vietnamese, the idea of the nation is inseparable from the image of their beloved homeland and, an enduring source of pride and inspiration. This love for one's homeland is deeply tied to familial bonds, ancestral lineage, and the communities in which people grow up. From these humble origins, affection gradually extends outward—from the village to encompass the entire nation itself. In conjunction with this innate affection for their birthplace, Vietnamese people also share a profound sense of duty

and responsibility to nurture and protect it. Guided by age-old wisdom, such as the saying, "A tree must have roots before bearing branches and leaves / Water must have a source before becoming vast seas and great rivers," they remain united in all circumstances. Regardless of the challenges they face, whether through hardship or adversity, the people of Vietnam exhibit an unwavering determination to work together, innovate, harness the forces of nature, and convert obstacles into opportunities for growth and prosperity. This collective spirit is aimed at not just cultivating a prosperous homeland but also at contributing to the broader development of their nation. From ancient times, the Vietnamese have perceived their country as an extension of their family, village, and homeland. The connectivity between these layers of identity makes any issue a shared responsibility—whether it pertains to family matters, village affairs, or national concerns. Everyone feels compelled to contribute to the collective welfare. The land itself becomes a source of deep emotional attachment; through generations of labor and sacrifice, communities have cultivated this land with sweat and effort, infusing it with love and pride. The more labor poured into the homeland's development, the deeper its significance becomes in the hearts of its people. This intertwining of love for homeland with a sense of collective responsibility has also been forged by historical struggles against adversity. Over countless generations, the Vietnamese people have had to contend with harsh natural environments as well as oppressive challenges that tested not only individual perseverance but also national unity. Faced with these trials, they have consistently strived to overcome difficulties by cultivating resilience, learning, and innovation. Moreover, their connection to their ancestral land runs deep—this is sacred ground nourished by the sacrifices of predecessors who toiled to reclaim fields, cultivate gardens, and protect homes. Such an intrinsic attachment meant that when foreign invaders sought to seize their land and destroy their villages, the Vietnamese people stood united in relentless defiance. Throughout history—be it during over a thousand years under northern feudal domination or centuries of colonial rule—Vietnamese resilience has remained unshakable. They refused to relinquish even a fragment of their cherished homeland, standing tenaciously against all odds to protect their nation's sovereignty. It is this undying love for their homeland and unwavering dedication to preserving their ancestral lands that has not only secured their survival but also fueled the enduring strength and progress of the Vietnamese nation.

2.3.2. Educating loyalty to the country and the people

A country or nation comprises geography, territory, ethnic unity, and societies with political, economic, and cultural institutions, alongside social structures and historical systems. For the Vietnamese, loyalty to their homeland is paramount. During the feudal era, Vietnamese patriotism emphasized balancing "loyalty to the king and love of country." Unlike many feudal systems, rulers prioritized national and societal interests over personal gains, earning respect and commemoration through temples and collective memory. Their governance fostered unity between leaders and citizens while driving societal progress. HoChiMinh modernized this philosophy into "Loyalty to the country, filial piety to the people." For him, loyalty meant advancing national independence and socialism through dedication to the Party, Fatherland, and revolution. Filial duty focused on the people's role as history's creators and wealth's source, requiring leaders to engage with and improve their lives materially and spiritually. This dual loyalty empowered national development, ensuring independence, freedom, and collective prosperity for Vietnam. The enduring patriotic ethos continues to inspire social progress.

2.3.3. Philosophy on the will for national independence and sovereignty

A nation represents a cohesive, stable, and enduring community bound by shared elements such as language, territory, economy, and culture. The Vietnamese nation, throughout its formation and evolution, has repeatedly faced threats and invasions from formidable foreign forces. Consequently, the concept of national independence and sovereignty has become deeply ingrained in the consciousness of every Vietnamese individual, regarded as an indispensable and sacred right. When the homeland is under threat, people across all social strata prioritize the nation's interests above personal concerns, willingly confronting hardship and making sacrifices for independence. This unwavering commitment to national sovereignty has shaped a profound identity and confirmed the resilience and heroism of the Vietnamese people. The teachings of President Ho Chi Minh resonate strongly with every Vietnamese citizen: Vietnam is one unified country, and its people are one unified nation. The collective will to unite and safeguard the Fatherland remains unshakable. "Rivers may dry up, mountains may erode, but our solidarity will never diminish. We are resolute in uniting our strength to uphold freedom and independence." Such ideals have become a moral compass for every Vietnamese individual, guiding their role in preserving the nation's destiny under any circumstance. The philosophy of Vietnamese patriotism embodies both rational and innate feelings of devotion toward the homeland. This sentiment intensifies during moments of national crisis, provides stability during periods of peace, and motivates tireless efforts to strengthen national foundations. Throughout history, the Vietnamese people have displayed an unwavering spirit of sacrifice, readily giving their lives to protect national borders, defend their homeland, and maintain the independence and self-reliance painstakingly established by previous generations over millennia. In modern times, the determination to carry forward this legacy remains steadfast. The Vietnamese people persist

in upholding independence, safeguarding territorial integrity, and confronting challenges—whether posed by adversaries or natural calamities—to build a stronger and more prosperous nation. At all times, they stand firmly committed to defending the sovereignty of the socialist Vietnamese Fatherland. Regardless of circumstances, protecting the dignity of an independent nation, preserving territorial boundaries, upholding sacred sovereignty, and prioritizing the ultimate welfare of the country and its people remain unalterable principles—a cornerstone of Vietnam’s enduring identity.

2.3.4. Educating the spirit of international integration linked to awareness of protecting national independence and sovereignty

The philosophy of patriotism among Vietnamese youth, especially in relation to national independence and sovereignty, requires a significant expansion and modernization to align with the rapid shifts of the digital age. Sovereignty is no longer confined to traditional concepts such as land, seas, and islands—it must now encompass digital domains and national data resources. Amid the explosive growth of the internet, artificial intelligence, and the digital economy, protecting sovereignty means safeguarding cybersecurity, personal information, and national data infrastructures, as well as ensuring self-determination in technological advancements. Education for youth should therefore focus on raising awareness about digital sovereignty, promoting responsibility in online environments, and fostering behavior that is civilized and law-abiding. Parallel to this, the enhancement of critical thinking and "information immunity" has become an urgent priority. The globalized flow of information includes narratives that distort history, disparage revolutionary accomplishments, or incite extremism. Young individuals must be empowered to critically analyze, evaluate, and verify information while maintaining political resilience to resist manipulation by fake news or misleading propaganda. Patriotism in the digital age transcends mere emotional attachment; it embodies scientific reasoning and a deep sense of civic duty. Equally important is linking patriotism to economic independence and innovation. In a deeply integrated global landscape, national sovereignty is intertwined with advancements in science, technology, and economic self-sufficiency. As the driving force behind digital transformation, youth must recognize that learning, conducting research, engaging in entrepreneurship, and enhancing national competitiveness are practical expressions of modern patriotism. Contemporary patriotism also reflects aspirations to build a prosperous, dynamic country with a respected international presence. Furthermore, safeguarding cultural identity within the framework of globalization is indispensable. While cultural exchange offers opportunities for enrichment, it also risks the erosion of traditional values and potential assimilation. Patriotic education should instill in youth a profound appreciation for national cultural heritage and equip them with the skills to preserve and promote these values. At the same time, they need the discernment to embrace select global cultural achievements. True integration does not mean losing identity—patriotism thrives through steadfast preservation of one’s cultural uniqueness while maintaining an openness to global influences. Patriotic education must also reconcile national responsibility with global accountability in an interconnected and multipolar world. Vietnamese youth are not only citizens of an independent nation but active contributors to the global community. Modern patriotism thus calls for engagement in addressing universal challenges such as climate change, sustainable development, and peacekeeping, while adhering to international laws and safeguarding national interests. This approach exemplifies the balance between protecting national rights and fostering international cooperation. In today’s context of globalization and digital transformation, patriotism extends beyond territorial protection—it includes upholding the nation’s ability to determine its course in politics, economy, culture, technology, and cyberspace. It is the seamless melding of tradition with innovation, steadfastness with integration, and vigilance for national security with proactive action for a better future.

III. Conclusion

In the context of deep international integration and increasingly increasing traditional and non-traditional security challenges, educating the philosophy of patriotism linked to national independence and sovereignty for Vietnamese youth has special important significance. Patriotism today is not only sacred sentiment toward history, but must be transformed into political steadfastness, sense of responsibility, and specific actions in study, labour, creativity, and protecting national interests in all spaces, from traditional space to cyberspace. Patriotic education needs to help youth clearly recognize the value of independence, freedom, self-reliance, and territorial integrity in the new conditions. The core is not only nurturing national pride but also equipping critical thinking capacity, “information immunity” ability, and proactive, creative integration spirit. When the philosophy of patriotism is nurtured by knowledge, responsibility, and aspiration for development, youth will become the core force protecting independence, sovereignty, and contributing to building a prosperous, sustainable country.

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