

Ho Chi Minh's Thought on the Position and Role of Southern Vietnam in National Liberation and Reunification

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Abstract

This article examines Ho Chi Minh's thought on the position and role of Southern Vietnam in national liberation and reunification. Drawing on 22 works comprising speeches, writings, letters of encouragement, appeals and President Ho Chi Minh's sacred Testament from 1945 to 1969, the study combines historical and logical methods with textual analysis and comparison, distinguishing between Southern Vietnam (Nam Bộ) and the broader South (miền Nam) according to historical context. The findings show that Ho Chi Minh consistently affirmed Southern Vietnam as an inseparable part of Vietnam's territory and national community. He regarded its people and combatants as active and creative revolutionary agents who contributed to the resistance struggle to defend independence and to national reconstruction. Their role was consistently situated within nationwide solidarity, support and coordination towards the shared goals of national liberation and reunification. The analysis identifies three defining features of his thought: linking the principle of national unity with bonds of compatriotship; recognising contributions while affirming responsibilities; and situating Southern Vietnam's role within the national revolutionary struggle as a whole. Across successive historical periods, the underlying strategic principle remained constant, while the intended audiences and modes of expression were adapted to changing revolutionary tasks. The study contributes to a systematic understanding of Ho Chi Minh's conception of the relationship between national unity, great national solidarity and responsibility to the nation.

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Introduction

Within President Ho Chi Minh's revolutionary theory, Southern Vietnam occupies an integral and inseparable place within the national territory and holds particular geopolitical and geostrategic importance for national liberation and reunification. His views on Southern Vietnam reflect a dialectical unity between an unwavering commitment to national independence, an unyielding determination to reunify the country and profound revolutionary affection for the people and combatants of the South. Studying this intellectual legacy has substantial theoretical and practical significance, helping to clarify his strategic thinking on the relationship between a key revolutionary region and the broader revolutionary cause of the Vietnamese nation.

Shortly after the triumph of the August Revolution in 1945, French colonial forces returned to pursue their ambition of reconquest, compelling Southern Vietnam to take the lead in resistance and become a major front defending national independence and the nascent revolutionary government. In these urgent historical circumstances, President Ho Chi Minh proclaimed an

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enduring truth: 'The people of Southern Vietnam are citizens of Vietnam. Rivers may run dry and mountains may wear away, but that truth will never change!' (Ho Chi Minh, 2011, Vol. 4, p. 280). This resolute affirmation linked national territorial sovereignty with the inseparable bonds of the Vietnamese national community, becoming a symbol of his steadfast opposition to the partition of the country.

Through his revolutionary speeches, writings and correspondence, Ho Chi Minh both promptly commended the ardent patriotism and indomitable will of the people of Southern Vietnam and affirmed the historical responsibility of the entire country for the liberation of the South. He consistently understood Southern Vietnam's role in terms of strategic coordination with the rest of the country: it was both an active contributor of human and material resources to the revolutionary cause and a recipient of solidarity and comprehensive support sustained by great national solidarity.

Drawing on an examination of representative documents by Ho Chi Minh from 1945 to 1969, this article addresses three central questions: (i) the position of Southern Vietnam within the territorial space of a unified Vietnamese nation; (ii) the strategic role of its people and combatants in the struggle for national liberation; and (iii) the defining features of the thought underlying these views. Throughout the analysis, Southern Vietnam (Nam Bộ) is carefully distinguished from the broader South (miền Nam) according to the historical context and geographical scope of each document. The study thereby clarifies the integral relationship between the strategic principle of national unity, the strength of great national solidarity and the revolutionary agency of the people of Southern Vietnam in Ho Chi Minh's thought.

Sources and Research Methods

This study draws on a corpus of 22 representative works by President Ho Chi Minh from 1945 to 1969, comprising speeches, writings, letters of encouragement, historic appeals and his sacred Testament. These primary sources were selected and systematically compiled from Ho Chi Minh: Complete Works (National Political Publishing House, 2011), the daily newspaper *Nhân Dân*, the official organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, and the Ho Chi Minh City Party Committee's official portal. The combined use of these authoritative documentary sources ensures authenticity, adherence to the Party standpoint and scholarly rigour in research on Party history and Ho Chi Minh's thought. This textual legacy provides a rich and comprehensive account of the development of his thought across successive strategic phases: from the beginnings of the Southern Resistance to defend the nascent revolutionary government in 1945 through the protracted resistance struggles against French colonialism and US imperialism for national salvation. The corpus thus provides a firm methodological foundation for examining his theoretical understanding, revolutionary sentiments and strategic vision concerning the position and role of Southern Vietnam in national liberation and reunification.

The handling of sources places particular emphasis on historical source criticism, carefully distinguishing their geographical scope and intended subjects. Documents directly addressing Southern Vietnam constitute the core historical evidence. Those concerning both Southern Vietnam and South Central Vietnam are analysed with due regard to their respective geographical reach, while statements addressing the broader South or the country as a whole serve as supplementary evidence for clarifying the strategic context and wider relationships. The study also distinguishes the dates on which documents were composed from their publication dates, differentiates public documents from internal correspondence, and carefully verifies the provenance and textual context of quotations.

Methodologically, the article combines the historical and logical methods, two fundamental approaches within the discipline of Party history. The historical method situates each of Ho Chi Minh's statements within its specific historical circumstances, relating it to the revolution's strategic tasks and intended audiences. The logical method enables the sources to be organised

into coherent theoretical themes concerning national sovereignty, the national community, contributions to the resistance struggle and responsibility for national reunification. Textual analysis and comparison are employed to identify continuity, development and the concrete articulation of his thought across the periods before and after the 1954 Geneva Accords.

Interpretation adheres to the principles of the Party standpoint and scholarly rigour, grounding analytical arguments in the integral relationship between textual context and historical circumstances, while avoiding the isolation of quotations from the works in which they appear. Assessments of practical effects remain strictly confined to what the historical evidence supports. The study therefore focuses on clarifying the substance of the thought expressed in the documents, maintaining an objective distinction between appeals intended to guide action and the outcomes of their implementation in revolutionary practice.

Results

Southern Vietnam as an inseparable part of the Vietnamese state and nation

Within Ho Chi Minh's intellectual legacy, Southern Vietnam's strategic position is grounded first and foremost in the principle of an integral and inseparable relationship between national territorial integrity and the unity of the national community. Southern Vietnam is an inseparable part of the Vietnamese Fatherland; its people share with compatriots throughout the country both the sacred right to national independence and the profound historical duty to defend the country. In his Letter to the Compatriots of Southern Vietnam (1946), he affirmed an enduring truth: 'For many months, the people of Southern Vietnam have made sacrifices and struggled to safeguard the land for the whole of Vietnam. The people throughout the country must therefore be grateful to them. The people of Southern Vietnam are citizens of Vietnam. Rivers may run dry and mountains may wear away, but that truth will never change!' (Ho Chi Minh, 2011, Vol. 4, p. 280). This declaration established their belonging to the Vietnamese nation as an essential and enduring reality, transcending all schemes of political partition and the enemy's temporary territorial occupation during wartime.

The breadth of Ho Chi Minh's thought on Southern Vietnam is also evident in his recognition of the region's agency in national reconstruction. In his Statement Following the Formation of the New Government, he emphasised: 'In particular, the people of Southern Vietnam have not only taken the lead on the front line in defending the country but have also enthusiastically participated in national reconstruction' (Ho Chi Minh, 2011, Vol. 4, p. 481). This perceptive assessment reflects his comprehensive vision: Southern Vietnam's contributions extended beyond its position on the front line against foreign aggression to encompass an active role in undertaking the shared strategic tasks of the national revolution. The dialectical relationship between national independence and national unity thus emerges clearly. Genuine independence must be inseparable from sovereignty over the entire national territory and the people's right to self-determination in every region of the Fatherland.

The question of Southern Vietnam consequently became a shared historical responsibility of the entire nation. Following his visit to France in 1946, Ho Chi Minh resolutely declared: 'Central, Southern and Northern Vietnam are all parts of Vietnam. We share the same ancestry and lineage; we are brothers and sisters of the same flesh and blood. A country with its Central, Southern and Northern regions is like a family with three siblings. No one can divide the children of one family; just as no one can divide France, no one can divide our Vietnam' (Ho Chi Minh, 2011, Vol. 4, pp. 469–470). By placing the three regions within a single national space, this affirmation expressed his steadfast opposition to all imperialist attempts at geopolitical partition. This principled position was closely bound to his profound revolutionary concern for the lives of his compatriots. Addressing the nation, he confided: 'Every day that the Fatherland remains divided and our compatriots continue to suffer is a day when I can neither eat with pleasure nor sleep peacefully. I solemnly promise you that, with your determination and that of the entire people,

Southern Vietnam will certainly return to the affectionate embrace of the Fatherland' (Ho Chi Minh, 2011, Vol. 4, pp. 469–470). This statement connected the goal of national reunification with the people's aspirations, expressing complete confidence in the fighting resolve of the people of Southern Vietnam and the strength of great national solidarity.

The determination to achieve reunification was further reinforced during the most difficult periods of the resistance against US aggression for national salvation. On 17 July 1966, Ho Chi Minh issued his historic appeal: 'The war may last five years, ten years, twenty years or longer. Hanoi, Haiphong and a number of other cities and industrial enterprises may be devastated, but the Vietnamese people will never be afraid! Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom. When victory comes, our people will rebuild our country, making it more dignified and more beautiful' (Ho Chi Minh, 2011, Vol. 15, p. 131). This proposition united the determination of the people in both regions around the supreme national goal, affirming that Southern Vietnam's struggle formed an integral part of the entire nation's responsibility to defend the Fatherland.

Ho Chi Minh used the term 'compatriots' as an expression of great national solidarity and class fraternity. As early as September 1945, he wrote: 'I am certain, as are our compatriots throughout the country, of the resolute patriotism of the people of Southern Vietnam' (Ho Chi Minh, 2011, Vol. 4, p. 29). Alongside this recognition, he expressed particular affection for the South and offered profound encouragement: 'In their hearts, Ho Chi Minh, the Government, and the entire army and people throughout the country are always by your side, following your efforts and cherishing you' (Ho Chi Minh, 2011, Vol. 5, p. 249), affirming that 'Unity and independence will certainly be achieved' (Ho Chi Minh, 2011, Vol. 5, p. 249). He bestowed upon the people of the South the honourable title 'The Fatherland's Bronze Bulwark', while reminding its people and combatants that they '... must unite closely and continually strengthen the resistance to thwart the enemy's schemes of making war sustain war and using Vietnamese people to fight Vietnamese people, drive the invaders from our country, and secure genuine independence and unity for the Fatherland' (Ho Chi Minh, 2011, Vol. 7, p. 238). This determination to sustain a protracted struggle was distilled into an expression of the entire nation's indomitable will: 'The entire Vietnamese people are of one heart: determined never to become slaves; of one will: determined never to lose their country; and of one purpose: determined to wage resistance to secure unity and independence for the Fatherland' (Ho Chi Minh, 2011, Vol. 5, p. 178).

Southern Vietnam in the struggle to defend independence and achieve national liberation

In Ho Chi Minh's thought, Southern Vietnam is positioned as a vanguard revolutionary force, participating actively and creatively in the protracted resistance to defend national independence and liberate the country. This assessment arose from his profound understanding of the ardent patriotism, steadfast resolve and immense sacrifices of its people and combatants. As early as September 1945, when the newly won independence faced the threat of French colonial aggression, he affirmed: 'I am certain, as are our compatriots throughout the country, of the resolute patriotism of the people of Southern Vietnam' (Ho Chi Minh, 2011, Vol. 4, p. 29). This strategic confidence expressed his recognition of, and complete trust in, their resolve and capacity for revolutionary struggle at a decisive turning point in the nation's history.

In the directive issued by the Provisional Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam to the people of Southern Vietnam, President Ho Chi Minh affirmed the international significance and national importance of the resistance in the region: 'The determination and courage of the people of Southern Vietnam in resisting the French invading army have not only inspired admiration among compatriots throughout the country but have also demonstrated to the world the Vietnamese people's determination to secure independence' (Ho Chi Minh, 1945, as cited in Phan, 2016). This assessment situated the struggle of Southern Vietnam's armed forces and people within its integral relationship with the entire nation's determination to uphold self-rule. The spirit of 'rather dying in freedom than living in slavery' on the Southern battlefield provided powerful inspiration and encouragement to people throughout the country, while

conveying to the international community an unequivocal message about the Vietnamese nation's determination to defend its independence.

In December 1945, in his letter To the Combatants of Southern Vietnam and the Southern Part of Central Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh offered encouragement while clarifying the foundations of the revolutionary armed forces' strength: 'You on the front line are never alone, for you have the united strength of the entire people behind you. Final victory will certainly be ours' (Ho Chi Minh, 2011, Vol. 4, p. 154). This sincere encouragement elevated the struggle of frontline combatants into a symbol of the strength of great national solidarity, reinforcing confidence in the inevitable victory of their just cause.

The conferment of the honourable title 'The Fatherland's Bronze Bulwark' constituted historical recognition of the resolute resistance of the people of the South. From the perspective of documentary analysis, however, the groups and geographical areas addressed must be distinguished precisely in each historical context. Letters to the people and combatants of Southern Vietnam during the resistance against French colonialism provide direct evidence for assessing the region's role. At the sixth session of the Second National Assembly, Ho Chi Minh declared: 'The South is truly worthy of the title "The Fatherland's Bronze Bulwark"' (Ho Chi Minh, 2011, Vol. 14, p. 80). Here, the scope of his commendation extended to the South as a whole, reflecting continuity and development in his thought while referring to a geopolitical area that was not identical to Southern Vietnam.

In "Little Dien Bien" and the "Golden Bridge", Ho Chi Minh summarised an operational principle of people's war: 'Guerrilla forces often hold the initiative' (Ho Chi Minh, 1965, Vol. 14, pp. 447–449). This proposition was illustrated by notable victories at Bến Súc, Biên Hòa, Long Mỹ and Bình Giã. After 1954, he continued to follow battlefield developments closely. In his letter To Dear Thu – Oanh, he commended the victories at Ấp Bắc and Thạnh Phú, alongside engagements at Hiệp Hòa, Chà Lã, Ô Môn and Thủ Dầu Một (Ho Chi Minh, 1964). Subsequently, in Fight Well. Win Great Victories, he praised the particularly audacious attacks at Biên Hòa Airfield and Sóc Trăng (Ho Chi Minh, 2011, Vol. 15, p. 158). His selection of these concrete examples affirmed the initiative and adaptability of Southern Vietnam's revolutionary armed forces in changing the course of the war.

Ho Chi Minh's commendation was consistently accompanied by calls for revolutionary action. He urged the cadres, combatants and people of Southern Vietnam to 'unite closely and continually strengthen the resistance' in order to drive out the invaders and secure genuine independence and unity (Ho Chi Minh, 2011, Vol. 7, p. 238). Southern Vietnam thus emerges as a steadfast revolutionary stronghold, playing an active role and fulfilling a profound historical responsibility in national liberation and reunification.

The bonds between Southern Vietnam and the rest of the country in the struggle for national reunification

Within President Ho Chi Minh's theoretical outlook, the liberation struggle of the people of Southern Vietnam was always integrally connected to the goals of national independence and reunification. The relationship between Southern Vietnam and the country as a whole embodied a dialectical relationship between the solidarity and support provided by the rest of the country as a broad rear base and Southern Vietnam's historical responsibility as a front line of the common revolutionary cause. In his letter to the people and combatants of Southern Vietnam and southern Central Vietnam on the anniversary of the Southern Resistance, he affirmed: 'In their hearts, Ho Chi Minh, the Government, and the entire army and people throughout the country are always by your side, following your efforts and cherishing you' (Ho Chi Minh, 2011, Vol. 5, p. 249). This affirmation, imbued with profound revolutionary affection, situated the resistance in the southern regions within the particular concern and nationwide solidarity of the Vietnamese national community.

These inseparable bonds found concrete expression in the shared historical responsibility to defend independence and territorial integrity. Southern Vietnam persevered in the protracted resistance, drawing on the strength of great national solidarity while actively contributing to the strategic tasks of the national revolution. Ho Chi Minh's call upon its people and combatants to remain united and steadfast in the struggle to 'secure genuine independence and unity for the Fatherland' demonstrated that regional tasks were inseparable from the supreme interests of the nation (Ho Chi Minh, 2011, Vol. 7, p. 238).

Following the 1954 Geneva Accords, when the country was temporarily divided, the enduring bonds between North and South were further expressed through the care extended to Southern cadres, combatants and compatriots who regrouped in the North. Ho Chi Minh emphasised: 'To implement the ceasefire agreement, you have temporarily left your homeland, but you are now closer to the Party Central Committee, the Government, the army and the people of the North. North and South remain one family' (Ho Chi Minh, 2011, Vol. 9, p. 60). The expressions 'temporarily left' and 'one family' not only situated this regroupment within the prospect of national reunion but also sustained and reinforced a sense of belonging to a unified national community. Addressed collectively to Southern cadres, troops and cadres' families, the document provides a broader theoretical context for understanding the foundations of the bonds between Southern Vietnam and the socialist North.

Within the overall strategy of the Vietnamese revolution, President Ho Chi Minh defined the Third National Party Congress in 1960 as the 'Congress for building socialism in the North and struggling for the peaceful reunification of the country' (Ho Chi Minh, 2011, Vol. 12, p. 673). The strategic tasks of both regions served the common goals of liberating the South and reunifying the country; Southern Vietnam's role must therefore be situated within this relationship of strategic coordination. In his Letter to Compatriots Throughout the Country, he articulated a fundamental principle: 'National reunification is the path to survival for our people. Great national solidarity is a force that ensures victory' (Ho Chi Minh, 2011, Vol. 10, p. 360). By placing these two propositions together, he clarified the causal relationship between the strength of great national solidarity and the goal of national reunification. Solidarity thus became a consistent strategic principle, closely connecting the resistance of the people of Southern Vietnam with the political responsibility of the entire nation.

Ho Chi Minh also expressed his aspiration for national reunification by linking personal honour to the complete liberation of the South. At the sixth session of the Second National Assembly in 1963, when the Assembly proposed awarding him the Gold Star Order, he respectfully requested: 'Please wait until the South is completely liberated, the Fatherland is peacefully reunified, and North and South are reunited as one family. The National Assembly will then allow the people of the South to present this noble Order to me. That will bring happiness and joy to all our people' (Ho Chi Minh, 2011, Vol. 14, p. 80). His wish to receive the Order directly from the people of the South brought his personal convictions and honour into the shared joy of national reunion, affirming reunification as both the supreme political objective and an expression of the sacred bonds of compatriotship.

This profound affection was also evident in his ardent desire to visit the South and meet its combatants and people in person to offer encouragement. In his letter to Comrade Lê Duẩn dated 10 March 1968, he wrote: 'A visit at precisely that time would give our comrades further encouragement' (Ho Chi Minh, 2011, Vol. 15, p. 437). This intention reflected his sense of responsibility, understanding and solidarity with those enduring the hardships of the front line. In his Welcoming Address to International Trade Union Delegations, he also expressed his feelings in moving terms: 'My heart and the hearts of our 17 million compatriots in the North always beat in unison with the hearts of our compatriots in the South' (Ho Chi Minh, 2011, Vol. 14, p. 190). The image of hearts 'beating in unison' offered a particularly powerful expression of the inseparable solidarity between North and South.

In his sacred Testament, this ardent aspiration became an expression of absolute confidence: 'Our Fatherland will certainly be reunified. Our compatriots in the North and the South will certainly be reunited as one family' (Ho Chi Minh, 2011, Vol. 15, p. 623). The bonds between Southern Vietnam and the rest of the country were thus grounded in revolutionary affection, strategic solidarity and a shared historical responsibility to achieve national reunification.

Discussion

The documents examined reveal three closely interrelated theoretical features of Ho Chi Minh's thought on the position and strategic role of Southern Vietnam. The first is the integration of the strategic principle of national unity with profound revolutionary affection for his compatriots. His affirmation that Southern Vietnam was an inseparable part of the Vietnamese Fatherland was consistently linked to an understanding of its people's inherent belonging to the national community. His steadfast commitment to defending territorial sovereignty thus also expressed a profound political responsibility towards compatriots enduring war and national division. In his Letter to the Compatriots of Southern Vietnam and his statement following the negotiations in France in 1946, the sacred rights of the nation and the people's actual circumstances were brought within a shared strategic concern (Ho Chi Minh, 2011, Vol. 4, pp. 280–281, 467–471). Simple, accessible language translated fundamental political principles into concrete revolutionary aspirations among the people. In his New Year Greetings, he expressed this connection in verses encapsulating an enduring truth: 'Our country, Vietnam, is one, Our Vietnamese nation is one. Though rivers may run dry and rocks may wear away, The people of the South and North are children of one family' (Ho Chi Minh, 2011, Vol. 14, p. 12).

The repeated affirmation 'is one' connected the country's undivided sovereignty with the indivisible unity of the nation, while the image of 'children of one family' conveyed a political principle through sacred familial bonds. This foundational conception of North–South relations provides a firm theoretical basis for understanding Southern Vietnam's position within the territorial and communal space of the Vietnamese nation.

The second feature is the integral connection between recognising historical contributions and affirming revolutionary responsibilities. Assessments of the patriotism, indomitable fighting spirit and immense sacrifices of Southern Vietnam's people and combatants were consistently accompanied by encouragement to strengthen great national solidarity, build their forces and persevere in resistance until final victory. Such commendation both acknowledged the value of their practical contributions and helped define the strategic tasks ahead. This approach demonstrates that Ho Chi Minh regarded the people of Southern Vietnam as revolutionary agents capable of autonomous action and of assuming historical responsibility for the Fatherland's destiny (Ho Chi Minh, 2011, Vol. 5, pp. 248–249; Vol. 7, pp. 237–238). National solidarity also extended to efforts to persuade and win over soldiers serving under the Southern administration. In his Letter to Soldiers Serving under the Southern Administration, dated 14 January 1964, he affirmed: 'If, from now on, you come to recognise the just cause and return to the people, you too will be worthy of the Fatherland' (Ho Chi Minh, 2011, Vol. 14, p. 235). This sincere appeal opened the possibility of bringing those on the opposing side into the common cause, framing their actions in relation to the people and the Fatherland. Examples of soldiers who had recognised the just cause and returned to the people in Tân An–Chợ Lớn, Bà Rịa and Vĩnh Long connected this broader approach to concrete developments in Southern Vietnam (Ho Chi Minh, 2011, Vol. 14, pp. 235–238).

The third feature is the placement of Southern Vietnam's role within the national revolutionary cause as a whole. The contributions of one region were understood through its solidarity, mutual support and strategic coordination with the rest of the country. Affection for Southern Vietnam was linked to the sustained solidarity of the Government, the armed forces and the people of the North; conversely, the struggle in Southern Vietnam directly served the goals of

complete national independence and reunification. This dialectical relationship both clarified regional agency and brought the combined strength of the national community into full effect.

Comparison of the documents before and after 1954 reveals consistency in principle alongside flexibility in expression according to the strategic tasks of each period. Documents preceding 1954 directly emphasised Southern Vietnam in the resistance to defend independence; after 1954, many addressed the broader South and the revolutionary relationship between the two regions (Ho Chi Minh, 2011, Vol. 9, p. 60; Vol. 12, pp. 669–677). The discussion establishes the close relationship between Southern Vietnam's position and its role: affirming that it fell within Vietnamese sovereignty provided the legal and moral foundations for the entire country's responsibility towards the front line, while its contributions demonstrated the whole nation's determination to achieve reunification. The study moves beyond a description of Ho Chi Minh's affection to examine his understanding of revolutionary agency, clarifying the relationship between national sovereignty, great national solidarity and historical responsibility.

Conclusion

This study affirms that Ho Chi Minh's thought on the position and strategic role of Southern Vietnam rests on an integral, dialectical relationship between sovereignty over the entire national territory, the unity of the national community and the historical responsibility to undertake revolutionary struggle. Southern Vietnam was consistently affirmed as an inseparable part of the Vietnamese Fatherland. Its people shared with compatriots throughout the country the sacred right to national independence, an ardent aspiration for reunification and the profound duty to defend the Fatherland. On this theoretical foundation, their just resistance held decisive significance for the shared destiny of the entire nation.

President Ho Chi Minh understood Southern Vietnam's role comprehensively through its people's ardent patriotism, steadfast determination to resist, immense sacrifices and outstanding contributions to both national defence and national reconstruction. His commendation and recognition were consistently linked to the need to strengthen great national solidarity and define tasks for revolutionary action. The people and armed forces of Southern Vietnam thus emerge as resolute revolutionary agents capable of autonomous action, while remaining closely connected to the solidarity, support and strategic coordination provided by the rest of the country as a broad rear base.

Examination of the documents from 1945 to 1969 reveals three defining features of his intellectual legacy: (i) the harmonious integration of the strategic principle of national unity with profound bonds of compatriotship; (ii) the connection between recognising historical contributions and affirming revolutionary responsibilities; and (iii) the positioning of Southern Vietnam's role within the broader causes of national liberation and national reconstruction. Across the historical periods before and after 1954, these strategic principles remained constant, while the intended audiences and modes of expression were adapted flexibly to changing revolutionary tasks. The study's scholarly contribution lies in systematising these fundamental theoretical relationships, providing a methodological basis for analysing Ho Chi Minh's intellectual legacy concerning national unity and the role of strategically important regions.

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