

ON HO CHI MINH'S THOUGHTS IN 1973 PARIS SOLUTION

Nguyen Phuc Luan

This article highlights Ho Chi Minh's great contribution and long-lasting imprints on the 1973 Paris negotiations on ending the war and restoring peace in Vietnam. The author emphasizes that His thoughts are major guidelines in engaging the Americans in the negotiations, keeping them isolated diplomatically and making full use of the support from the international community. As a result, fundamental shifts on the diplomatic front were made. These, combined with victories on the military front, made great contributions to the success of the step-by-step winning strategy. The core of Ho Chi Minh's thoughts, as the author points out, is how to start a war for national salvation and how to end it in the country's best interests in an effective way.

THE NEGOTIATIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT REVISITED

Nguyen Khac Huynh

The aim of the author in this article is to examine some of the issues relating to the negotiations of Paris Agreement on ending the war and restoring peace in Vietnam, with a focus being laid on major characteristics of the negotiations and outcomes gained by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The author also takes a stock of the Agreement itself, particularly the lessons such as how to successfully combine diplomatic, military and political fronts, and to take advantage of opportunities brought about by the developments in Vietnam and elsewhere during the negotiations with a view to step-by-step reaching the final goal of national reunification.

THE WORLD PEOPLE'S FRONT AND ITS SUPPORT FOR THE PARIS AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

Trinh Ngoc Thai

This article examines the establishment of the world people's front, its support and contribution to the success of the Paris negotiations on ending the war and restoring peace in Vietnam. The author highly values the close coordination among peoples of all walk of life in Vietnam, the United States and the rest of the world in support for a solution to the conflict in Vietnam. He also points out that the establishment of this

front was a result, first of all, of the Vietnamese just war against the United States, effective policies by the Vietnamese Party and State, the heroic struggle of our people and the successful combination of the diplomatic, political and military fronts.

THE PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY AND VIETNAMESE PRACTICE

Vu Duong Huan, Asso. Prof

Parliamentary diplomacy has a long history of existence along with official and conventional diplomacy. Diplomatic activities of this kind are conducted by legislators as supplements to state's diplomacy, thus contributing to the realization of state's external relations objectives. The role of parliamentary diplomacy is reflected in such aspects as the adoption of documents relating to a country's external relations, its participation in the foreign policy making process and the implementation of foreign policies. While Vietnam is deepening its international and regional integration, the country's parliamentary diplomatic activities have made great contribution to the implementation of the Party and State foreign policy and to the improvement of Vietnam's image in the world community.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN GLOBALIZATION CONTEXT

Duong Van Quang, Asso. Prof

The article provides a brief introduction of culture in the information age and the current debate on cultural diversity. The author observes that this debate began in the late of the XIX century. And the focus of the current debate on states' subsidies for film production between the United States and Europe is in fact the continued struggle for copyright between the Lumières in France and Edison in America, among other things. The struggle for cultural diversity becomes fiercer as and when globalization affects all aspects of economic, commercial and investment activities. Therefore, it has been the focus of discussions at various international fora. The author also points out that France is the pioneer in this struggle by adopting a number of financial and quota measures and by calling for an International Convention on Cultural Diversity. He asserts that, Vietnam's approach is to seriously take the dialogues among cultures together and at the same time, making great efforts to develop a progressive culture with national identity.

GLOBAL ISSUES IN US FOREIGN POLICY AFTER THE COLD WAR

Nguyen Thai Yen Huong, PhD

Global issues have recently got attention of not only policy makers but also academic community. To cope with them, it requires great efforts and cooperation among nations as the consequences have gone beyond national boundaries. Then the questions for researchers will be whether these issues will be used as the tools for foreign policy implementation or they are just supplementary means. In reality, America has been one of the countries taking the global issues into consideration in the process of foreign policy making rather early but the only since the Clinton administration the attention being paid more, especially after September 11. The foundation leading to the interests to them includes: 1) the risks and challenges America has to deal with as the result of global issues; 2) the attitude of American leaders. However, in addition to the humanitarian purposes, these global issues are still bound to the aims to create a leading position for the United states.

RUSSIA AFTER PUTIN: A NEW MECHANISM OF LEADERSHIP

Le Thanh Van, MA

Russian politics after Putin is characterized by two major developments: position switch of the top leader posts between V. Putin - the outgoing President - and D. Medvedev - the president elected, and the voluntary and peaceful transfer of power. According to the author, the fact that V. Putin decided not to take another term (even his increasing power and popularity) has set a good example of upholding the unchallenged supremacy of law and reflected his appreciation of his colleagues' leadership capability in pursuing Russia's national interests. The author also expresses optimism about Russia under the new leadership, particularly positive developments in political, economic and foreign policies as well as about prospects of Russia-Vietnam relations.

ANOTHER LOOK AT CHINA’S SOFT POWER IN ASIA

Nguyen Duc Tuyen

“Soft power” as a policy tool has been used by China to project its influence, particularly in Asia. On one hand, the chance of success is greater by the geographical and historical linkages between China and her neighbors. In addition to this, China’s economic achievements and diplomacy give it more resources to boost what is called soft power in Asia. But on the other hand, China’s “soft power” can create some kind of suspicion among some countries. As many observers have suggested, China’s efforts at promoting its soft power are met with resistance. According to the author, the “peaceful development” theory, therefore, is a way that China hope to put neighboring countries’ concern at rest.

THE NEW WAY OF MIDDLE EAST’S PETRODOLLARS

Nguyen Manh Cuong, MA

The expanding imbalance of oil demand and supply has excessively inflated the oil price for the last five years, which once again brings about massive flows of oil revenues to the Middle East region. What’s different from the previous oil crises in the 1970s and 1980s are the ways Middle East countries make use of the new petrodollars. Learning the unsuccessful experience from the previous oil crises, Middle East countries tend to use their skyrocketing oil revenues for domestic economic development, which has brought about a new face of Middle East economy. At the same time, they also seek to invest oil revenues abroad, but mainly and preferably in business acquisition or investment funds in various countries, especially emerging economies in Asia. The new way of petrodollars has triggered some policy responses from emerging economies to attract petrodollar’s investment. Vietnam is generally considered as a prospective target for petrodollars investment with favorable conditions, both economically and politically, to attract these investment flows.

POWER DECENTRALIZATION IN ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS BY THE REPUBLIC OF PHILIPPINES: SOME LESSONS FOR VIETNAM

Le Thanh Binh, Asso. Prof

Administrative reforms in the Philippines since the country gained independence have been taken in different phases. At present, three major tasks are being implemented, namely the decentralization of power, privatization and the use of alternative institutions in provision of public services. The first task of decentralization of power, as the author argues, focuses more on the delegation of power, particularly to local authorities. This is clearly reflected in a number of legislations such as the 1991 Law on Local Governments which was adopted to share power and responsibilities with local authorities at different levels and in different management areas. According to the author, power decentralization is also aimed to realize the democratic objectives, namely to make local government more effective, to build democracy at local level and to secure equality in local community. Therefore, administrative reforms in the Philippines as evidenced by its efforts to decentralize power may set a good example for Vietnam.

VESAK DAY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Bach Thanh Binh, PhD

Vesak day is a triple ceremonial day of Lord Buddha to commemorate His birthday, enlightenment, and pass-away. The United Nations General Assembly chose this day as the Vesak day of the UN to be observed in the full moon day of every May. Vesak day is not a religious engagement to worship the pure Buddhist belief. It is a day of cultural exchanges when scholars and thinkers of Buddhism in which most of them are Buddhist dignitaries and monks from UN members meet in the International Buddhist Conference - the most important event of the Vesak day. Increasingly, Vesak day has been emerging as an international network or movement of multilateral nature.

Vietnam is the hosting country of the Vesak day for the year of 2008. This year, the theme for the Conference is “Buddhist contribution to building of a just, democratic and civil society”. As the hosting country of the 2008 Vesak day, it is essential for Vietnam to have a better understanding of the event and to utilize it for the sake of serving the country’s foreign policy as well as contributing to the common course of peace and cooperation among countries in the world.