

Worldwide Significance and Impact of Vietnamese Resistance

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SUB

The daily Quan Doi Nhan Dan (People's Army) has just carried a serial study by Chien Thang dealing with:

- Development of the Vietnamese nationwide resistance war after Dien Bien Phu and ousting of the French colonialists by the US imperialists.
- Political and military setbacks of US imperialism.
- Consequences of the Vietnamese resistance.
- Major turns of the war in our favour.
- Growing successes of anti-pacification.
- Powerful world support to our cause and great difficulties of the US.
- Strategic initiative turned to account for heavier attacks and bigger gains.

Following is a digest of the parts discussing the significance and impact of the Vietnamese resistance in the world.

A Stake Far Beyond Viet Nam Boundaries

Of all the wars waged against imperialists and for independence and freedom, the war conducted by the Vietnamese people is unquestionably the biggest and most gruelling one.

For US imperialism, Viet Nam is a main link in its anti-revolutionary global strategy chain; it is in our country that it has for a quarter of a century been pursuing a policy of intervention and aggression to turn Viet Nam into an important stronghold in its disposition aimed at encircling the socialist camp and stemming the revolutionary movement; Viet Nam is also for the US a ground to test its strategies and methods directed against the national liberation movement.

For the revolutionary forces, Viet Nam is the crossroads of three "revolutionary currents" of our time: effort of the socialist countries to defend and build socialism, movement of the colonial and dependent peoples to gain and safeguard their national independence and drive of the peoples in the capitalist countries for democracy and social progress. The Vietnamese resistance is also a punch poised mainly against US imperialism --

the capital bastion of the world reaction -- by the revolutionary forces in the sixties.

Consequently this importance of the stake far exceeds the borders of our country.

For US imperialism, the outcome of the war will affect more directly its global strategy and bring about a new change in the relations of forces between revolution and counter-revolution in the world.

On the other side, Viet Nam is not only a country in which a revolutionary situation prevails but where the revolution commands effective forces capable of besting US imperialism and pushing it a big step back, of giving a new impulse to the aggressiveness of the revolutionary forces. This offensive against US imperialism, the world policeman, has been taking place in Viet Nam, and it is precisely there that the imperialist forces have been launching their counter-attacks. As one has seen, Washington has left no stone unturned and flinched from no crimes to carry the day. On our part, we constantly toughen our resolve to fight on until the enemy's aggressive will is broken.

The Viet Nam War and the American People

THE last half of this century has been marked mainly by the disintegration of old colonialism and its replacement by neo-colonialism. To hide its nature which is hateful to mankind is a great concern and a sheet-anchor for imperialism. However, nowhere else than in Viet Nam is the true colonialist nature of the US government more transparent to the world peoples. The disclosure of the Pentagon papers has finally opened the eyes of the most sceptical people who still entertained some doubt about the soundness of the objections of progressive public opinion to US policy. US aggression in Viet Nam is now in everybody's eyes indefensible and renders all the more odious the professions of faith of various administrations in Washington. The rottenness of the US placemen in Saigon, the recent one-man election during which Thieu resorted to drastic measures to oust all his opponents, are new proofs of the American rulers' double-dealing.

As a result, the successful struggle of the Vietnamese people has suddenly awakened the American people and profoundly shaken the US. The American citizen has thus acquired new notions about impor-

tant problem.

First, he has realized that the "crusade" undertaken in his name by the men in the White House is in truth an immoral and horrendous war which has squandered a huge sum of money and tens of thousands of human lives, landed the US in untold difficulties, and discredited it in the eyes of the world's peoples. His conscience and sense of honour are hurt by successive administrations, from Eisenhower to Nixon, caught red-handed lying and deceiving the American people. Their exhortations which play on a vociferous patriotism to win the people over to their Viet Nam policy have no effect on public opinion and appear all the more odious. The turn of the war and its disastrous influences on the US army, society and nation, have brought home to many an American politician the present impotence of the US to subjugate the peoples keen on defending their independence and freedom.

As the late Senator Robert Kennedy remarked, the Viet Nam war has "revolutionized" the American people who, alive to their civic and moral obligations, more and more resolutely oppose it.

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The Worldwide Anti-US Front

THE resistance of the Vietnamese people is at the bottom of the US government's isolation at home and abroad. Washington has not under-estimated this serious state of things and has consequently displayed great diplomatic efforts: publication of white books, distribution of official documents, press conferences, TV interviews, statements of government members, world tours of pro-government statesmen including the US president and vice-president themselves. Nevertheless, it is obvious that in no other war has the political action of the world's peoples been so powerful and so persevering. A broad and efficacious political front against the US has made its appearance in the world. It gives the Vietnamese patriots a valuable encouragement and a great moral and material help. It aggravates the aggressors' political and moral estrangement and deals a staggering blow at the morale of the US expeditionary forces.

This worldwide assistance and

support to our people's resistance is quite characteristic of our time and vividly reflects the present relation of forces in the world (1).

It shows the decline of US imperialism, the ringleader of counter-revolutionary forces, and the strengthening of the revolutionary forces in the world. All legitimate fight for a just cause, all revolutionary war, enlists more or less the support and sympathy of progressive forces. But the size, strength and efficiency of this backing vary according to the epoch in which the struggle is waged.

Insofar as Viet Nam is concerned, this worldwide support stems from the fact that: 1. the socialist camp has become a decisive factor in the historical development of mankind; 2. the huge organizational capacity of the working class with the communist and workers' parties as nuclei; 3. a sound revolutionary line and foreign policy of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam,

The Myth of US Omnipotence Debunked

THE Viet Nam war has not "revolutionized" the American people only. The widespread support given the fighting Vietnamese patriots shows that the revolutionary spirit has been prevailing in the world.

A radical change has been wrought in the assessment of US might by hundreds of millions of people. The huge economic-military potential of the US coupled with a powerful propaganda machine has given the world peoples the impression that the US possesses unlimited means which would make all resistance senseless. This myth has been little by little exploded by the rapid strengthening of the USSR, the loss of US atomic monopoly, the triumph of the Chinese revolution, the emergence of the socialist camp, the Korean people's victory in 1952, the success of the Cuban revolution, etc. With its setbacks in Viet Nam and Indochina, US imperialism has seen its prestige dwindle wellnigh beyond remedy.

The US air force, Washington's

trump card after its atomic weapon, has shown, together with its artillery, its impotence despite the deployment of a 55,000-strong expeditionary force and up-to-date fighting units (such as the air mobile divisions) and war equipment. Our resistance has exposed the limit of the strength and fundamental weakness of US imperialism.

It is obvious that this more accurate estimation of the enemy's forces has impelled the world peoples' struggle against the world gendarme. Such "small countries" as Laos, Cambodia and Chile, have risen up against the "giant" US which has suffered defeat after defeat almost everywhere, from anti-US demonstrations to the overthrow of pro-US regimes, through severance of diplomatic relations, nationalization in many countries of US enterprises and capital, seizure of American ships unlawfully operating in their territorial waters, ransacking of American buildings and even embassies, etc.

Viet Nam and the World Revolution

THE Vietnamese resistance has strongly brought out the supremacy of the revolutionary forces over the counter-revolutionary forces in the balance of forces in the world. The war has emasculated the US imperialists in all fields—military, political, economic, financial, social... Their military potential has dangerously decreased. The huge expenditure for the Viet Nam war has upset the development of US military build-up on a world scale.

The American press has sounded the alarm: together with the dilapidation of billions of dollars in Viet Nam, the US has gradually lost its superiority it used to boast of in many fields.

Thus, the changes in the relations of forces in the world caused by the Viet Nam war are at the roots

of the upsetting of the US counter-revolutionary global strategy.

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(1) As made clear at the meeting held in 1957 in Moscow by the Communist and Workers' Parties: "Our time whose fundamental content is the transition from capitalism to socialism, is a time when socialism has become a world system and gained unquestioned supremacy in the international arena, in which the forces of socialism, national independence, democracy and peace have become more powerful than those of imperialism, and a time of extremely powerful growth of the revolutionary movement in the world and of the irresistible heading of imperialism for its total collapse."

Worldwide Significance...

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One cannot easily forget Khe Sanh, that remote place in the northernmost part of South Viet Nam where important contingents of GIs, chiefly "Leathernecks" were beleaguered in January 1968. Johnson then instructed Westmoreland to hold it at any cost. But one month later, the famous Tet 1968 general offensives launched by the patriotic forces which shook all the urban centres and populated areas in the South and took the US command completely at advantage dashed for ever the hope of an American victory in Viet Nam.

There is no exaggeration to say that the Vietnamese resistance war has played the role of an "abces de fixation" for the favourable development of other countries' revolutionary movements.

All this explains the magnitude and vigour of universal support for Viet Nam. Standard-bearer of the anti-US struggle and international solidarity, our people enjoy the assistance of all the socialist countries, of all the communist and workers' parties, all peoples fighting for national independence and freedom, of all the movements for democracy, social progress and peace in the capitalist countries, of all progressive mankind. Everyone is aware that the liberty of mankind is at stake in Viet Nam, and many friends of ours have more than once declared that to help fighting Viet Nam is to help themselves.