

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Conclusions

Ever since the Four-Nos were introduced, Vietnam has been active in conducting both their diplomatic strategy and their utilization and development of their military. In terms of their diplomatic strategy, it can be found that Vietnam was interacting with the west through various cooperations with both the US and their allies in which these combined efforts would result in a wide variety of cooperations ranging from economic to military sectors, whereas in terms of the utilization of their military it was found that Vietnam did develop and employ their armed forces in the region, although to an extent that it is still on the basis of their policy.

The upgrade in the partnership between Vietnam with the US and South Korea in 2022 and 2023 are both the biggest measures that Vietnam had conducted to reposition themselves against China, and their establishment of the partnership with China in the end of 2023 can be inferred as their way of retaining that non-aligned nature. Aside from that, Vietnam's dredging operations in the Spratlys and mobilization of fishing militias in the Paracels, can be seen as the solid examples of Vietnam's utilization of their "One Depend". Although these measures can be judged as their main idea of interacting and strengthening, it can be found that these actions were only conducted to an extent that it will not position Vietnam directly against China, of which those territories are in fact a part of their legitimate claim. This would then render the actions to be in accordance with their policy's basis of "respecting each other's independence, sovereignty, territorial unity, and integrity".

Throughout these events, the norm-constructivist processes can be seen to be taking part in both the establishment of the policy and the execution of its principles where it can be found that domestic norms do indeed have the influence over these

matters. From viewing the strategies and decisions that Vietnam had made in the region, primarily their diplomacy and their development of the military, we can see that these are in fact driven by the Ho Chi Minh thought.

In terms of their diplomatic utilizations, we can see that this strategy is closely related with the thought's diplomatic values of "independence", "cooperation on the basis of respecting independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, equality, and mutual benefit", and "the suitable diplomacy for specific conditions". Through their diplomatic maneuvering with both the US and China it can be seen that Vietnam is highly pragmatic in their interactions. It illustrated that Vietnam is in fact, independent, and thus can make their diplomatic decisions based on their own interests. It also illustrated that Vietnam did conduct its partnerships with the states through the thought's value of "cooperation on the basis of respecting independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, equality, and mutual benefit" where Vietnam would agree to a partnership if Vietnam's interests and requirements are met and appropriated. These combined, resulted in the perfect diplomacy that is all in accordance with the thought's diplomatic values where it was asserted that Vietnam should have "The Suitable Diplomacy for Specific Conditions", and these actions do appropriated themselves with that specific value.

In terms of their utilization of their own national military through developing its presence and powers in the Spratlys and the Paracels, we can see that this action is in accordance with the thought's diplomatic value of "Diplomacy Must Have Strength". Through their expansion and strengthening, we can see that Vietnam had been blunt in showcasing diplomacy through their military sector in the region where it showed the world how capable their military can be in the midst of the dispute. This showcasing would later attract international attention where in the process has led some countries to conduct military cooperations with Vietnam. This result ultimately illustrated the thought's aforementioned value where Vietnam had indeed been

successful in establishing a strong international image where their diplomacy did in fact have strength.

In conclusion, we can see that Vietnam's utilization of this policy is persistent with its own purpose when put into practice. Although the defense actions that they have undertaken in the region can ultimately contradict the whole principles of the policy, it can be found that these actions are still in accordance with it as in the end Vietnam did succeed in remaining non-aligned and they also did not directly use any form of military force under the basis of "respecting each other's independence, sovereignty, territorial unity, and integrity". Aside from that, the diplomatic strategies that Vietnam had conducted between the US and China had also proven to be successful in averting Vietnam committing to any states or any alliances that would result in directly antagonizing China.

4.2 Recommendations

Throughout the various explanations that were given in the writings of this study, it can be concluded that domestic norms do in fact influence the establishment of a state's foreign policy. Finnemore's argument of norms having both regulative and constitutive functions and Acharya's argument of states having the tendency to implement their own domestic norms over foreign ones, are highly illustrated through Vietnam's utilization of the Four-Nos or The Bốn Không Policy. Through the establishment of this policy, it can be viewed that Vietnam took an internal-oriented approach where the Ho Chi Minh thought's values were employed to establish the contents of the policy.

Through that comprehension, it can be inferred that The thought took part as the form of the domestic norm that was utilized in this norm-constructivist process. If we accord this with Finnemore's argument it can be inferred that regulatively, the thought and its values were utilized to establish the policy. Whereas constitutively, the

thought's diplomatic values had led Vietnam to find its interest in the dispute by remaining non-aligned. And if we accord this process with Acharya's argument, we can see that a state does indeed choose their own domestic norms over the foreign one, since the Ho Chi Minh Thought is a homegrown norm.

Despite having the uniqueness of utilizing the norm-constructivist approach through the utilization of domestic norms, this study can still use the help of native knowledge since it relies heavily on foreign sources and analysis. Although this study does include some Vietnamese sources, it lacks the primary data that it needed the most, a genuine Vietnamese data that highly alludes on the matters of the Ho Chi Minh Thought and the Four-Nos policy. The findings of this certain data is proven to be a challenge to obtain, therefore a thorough study with a more native approach would result in an embetterment at understanding the implementation of the Ho Chi Minh Thought towards Vietnam's Four-Nos or The Bốn Không Policy and would later contribute even more towards the role of domestic norms in a state's foreign policy. Aside from that, the recent update of China's nine-dash line to ten-dash line would also remain as a limitation towards this research since the period of the establishment of this study and the update to the ten-dash line would seem to not be in accordance with each other.