



EXPERIENCE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF VIETNAM IN COMBINING MILITARY AND DIPLOMACY (1954 - 1975)

Nguyen Thi Le Thuyⁱ

Vietnam Women's Academy,

Vietnam

Abstract:

Combining military struggle with the diplomatic struggle in the resistance war against the US, saving the country demonstrates the Party's art of leadership, which is a factor in Vietnam's strength to win over the US. The victory in the resistance war against the US and the salvation of the country demonstrated that the party's combination was correct and creative, and it provided the revolution with a number of valuable experiences.

Keywords: experience; military struggle; diplomatic struggle; resistance war against America; saving the country

1. Introduction

President Ho Chi Minh once affirmed the importance of military struggle and the combination of military struggle with diplomatic struggle, saying that "*Strength is the gong and diplomacy is the reputation.*" "*If the gong is loud, the sound will be loud.*" Using diplomatic strategies in a flexible and wise manner; victory on the battlefield will determine victory in diplomatic struggles and at the negotiating table. Thanks to the close combination of military struggle with diplomatic struggle, we have achieved a comprehensive victory, creating a great leap in the resistance war to advance to complete victory in the resistance war against the US (1954–1975).

2. Content

"It is necessary to grasp the reality of the situation, bring into play the experience of victory gained in the all-people and comprehensive resistance war against the French colonialists in order to set out the right people's war line against the new enemy. The American empire. Attack the enemy with three frontal attacks in all three strategic areas: forests, mountains, rural plains, and urban areas. Combining forms of political, military, and diplomatic

ⁱ Correspondence: email thuyntl@vwa.edu.vn

struggle, taking military struggle as the main and decisive form of struggle." (Vietnam Military History Institute, 2015)

From the very beginning, the Party has affirmed its determination to oppose America without ambiguity, under the illusion of the nature and plot of American aggression. Thanks to that determination, we overcame the domestic and international difficulties and obstacles at that time to find the appropriate measures to start the war to liberate the South in time with the demands of the situation. The increasing determination of our people to fight and win against the US is based on an analysis and assessment of the comparative force situation between us and the enemy.

One of the basic rules of the Vietnamese revolutionary war in the resistance war against the US for national salvation was to conduct a people's, all-people, comprehensive war, closely combine military with politics, fight the enemy with two weapons, and force three types of troops in all three strategic areas: urban areas, rural plains, and forests. After the victory of the resistance war against the French colonialists, our armed forces had a new development. In comparison to the United States, however, we continue to "*take the weak to fight strong*" and "*take fewer and fewer enemies.*" In a situation where our forces are weaker than the enemy's, the problem is how to make the revolution stand firm and win. The Party and President Ho Chi Minh advocated using the political force of the masses in combination with the armed forces to conduct a partial uprising, overthrowing the enemy government, regaining mastery in the hands of the people, and then regaining control from the uprising. Each part developed into a revolutionary war, combining to fight the enemy with two legs and three arrows in three strategic areas. At the same time, we can bring the strengths of political forces, military forces, and military forces into play; bring the strengths of each army's fighting style into play; and direct joint operations of the army and army in strategic operations, campaign and fight. At the same time, we will solve the synergistic relationship between political forces and military forces in all three strategic regions: forests and mountains, rural plains, and urban areas. Each strategic area has different characteristics in terms of terrain, population, and the comparison of the layout of enemy forces, so the Party has specifically and closely directed, depending on the situation of each region, combining to attack the enemy with two forces: military and political, and three types of troops: the main army, the local army, the militia, and the guerrilla, self-defense to suit the whole battlefield in order to achieve effective strategic operations and daily operations.

Simultaneously with the combination of politics and military to attack the enemy, we also stepped up the diplomatic struggle to attack the spirit and will of the enemy and enlist the consensus and support of the world peace forces. We have stepped up political struggle activities in urban areas, combined with military offensives by the special force, commandos and uprisings by the masses. The military offensive, combined with our large-scale political and diplomatic struggle, created conditions to disintegrate the enemy's ranks. As a result, the basic form of the revolutionary war, the revolutionary

method, and Vietnamese military art in the resistance war against the US and national salvation is military struggle combined with political and diplomatic struggle.

The Southern revolution gained significant momentum as a result of three frontal assaults that combined military offensive with political battle and diplomatic conflict in all three critical regions. We destroyed the Saigon puppet army's key hamlet system in 1963 by defeating its sweeping efforts to gather civilians with three frontal assaults. In 1965, also with three counterattacks, we defeated the first strategic counterattack of the American expeditionary troops in all five directions of the Southeast region and Zone V. And three fronts of the counterattack contributed to the war. Our victory in the Tet Offensive in 1968 forced the US imperialists to de-escalate the war, and the 1975 Spring-Summer General Offensive of our army and people completely liberated the South.

In the combining of military conflict with political conflict and diplomatic conflict, the military conflict becomes the fundamental conflict and is crucial to the success of the revolutionary war.

2.1 Experience in assessing and properly understanding the enemy, thereby proposing appropriate policies, strategies, and measures to deal with it effectively

During the invasion of Vietnam, the American empire was not always and everywhere strong. We have discovered their weakest points and loopholes at each place and time to deliver a decisive blow to change the outcome of the war. During the years 1959–1960, we discovered the weak point of the US: the puppets were the countryside, and their weakest link was the grassroots puppet power. Therefore, after we found the right solution and the appropriate method of struggle to instigate the mass uprising, the masses rose up to conduct a successful Co-Origin, mastering a large number of rural areas. We won this step by seeing that our fundamental strength in politics is that the majority of the masses do not follow the enemy but agree with us, and at the same time seeing the basic weakness of the main enemy when they act aggressively. The most fascist tricks hit the people to consolidate the dictatorial rule of Ngo Dinh Diem's henchmen.

In the "Special War," the enemy organized to gather people and set up strategic hamlets together with the puppet troops to sweep extremely fiercely. We used the "two-legged, three-pronged" method of struggle, combining both political and military, both mobilizing the people in the hamlets to fight, and mobilizing enemy soldiers to support and respond to the advance from outside to disrupt the plan to set up a strategic hamlet of the US puppet. Only between the beginning of 1963 and the end of 1964 were thousands of enemy strategic hamlets destroyed by the masses, right in the strategic hamlet system. Millions of people rebelled to gain mastery, open the array, and open the region by means of a "two-legged, three-pronged" struggle, surprising and confusing the enemy.

When the United States switched to "local war" and sent tens of thousands of troops to fight in the South while at the same time waging a war to destroy the North, our Party made very wise judgments about comparing enemy forces. Our Party promptly pointed out that the US sent an expeditionary force to the South and used its air force to

attack the North while we had deployed forces throughout the South and were in a position of readiness to fight across the country. The three armies have been completely formed, and the three-zone strategic position has been built. Across the southern battlefield, guerrilla warfare was highly developed. We have taken the initiative and are continuing to attack the enemy, while in the North there are always strategic reserve forces available to support the South to maintain and develop that offensive position. Our Party considers that the comparative force has remained essentially unchanged and advocates maintaining the offensive strategy and continuing to step up attacks and counterattacks against the enemy in all three strategic regions when the US forces "find and destroy" our main force on a large scale in the South. We won their first battles, then defeated their ambitious first strategic counterattack. In the dry season of 1966–1967, we actively opened the front of Route 9, then completely defeated the second counterattack of the American expeditionary force. At the end of 1967 and early 1968, due to the discovery that the US and the puppets were opening up in urban areas and taking advantage of the opportunity, the US imperialists were in a "dilemma," hesitating on strategy after having launched a local war. We successfully launched and organized the Tet Offensive and uprising, which was extremely daring and resolute, after reaching the peak but still failing. With a lightning strike, we defeated a serious step against the enemy's will to invade, created a major turning point for the resistance war, and forced the US to change its strategy and de-escalate the war.

At the end of the resistance war, when making strategic determinations to win complete victory for the liberation of the South, we realized that, although in nature the US was very stubborn and had many malicious plots, US forces have been still big, but this is when America is coming out, so it's not easy to get back. Because the US was still stunned and had been hit by a long series of strategic failures after getting involved, escalating, and de-escalating, it was only now able to get out. By choosing this strategic opportunity, we judge that the US is unlikely to return. However, we also firmly affirm that even if the US intervenes again to some extent, they will no longer be able to turn the situation around, and we will definitely win the final victory.

2.2. Experience in building a united world people's front, supporting Vietnam, and opposing wars of aggression

In the cause of resistance war against the US for national salvation, our party and state advocated for international solidarity, taking advantage of the consensus, support, and assistance of friends all over the world, creating synergy, and defeating the US imperialists' war of aggression. The world's people's movement to unite and support the Vietnamese people against the US and its aggression, formed at the end of 1964, has rapidly expanded and developed strongly since the US massively deployed troops to the South and used the Air Force to attack the North.

The movement spread from socialist countries to developed capitalist countries and to independent people on all continents. The movement includes democratic organizations, peace, trade unions, women, youth, and students. Many religious, social,

and charitable organizations, previously less involved in political activities, are now also actively involved in political activities and enthusiastically participate in the pro-Vietnam movement. Many organizations that support and unite with Vietnam have been established in other countries. Many famous figures and international influences in other countries have expressed their support for Vietnam, condemning the US and the senseless war that the US is waging in Vietnam. That really represents the widely linked socio-political trends across continents to unite in support of Vietnam.

The forms of support are very diverse and abundant: meetings, demonstrations, seminars, signing petitions, donations of money, medicine, clothes, etc. Many young people volunteered to go to Vietnam to fight. There are rallies with hundreds of thousands of people. The whole world knows about the parade that the Swedish people held in Stockholm against the US in mid-1967, led by Prime Minister Olof Palme and the Grand Master of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. Another activity of great humanitarian and political significance is the establishment of the Bertrand Russell International Court to prosecute American war crimes. The court's conclusions are the judgment of human conscience on America's war crimes. It created more strength and political and spiritual support for the world's people's movement in support of Vietnam against the US invasion and was also a great source of encouragement for the Vietnamese people.

The people's movement in support of Vietnam against the US invasion was not organized or led by any center. It is the just and heroic resistance war and the great victory of the Vietnamese people in the two regions that are the driving force to officially awaken human conscience and promote the movement. People's diplomacy in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the National Liberation Front has made important contributions to promoting the movement and directing the movement to activities, and the slogan is increasingly close to the requirements of the diplomatic struggle of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Vietnam. People's diplomacy in the North and on the Front—expanding contacts, widely participating in international forums, meeting with national and international organizations, and providing witnesses and documents on US crimes - is helping the world's people's movement to support Vietnam against the US invasion become more and more practical.

Along with the global people's struggle movement, the American people's movement against the war grew quickly and strongly, quickly opening up on a national scale and unified action. Right in 1965, when the US had just sent some of the first combat troops into the South, anti-war organizations established a "National Coordination Committee," demanding an end to the Vietnam War. This committee has launched two major campaigns in succession, attracting more than half a million Americans in more than 100 cities to participate. At the end of 1965, the self-immolations of some anti-war Americans like Mr. Morison caused a deep shock in American society and resonated around the world. The more the United States failed and got bogged down in Vietnam, the stronger the anti-war movement of the American people grew. In 1967 and 1968, the

"hot summer" took place, with demonstrations and parades taking place simultaneously in 120 cities in the United States.

President Ho Chi Minh called Vietnam *"the number one front against US imperialism."* *"The Second Front is right here in America."* This second front includes the struggle of black Americans against "racism", against the war of aggression in Vietnam, combined with the white American people's movement against the war. At the time when the US government began to carry out a local war in South Vietnam and escalated the air and naval war against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, President Ho Chi Minh remarked, *"In spirit, the anti-imperialist United Front was formed between the Vietnamese people and the American people... The American people fought from within; our people fought from without. If the two sides fight strongly against each other, then the US imperialists will definitely lose and the Vietnamese-American people will definitely win."* (Vietnam Military History Institute, 2015).

The American people's movement against the war had a great impact on the attitude of American political circles. The number of US congressmen opposed to the Vietnam War is increasing. Many parliamentarians demanded an end to the bombing of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, demanding negotiations with the participation of the National Liberation Front. In order to further strengthen the World People's Front in support of Vietnam against the US invasion, our foreign operations forces have held many meetings, contacted the movement, and provided them with more images, documents, and evidence for the struggle, and at the same time presented and answered things that peace-loving Americans still wonder about or do not fully understand our point of view.

3. Conclusion

The historical pages of the Vietnamese nation against foreign aggression and national defense have proven that diplomacy is an important front, associated with the nation's destiny, and always has an organic relationship with the military front to promote mutual assistance to achieve the common goal of national independence and national reunification. That relationship is clearly expressed: at the negotiating table, victory cannot be won without a victory on the battlefield, and victories on the battlefield will not be confirmed without the art of winning at the negotiating table. Victory at the negotiating table will create favorable conditions for greater victory on the battlefield, and victory on the battlefield will directly determine victory at the negotiating table. The Paris Agreement is the result of harmonious coordination between the military, political, and diplomatic fronts, demonstrating the culmination of the art of "fighting and talking" led by the Communist Party of Vietnam.

Conflict of Interest Statement

The author declares no conflicts of interest

About the Author

Nguyen Thi Le Thuy is working at Vietnam Women's Academy. She is currently conducting research on Vietnam's Military and Diplomacy in the period 1954 - 1975.

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