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# The Similarities between the Political System of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Laos People's Democratic Republic

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**Abstract:** Vietnam and Laos relationship, timeless friendship is a common feeling that people of the two countries have witnessed over the years. The study of clarifying the political system of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Laos People's Democratic Republic is of great significance in analyzing the organization and implementation of political power and power of the government, organization and operation of the Party, the State and socio-political organizations. At the same time, this is also a good source of references for teachers, learners and scholars interested in research, teaching and learning. Within the scope of this article, we focus on clarifying the political system in Vietnam and Laos at the following points: (i) The concept and characteristics of the political system of Vietnam and Laos; (ii) The political institutions of the political systems of Vietnam and Laos, from which comments and assessments of the political system model of the two countries.

**Keywords:** The similarities, the political system, Socialist Republic, Vietnam, Laos, People's Democratic Republic

### Introduction

Politics is understood as the issues that govern the state apparatus or the activities of the caste and political party to gain or maintain the right to govern the state (Y, N. N.; 2010). Politics is one of the areas of social life, including activities and relationships related to jobs and solving common problems of the whole society. Politics is also an activity in the field of relations between classes, as well as peoples and nations with regard to the acquisition, retention, organization and use of State power; is the participation of the people in the work of the State and society, is the practical political activities of the class, political parties, the states in order to seek possibilities for implementing the directions and items objectives to satisfy the benefits (Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences, 2005).

In a classed society, the dominant class always wanted to take on the role of carrying out common tasks to establish and maintain its dominant position. Therefore, Marxism - Leninism argued that politics is essentially the relationship between classes, the activities revolve around the issue of winning, retaining government and using state power. Of course, politics does not only consist of State affairs. If society wants to exist and develop, there are a number of other common issues to be solved, such as those related to ideology, consciousness, social ethics, and solutions to solve common social

problems different from the caste, the class in power ... Therefore, besides the State in society, there exist other political organizations.

The political system is a polity in organizing reciprocal relations with other systems such as: Economic, cultural, social systems, etc. Factors affecting the national political system are geographical and socio-economic conditions. Different countries in different regions have certain differences in the process of forming, organizing and operating political systems. Besides the differences, between Vietnam and Laos in the process of forming, building and developing the country has many similarities in the political system.

# The Political System of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Concept of the Political System of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Currently, there are many different approaches to the political system: The approach to socio-economic form, the institutional approach, the system approach, the functional approach, etc. In Vietnam, the art the term of the political system is officially used from the Resolution of the Sixth Conference of the Party Central Committee, Session VI (March 1989), from which the concept is adopted by Party and State documents and documents science, books widely used instead of the concept of dictatorship of the proletariat before. This represents a new understanding of politics - it not only surpasses the heavy nature of the class nature and the authoritarian side of politics; more importantly, focusing on and emphasizing the systematizes, the integrity and the relationship between the components of the system, which had not been concretized before the Sixth Congress. On the organizational structure of the political system stated in the Platform for building the country during the transition to socialism (June 1991) and the Platform (Supplement, development in 2011) and the Constitution of Vietnam in 1992 and 2013.

Accordingly, the Socialist Political System in Vietnam is a whole composed of political institutions including: Communist Party of Vietnam, State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Vietnam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations including: Vietnam General Confederation of Labor; The Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, the Vietnam Women's Union, the Vietnam Farmers 'Association, the Vietnam Veterans' Association are organized from the central to grassroots levels, operating to maintain and protect their power, benefits of the working class, working people and people of Vietnam.

Some Characteristics of the Political System of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

The Vietnamese political system is organized and operated in terms of historical, socio-economic conditions and specific political and cultural environment. Therefore, the Vietnamese political system is both popular and specific. The peculiarity of the Vietnamese political system can be found in the following:

Firstly, the current Vietnamese political system was born with the birth, existence and development of the Vietnamese State, although many member organizations of the socialist political system of Vietnam were born before the State such as the Vietnam Communist Party, Vietnam Fatherland Front, Trade Union, etc.

Secondly, the Vietnamese political system is led by the Communist Party of Vietnam. This specificity is governed by the role, position, leadership ability and leadership prestige of the Communist Party of Vietnam. This is an important condition to ensure the political stability of our country.

*Thirdly*, the Vietnamese political system is built according to the model of socialist political system. Although it is in the process of reforming and completing, it still has the influence of the bureaucratic and subsidy regime.

Fourthly, in Vietnam, socio-political organizations are trained by the Communist Party of Vietnam, born soon after the establishment of the Communist Party of Vietnam, becoming mass organizations and grassroots organizations political - social party.

Fifthly, the current Vietnamese political system demonstrates widespread democracy. Democracy is both a goal and a means of organizing and operating the political system. The organizations that make up the political system are organized and operate on the principle of democracy in order to effectively exercise the power of the people.

Sixthly, in the socialist political system of Vietnam, the political activeness of the people is always promoted. This characteristic is reflected in the people's active participation in discussions, contributing opinions to major political policies of the country and actively implementing those decisions; support the State both physically and mentally to solve the country's political problems, etc. Political Institutions in the Vietnamese Political System

Communist Party of Vietnam:

In the political system in Vietnam, the Communist Party is both a leader and a member of the political system. That is the Party's special role in the political system.

The Party's leadership over the current political system is in a new condition, which is to build the socialist rule-of-law State of the People, by the people, for the People, to promote the democracy strongly in socialist-oriented market mechanism and international integration. To ensure the Party's leading role in the political system, the Party must renew itself and enhance the fighting strength of party organizations; strengthen the Party's relationship with members of the political system.

The Party's leadership on the political system is the country's problems, in each specific field, from politics, economy to culture and society at all levels and branches; in relations with the State, the Fatherland Front, mass organizations and the whole society. The leadership of the Party manifests itself most concentrated in politics and ideology, aiming to create a political framework for the State, the Fatherland Front, socio-political organizations and the people to properly carry out their tasks, powers, functions and roles according to the provisions of law, the charter, purposes and guidelines of each organization.

The leadership of the Party is reflected in the content of the political platform, guidelines, policies and policies of the Party, ensuring the political orientation for the development of the country, creating a basis for the organization and the operation of the entire political system and the whole society aims at: rich people, strong countries, democracy, justice and civilization.

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam:

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam is the Socialist rule of law State of the People, by the People and for the People; owned by the People; all state power belongs to the People, the foundation of which is the alliance between the working class and the peasantry and the intellectuals.

The apparatus of the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam includes: National Assembly, President, Government, People's Courts, People's Procuracies and local Government.

The National Assembly is the highest representative organ of the People and the highest organ of state power of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The National Assembly exercises constitutional and legislative powers, decides important issues of the country and has supreme oversight over the activities of the country.

The President is the Head of State, on behalf of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on domestic and foreign affairs. The Government is the highest organ of state administration of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, exercising executive power, and is the executive organ of the National Assembly. The Government is responsible to the National Assembly and reports its work to the National Assembly, the National Assembly Standing Committee, and the President.

The People's Court is the judicial organ of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, exercising judicial rights. The People's Courts include the Supreme People's Court and other Courts prescribed by law. The People's Courts have the duty to protect justice, human rights, civil rights, the socialist regime, the interests of the State, and the lawful rights and interests of organizations and individuals multiply.

The People's Procuracy exercises the right to prosecute and control judicial activities. The People's Procuracies include the Supreme People's Procuracy and other Procuracies prescribed by law. The People's Procuracies have the duty to protect the law, to protect human rights, civil rights, to protect the socialist regime, to protect the interests of the State, the legitimate rights and interests of organizations, individuals, contributing to ensuring the law is strictly and uniformly observed.

Local governments are organized in administrative units of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Local governments include the People's Council and the People's Committee organized in accordance with the characteristics of rural areas, cities, islands, and special administrative-economic units prescribed by law.

Local governments organize and ensure the implementation of the Constitution and laws in their localities; decide on local issues that are determined by law; submit to the inspection and supervision by superior state agencies. Tasks and powers of local governments are determined on the basis of the division of powers among central and local state agencies and of each level of local government. In case of necessity, local governments are assigned to perform a number of tasks of superior state agencies on terms of ensuring the performance of such tasks.

The People's Council is a local state power agency, representing the will, aspiration and ownership of the People, elected by the Local People, responsible to the local People and agencies superior state. People's Councils decide on local issues as determined by law; supervise the compliance with the Constitution and laws in the locality and the implementation of resolutions of the People's Council.

The People's Committee at the local government level elected by the People's Council at the same level is the executive organ of the People's Council and the local state administrative agency, responsible to the People's Council and agencies superior state administration. The People's Committee organizes the implementation of the Constitution and laws in the locality; organize the implementation of resolutions of the People's Councils and perform the tasks assigned by superior state agencies.

Vietnam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations:

In country's revolutionary history, the Vietnam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations play a very important role. These organizations have encouraged and gathered people of all classes in the struggle for power, in the wars against foreign invaders and the struggle to unify the country. The Vietnam Fatherland Front and its member socio-political organizations have played an extremely important role in the formation and consolidation of the State of the People, by the People and for the People in Vietnam. Article 9 of the Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (2013) affirms: "The Vietnam Fatherland Front is an organization of political alliances, voluntary associations of political organizations and political organizations. - Social, social organizations and typical individuals in the social classes, strata, ethnicity, religion and Vietnamese residing abroad. of the people's government; to represent and protect the legitimate and legitimate rights and interests of the People; to gather and promote the strength of the great unity of the entire nation, to exercise democracy and enhance social consensus; supervise and criticize society; participate in building the Party, the State, and people's external activities to contribute to the construction and defense of the Fatherland".

Socio-political organizations have the task of educating political ideology, encouraging and promoting the social activeness of people of all strata, contributing to the implementation of political tasks; take care of and protect the legitimate and legitimate interests of the people; take part in the state management, social management, maintain and strengthen the close relationship between the Party, the State and the people, contribute to the implementation and promote the process of democratization and social renewal associations, implementing the mechanism of the Party leadership, State management, people ownership.

# The political system of the Laos People's Democratic Republic

Concept of political system of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

The political system in Laos is a polity composed of political institutions including: Laos Revolutionary People's Party; The State of the Laos People's Democratic Republic; Laos front for national construction; Lao Veterans Association; Laos Trade Union; Laos Women's Union; The Laos Revolutionary People's Youth Union (Constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Laos, 2015), which is operated under the leadership of the Party, managed by the State, organized by the people from the central to grassroots levels and works to maintain and protect the rights resources and benefits of the working class, working people and Laos people.

Some Characteristics of the Political System of the Laos People's Democratic Republic

The political system of Laos consists of components that are closely related to each other and have different roles and positions in the operation of political processes, expressed at different levels. Among the components that make up the system, there is always a part that plays a core and nuclear role, motivating and leading the whole system to operate in a defined target or direction. This is the nuclear division that leads the entire political system. Besides the similarities of Vietnam's political system, Laos' political system has the following characteristics:

*Firstly*, the Laos political system was born with the birth, existence and development of the Lao State.

*Secondly*, the Laos political system is led by the Lao Revolutionary People's Party. This specificity is governed by the Party's role, position, leadership ability, charisma and leadership.

*Thirdly*, for the Laos political system, the organization of the state apparatus has its own characteristics according to the concurrent model of key management leaders, both leading the Party's agencies and leading the State administrative officials.

The Political Institutions of the Political System in Laos

Laos Revolutionary People's Party:

Established on March 22, 1955, formerly known as the Indochinese Communist Party. The Laos Revolutionary People's Party is the only party to comprehensively lead the political organizations of Laos and Laos.

Laos People's Democratic Republic:

The Democratic Republic of Laos is the state of the People's Democratic Republic. All power belongs to the people, to the people and to the benefit of the people, the foundation of which is the working class, farmers and intellectuals.

The apparatus of the State of the Lao People's Democratic Republic consists of the National Assembly, the President, the Government, the People's Court, the People's Procuracy and the local Government

The National Assembly, which represents the rights and interests of the people of all ethnic groups, is the highest organ of the State, the legislative body, performing its functions through the Constitution and laws, deciding fundamental and important issues of the nation and supreme supervision of respect and implementation of the Constitution and laws of state agencies (see article 52, Constitution of Laos People's Democratic Republic, 2015)

The National Assembly has the right to vote or dismiss the President of the National Assembly, the Vice President of the National Assembly, and members of the National Assembly Standing Committee; elect or dismiss the President and Vice President at the proposal of the National Assembly Standing Committee; to consider and approve proposals for appointment or dismissal of the Prime Minister, the Chief Justice of the Supreme People's Court and the Head of the Supreme People's Procures at the request of the President; reviewing and approving the organizational structure of the Government; appoint or dismiss Government members at the request of the Prime Minister. Each National Assembly has a 5-year term.

The President is the Head of State of the People's Republic of Laos, who represents the people of all ethnic groups in domestic and foreign affairs, and is the Chairman of the National Defense -

Security Council, who dominates the people's armed forces to carry out current task of ensuring independence, sovereignty, stability and territorial integrity. The President is elected by the National Assembly with more than two-thirds of the total members joining the National Assembly. The term of the President is the same as that of the National Assembly. The State President holds office for no more than two consecutive terms. The President has Office of the President (see article 64 and 65, Constitution of Laos People's Democratic Republic, 2015).

The Government is an administrative agency with the function of State administration in all aspects and uniform nationwide and responsible before the National Assembly and the President (see article 69, Constitution of Laos People's Democratic Republic, 2015).

The Laos government is the highest executive body of the Laos People's Democratic Republic. The Government uniformly manages the performance of public tasks in all fields: politics, economy, security-defense, diplomacy, socio-culture, education and training, health, etc. The Government are obliged to implement the Constitution, laws, and resolutions of the National Assembly, decrees and decrees of the President. The Government is composed of the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers and Heads of ministerial-level agencies with the term of office according to the term of the National Assembly.

The Government consists of 18 Ministries, include: National Defense; Security; Interior; Foreign Affairs; Health; Finance; Justice; Agriculture and Forestry; Industry and Trade; Education and Sports; Science and Technology; Energy and Mining; Labor and Social Welfare; Information, Culture and Tourism; Investment Plans; Natural Resources and Environment; Post, Telecommunications and Information; Public Works and Transport and three Agencies Ministry ministries include: Lao State Bank, Government Inspectorate and Prime Minister's Office.

The Laos People's Democratic Republic divides local governments into three levels: provincial, district and village. In case of necessity, a special area may be organized at the discretion of the National Assembly. Local government is the local state management agency. Local governments are responsible to the Government and People's Councils (see article 85 and 86, Constitution of Laos People's Democratic Republic, 2015).

Laos Construction Front and Socio-Political Organizations:

Laos Front to build the country, Lao Veterans Association, Laos Trade Union, Lao Women's Union, Lao Revolutionary People's Youth Union and other social organizations are places for propaganda, education and mass assembly unite and encourage people of all strata to participate in the cause of building and defending the Fatherland, expanding the people's sovereignty, protecting the legitimate rights and interests of their members in its organization, has the rights and duties to supervise the activities of the National Assembly, the People's Councils and members of the above organizations (see article 7, Constitution of Laos People's Democratic Republic, 2015)..

The Laos Front built the country as a part of the political system of the Laos Front led by the Laos Revolutionary People's Party and is the political base of the people's democracy system. The Laos Front for national construction is an important political organization throughout the society, a voluntary organization built on the basis of self-awareness of political organizations, socio-political organizations and commune organizations associations and individuals represent the caste, class, ethnicity, religion, gender and age in general and represent Laos's people living abroad. The Laos Front built the country to inherit and promote the glorious tradition of the Free Laos Front and the Patriotic Laos Front, which gathered the great unity bloc of the people of all ethnic groups to join the struggle to liberate the country before and perform tasks in the current period (see Article 2 and 3, Laos construction front, 2009).

The Laos Front for national construction is organized and operates on the basis of the following main principles: (i) Self-discipline and voluntariness; (ii) Comply with the Charter and the program to carry out the work of the Laos construction front, within the framework of the Constitution and laws;

(iii) Centralized democracy; (iv) Discuss in a democratic, coordinated and agreed manner in operation. The organizational system of the Laos Front for national construction is organized from the central to local levels.

## Conclution

The political systems of Vietnam and Laos have many similarities. As a close neighboring country, the Vietnamese people are proud to have the Laos people as their loyal and transparent friends during the previous struggle for national liberation as well as in the construction and development renovation process developing the country today. We are delighted to witness the rapid changes taking place daily and hourly in the beautiful and sincere Laos country, sincerely wishing the Laos people, under the wise leadership of the Laos Revolutionary People's Party, to successfully building a prosperous and strong Laos, having open and external relations, having an ever-increasing role and position in the international arena.

Celebrating the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Vietnam-Laos Friendship and Cooperation Treaty, many rich and exciting activities were held in all regions of both countries. On this occasion, we affirmed our determination to strive to inherit and foster special solidarity, faithful friendship and close cooperation between the two Parties, the two States and the peoples of the two countries. Vietnam - Laos is forever green, everlasting and sustainable, contributing positively to the cause of building and protecting the socialist nation in each country, as well as in peace, stability, cooperation and development in each country region and the world.

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