

**EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF MARITIME POLICY IN THE ERA OF NATIONAL RISE****\*Dr. Nguyen Thanh Minh**

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**Abstract**

Effective implementation of maritime policy in the era of national rise is marked by important characteristics and features in implementing important contents of maritime policy. It is the continuation of the historical flow with the continuation, addition, and replacement of the contents of maritime policy. It is the effective and sustainable implementation in the fields of national defense, maritime security, maritime economy, maritime culture, international cooperation on the sea, protection and preservation of the marine environment.

**Keywords:** Maritime policy, Era, Nation.

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**INTRODUCTION***Overview of the rising era of the Vietnamese people*

An era is a long period of time, often defined by an important historical event or feature that has a great influence on society, culture, or science. For example, the digital era is an era of strong technological development, while "era" in astronomy is used to calculate time based on a specific landmark. A new era, in the common understanding, is the opening moment associated with a major event that has a great influence on the next stages of development of a field, community, etc., within the scope of the nation and humanity. In our country, since the Party was born, a new era has opened - the Ho Chi Minh era, successfully and gloriously carrying out two eras. The first era - the era of independence, freedom, and progress towards socialism (1930 - 1975). The Party led the August Revolution in 1945 to glorious victory, great victories in the resistance wars against colonial and imperialist invasion (1946 - 1975) and important initial achievements in the cause of building socialism in the North (1954 - 1975). The entire Party, the entire people and the entire army focused on implementing two major contents of the first era of the revolution: winning and maintaining independence and freedom for the Fatherland and preparing the initial premise for the second era - the era of national unification, innovation and development (1975 - 2025). In the spring of 1975, the resistance war against the US for national salvation was completely victorious, the whole country was unified, and the path to socialism created a new position and strength, a new opportunity for the 6th Congress of the Party to initiate the renovation in 1986. After nearly 40 years of renovation, the country has made great strides in development, achieved great achievements of historical significance, and its foundation, potential, position, and international prestige have been increasingly enhanced. The goals and major contents of the Second Era have basically been completed, allowing our country to enter the Third Era - a new era, an era of national growth, prosperity, and happiness. The era of national rise is a development that follows the laws of the two previous eras, reflecting the fundamental, consistent law of the Vietnamese revolution:

national independence is associated with socialism and is consistent with the dialectical development of the goal of Independence - Freedom - Happiness. The two previous eras established and continuously consolidated the foundation of national independence, creating the most important premise for moving forward to build the initial foundation of socialism. The era of national rise accelerates the process of completing the construction of socialism, firmly ensuring and creating new values of national independence. The two previous eras realized the top goal, the common goal of the nation, which is independence and freedom, taking that as the foundation to gradually realize the goal of happiness for the People, for human beings. The era of national rise takes caring for the happiness of the people, for the People as the number one goal, on that basis enriching and deepening the goal of independence and freedom.

The era of the Vietnamese people's rise is in line with the unprecedented new opportunities and fortunes of the times, when globalization and international integration, although still facing many obstacles, are an increasingly profound and irreversible trend; when the Fourth Industrial Revolution and subsequent industrial revolutions create opportunities for all countries to adapt, make good use of its achievements, and develop at an unexpected speed and achieve miraculous successes. Our Party has early recognized correctly, proactively and actively grasped this opportunity, considering it the key, the lever to accelerate the country's development and take off. Vietnam entering the era of the nation's rise is in line with the trend of the times.

*Maritime policy in the new era of the era of the Vietnamese people's rise*

Marine policy is an important part of public policy, considered a set of interrelated decisions of the State on the selection of goals and solutions to develop the fields of marine politics, marine economy, national defense, marine security, marine culture, international cooperation on the sea, protection and preservation of the marine environment. Marine policy in the era of the Vietnamese nation's rise contributes to creating outstanding development in all areas of political and social life, successfully implementing the double breakthrough process,

taking advantage of opportunities, overcoming challenges, developing rapidly, strongly and sustainably in the fields of marine policy, especially the fields of marine economic development. The struggle to protect national sovereignty, sovereign rights, jurisdiction, sustainable development of marine economic sectors, and international cooperation on the sea is facing unprecedented opportunities and fortunes, while also facing severe risks and challenges due to the impacts of traditional and non-traditional security issues and unfavorable impacts of the times. Therefore, in essence, planning and effectively implementing the basic contents of marine policy in the new era of national development is a double breakthrough process. On the one hand, it is necessary to make a breakthrough, go straight into modernity, into high-tech marine science fields, such as the production of renewable resources, tidal energy, offshore wind power, especially digital technology in which Vietnam has advantages, into modern national marine policy management on the basis of digital government, digital economy, digital society, digital citizen, taking shortcuts, taking the lead, and making breakthroughs. On the other hand, there must be a breakthrough in thoroughly and decisively resolving the bottlenecks, shortcomings, difficulties and obstacles that are holding back and hindering the development of marine policy areas. These two breakthrough processes need to be carried out in parallel, synchronously and mutually supportive; taking shortcuts, taking the lead, making breakthroughs and going straight to modernity is fundamental and has decisive significance; making breakthroughs in overcoming and effectively resolving weaknesses and inadequacies is urgent and important, contributing to promoting the sustainable development of areas related to seas and islands. The philosophy of the dual breakthrough process is to proactively create opportunities, correctly perceive opportunities, resolutely seize opportunities, overcome risks and challenges, and transform risks into opportunities to win. This philosophy has been implemented very successfully by our Party in nearly 95 years of leading the Vietnamese revolution, especially in the process of leading the struggle to protect sovereignty over seas and islands and develop the marine economy.

***In order for the sea itself to be deployed and implemented synchronously, effectively and efficiently in the era of national development, it is necessary to implement a number of basic and specific contents as follows:***

*First, strongly innovate the thinking of managing and developing fields related to seas and islands.*

Innovating the thinking of managing seas and islands includes applying a comprehensive and unified management approach, based on systematic science and inter-sectoral and inter-regional coordination. This also includes strengthening the application of modern science and technology, promoting international cooperation, and closely combining the development of the marine economy with environmental protection and climate change prevention, while raising awareness and responsibility of all people, especially the young generation, in protecting the sovereignty of seas and islands. The potential and advantages of resources, geographical location of seas and islands; the current situation and demand for exploitation and use of resources, marine space and issues of resource management, protection of the marine and island environment, require joint management from the central to local levels; thereby, promoting the effectiveness

and efficiency of management, exploitation, sustainable use of resources, and protection of the marine and island environment. The coordination and active participation of central and local agencies play an important role in the process of building and effectively implementing state management of resources, protecting the marine and island environment to develop a sustainable marine economy and protect people's livelihoods.

Especially in the current context, we focus on researching a system of solutions to effectively implement the Party's viewpoints and policies, the State's policies and laws on marine and island resources management such as the Law on Marine and Island Resources and Environment; National Marine Spatial Planning for the 2021-2030 period, with a vision to 2050; Strategy for sustainable development of Vietnam's marine economy to 2030, with a vision to 2045; paying special attention to reducing ocean plastic waste pollution in Vietnam; digital transformation in the management of exploitation and use of marine resources.

The era of the Vietnamese nation's rise takes place in parallel with the digital era, the era of innovation and creativity based on the principle that nothing is impossible. The Fourth Industrial Revolution and subsequent industrial revolutions are and will disrupt the way of thinking, management and governance of countries and peoples related to seas and islands. Once again, reality requires and demands that we strongly innovate our development thinking, have a new, more scientific approach to sea policy; to develop high-quality human resources in fields related to seas and islands. Especially in terms of socialist infrastructure and superstructure; in terms of national leadership and governance of seas and islands, etc., in accordance with the digital era; as a basis for orienting breakthroughs in the development of basic areas of current sea policy. We firmly adhere to the ideological foundation of Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh thought, and the Party's theory of innovation in the spirit of constant creativity, while being open and receptive to the scientific spirit of the progressive ideological and theoretical achievements of humanity on sea and island management so that our thinking on sea and island management is always fresh, carries the breath of the times, keeps up with the times, and stands shoulder to shoulder with the maritime powers. This is truly a revolutionary opening step on the path to building a rich and strong nation from the sea in the era of national development.

*Second, a strong institutional breakthrough, unleashing innovation and all potential for developing maritime policies.*

The new development thinking on maritime policies that wants to come into life must be institutionalized by the constitution, laws, mechanisms and policies. To do so, it is necessary to fundamentally innovate the thinking, methods of building and practicing institutions in the spirit of the rule of law, taking the promotion of innovation, promoting all potentials of the country to serve the struggle to protect sovereignty, sovereign rights, jurisdiction, national interests at sea, and sustainable development of maritime economic sectors in the new era of national development as the overarching goal. General review, overcoming overlaps, contradictions, and gaps in the institutional management of seas and islands, which are major bottlenecks to development; eliminating institutions that have been surpassed by practice; adding new institutions that are suitable, sustainable, and have long-term value to maximize

domestic and foreign resources in fields related to seas and islands. Promote innovation and open up driving forces for marine economic development; create a corridor for sustainable development of marine economic sectors until 2030, with a vision to 2045. Operate the sea and island governance institution in the spirit of best promoting the role, initiative and dynamism of the subjects; closely connect and practically serve the requirements of reality, taking the practical effectiveness of management and development of fields related to sea and islands as a measure of the rationality and strength of the institution.

*Third, improve the quality of marine human resources to meet the requirements of the new era, the era of national development.*

To improve the quality of marine human resources, it is necessary to focus on specialized training, develop attractive incentive policies, strengthen regional linkages and international cooperation, as well as encourage the development of specific industries and cultures. Specific solutions include: reviewing and innovating undergraduate and postgraduate marine human resource training programs, focusing on training high-quality human resources in fields such as science, technology, economics, fisheries, oil and gas; having separate policies for cadres working in sea and islands such as salaries, allowances, rewards, building a synchronous regional linkage mechanism in terms of institutions, infrastructure, training and production; and strengthening international cooperation on the sea.

It is necessary to resolutely and actively carry out the revolution in streamlining the organizational apparatus in conjunction with improving the quality of cadres and civil servants in the field of sea and island management and development. It can be seen that in recent times, although there have been many efforts and achievements in training human resources for research and management of sea and islands, the training of staff for research and management of sea and islands in our country still shows many shortcomings. Training is currently mainly focused on the fields of aquaculture, exploitation, seafood processing, marine hydrometeorology, ship engineering, marine construction engineering and marine transportation. Regarding the marine environment, marine ecology, geology, geophysics and marine minerals, marine management, marine economic development planning and especially oceanography, there is no separate training program. The staff participating in training marine human resources is still lacking in quantity and in some cases does not meet quality requirements. Training facilities are scattered, training levels are only focused at the university level, not focusing on vocational training and specialized training.

Currently, investment in training marine human resources is still too little, machinery and equipment are outdated, and practical skills are not many. Therefore, some graduates do not meet job requirements, especially foreign language proficiency and international maritime style. In addition, salary and bonus policies and treatment regimes for this specific economic sector are still unattractive, causing a high brain drain of human resources to other economic sectors and sectors. With that situation, it is very likely that in the next few years, the shortage of marine human resources will continue, even become more serious if we do not research and implement synchronous solutions soon. Special attention, in the current

context, must be given to the marine human resources that are properly trained, have the qualities and ability to investigate and research to find out the natural and social laws in the seas and islands and effectively apply the knowledge acquired to the management of sustainable exploitation of resources and protection of the marine environment. Know how to organize the prevention and overcoming of consequences of natural disasters at sea, plan policies, zoning for sustainable development of seas and islands, protect national sovereignty and national security and defense at sea.

In the current trend, in coastal countries, especially developed countries such as Japan, the US, Russia, South Korea, the UK, France, the Netherlands, etc., and some countries in the region such as China and Singapore, the training of human resources for comprehensive state management of seas and islands is given special attention. Training is mainly carried out at universities and in two main fields: science and engineering. Engineering is divided into two main branches: coastal engineering and offshore engineering. Coastal engineering mainly trains staff to serve coastal management issues, socio-economic development planning, and coastal disaster prevention. Offshore engineering includes the construction of works to serve socio-economic development at sea and near offshore islands. Scientific specialties are very rich, including issues of marine hydrometeorology, geology, marine geophysics, and marine ecosystems. After graduation, individuals recruited to work in state management are often trained in state management skills at their workplace through the guidance of experienced and competent colleagues and the exchange of experiences with foreign experts. These are considered lessons for us to refer to in the process of training to improve the quality of marine human resources.

*Fourth, promote the digital transformation revolution, creating steps for the development of marine economic sectors.*

Resolution 36-NQ/TW dated October 22, 2018 of the Party on the Strategy for sustainable development of Vietnam's marine economy to 2030, with a vision to 2045, has determined the viewpoint: Vietnam must become a strong maritime nation, rich from the sea, with sustainable development, prosperity, security and safety; sustainable development of the marine economy is closely linked to ensuring national defense and security, maintaining independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, strengthening foreign affairs and international cooperation on the sea, contributing to maintaining a peaceful and stable environment for development. To accelerate the digital transformation revolution and create a breakthrough development for the marine economic sectors, it is necessary to focus on promoting digital transformation in enterprises, supporting innovative startups, improving digital skills for human resources and attracting investment in smart marine technology. Developing marine science and technology as a foundation for absorbing and mastering advanced technology; promoting international cooperation and improving the quality of human resources. Specifically, Vietnam will promote basic and applied research on ecosystems, marine biology, natural disasters such as storms, tsunamis, earthquakes; applying modern technologies such as artificial intelligence - AI, big data - Big Data, Internet of Things - IoT to monitor, warn, restore and protect the marine environment. At the same time, focus on developing green technology, renewable energy, marine pollution control technology and supporting businesses to innovate in the fields of exploitation, aquaculture, and

marine services in a sustainable direction. Developing the marine economy in association with ensuring national maritime sovereignty is a consistent strategic policy of our Party, and is the responsibility of the entire political system, including the Vietnam Coast Guard. In the era of national development, the Vietnam Coast Guard must, together with other forces in the entire army, continue to perform well the functions of a combat army, a working army, and a production labor army; contribute to firmly protecting sovereignty, maintaining a peaceful and stable environment at sea; and at the same time actively participate in economic development combined with national defense at sea in potential and strong fields and industries, so that the country can develop quickly and sustainably.

*Fifth, implementing the policy of international cooperation on peaceful seas in the era of national development.*

To implement the policy of international cooperation on peaceful seas, Vietnam complies with the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea - UNCLOS as a legal framework. The main activities include peaceful settlement of disputes, sustainable management of the sea and protection of the marine environment through cooperation with other countries and international organizations.

Linking the destiny of the country and people with the common destiny of humanity. Grasping and exploiting progressive trends, advanced achievements in marine governance, and modern marine technologies of the world to increase the endogenous strength of the nation. Promoting the advantages of being a latecomer, taking shortcuts, taking the lead, effectively implementing the criteria of a developed country, shortening the gap with developed countries in the region and the world, keeping up with the times, advancing to stand shoulder to shoulder with the powers of the five continents.

Promoting the national value system, cultural value system and peaceful and just foreign policy, increasing Vietnam's soft power in the global value system. Raising the level of international cooperation on the sea in the era of national development; putting national and ethnic interests first and foremost, while respecting the interests of countries in the regional and international community according to the principles of equal cooperation, mutual respect, and mutual benefit on the basis of international law.

Vietnam has also enhanced its position and role in the international arena through proactive participation and promoting its role in international and regional forums such as the United Nations and ASEAN. Specifically, we successfully assumed the role of ASEAN Chair in 2020, a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for 2020-2021, one of the countries in the Core Group to draft a Resolution seeking the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion on the responsibility of states for climate change, a founding member of the Friends of UNCLOS Group committed to promoting the implementation and compliance with the convention, participating in negotiations and signing the Agreement within the framework of UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction in 2023, and an active member of the Legal and Technical Commission, the Seabed Authority.

It can be seen that the content and form of international cooperation on the sea between Vietnam and other countries and international organizations are increasingly going into depth and richness, helping us to make the most of resources and international support to improve our capacity for managing and exploiting the sea.

On the basis of thoroughly grasping the principles and mottos in the 2018 Sea Strategy, promoting the achievements and lessons learned in the past time and with the spirit of creativity in measures and solutions suitable to the international and regional situation and on the basis of international law, especially UNCLOS, international cooperation activities on the sea have achieved many important achievements, contributing significantly to strengthening political trust, friendly relations and cooperation between Vietnam and other countries; gradually resolving disputes at sea; ensuring the East Sea is a sea of peace, stability and sustainable development. Expanding and bringing international relations on the sea into depth, substance and effectiveness; Proactively and actively participate in building international institutions and participating in solving regional and international issues on seas and oceans. Successfully implement the principle of being unchangeable and adapting to all changes, taking independence, autonomy and internal strength of the country and people as the foundation, combined with taking advantage of favorable international factors to proactively and successfully respond to the fluctuations and uncertain risks of the world and regional situation in the context of the complicated dispute over sovereignty of islands in the East Sea.

### **Conclusion**

Vietnam's maritime policy in the new era is the development of the maritime economy associated with ensuring sovereignty and national interests at sea, with the goal of turning the country into a high-income developed country. This includes strengthening defense capacity, especially specialized forces operating at sea, to both protect sovereignty and actively participate in developing the maritime economy, as part of a strategy for rapid and sustainable development. Effectively implementing the maritime policy in the era of national development is a great and continuous undertaking, at the same time encompassing many great and complicated tasks, requiring the entire Party, the entire army, and the entire people to strive to successfully achieve the goal of building a rich, prosperous, civilized, happy country, steadily moving towards socialism.

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