

HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS

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SUMMARY OF DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

**Title: ESURING POLITICAL SECURITY ALONG THE LAND BORDER OF
VIETNAM - CAMBODIA IN THE SOUTHEAST REGION AT PRESENT**

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INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale for the study

This dissertation is conducted due to some of the following reasons:

- **First**, political security is a crucial part of national security, so ensuring political security helps strengthen the leadership role of the Party, the effectiveness and efficiency of the State apparatus. Through that, it can maintain and safeguard national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. Moreover, in the current context, the world's political and economic security situations have been causing a variety of complex and unpredictable fluctuations and the country is facing a host of difficulties in all aspects.

- **Second**, the Southeast of Vietnam is not only a key economic region, but also plays an important role in security and defense of the region in particular and the whole country in general. It is because the Southeast is a bridge connecting the South Central Coast, the Central Highlands to the Southwest, and between Vietnam and Cambodia.

- **Finally**, in the process of development, Realizing their role and importance to mutually maintain, build and protect the country. The Southeastern provinces, including the two border provinces of Tay Ninh and Binh Phuoc, have had many activities to safeguard political security. These activities have attained significant achievements. However, there are still many difficulties and challenges that threaten the leadership role of the Party, the effectiveness and efficiency of the State apparatus, and the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country if they are not further promoted.

To contribute to the national security protection, the author of this paper, thus, desires to carry out a study titled: **Ensuring political security along the land border of Vietnam - Cambodia in the southeast region at present.**

2. Aims and research questions

2.1. Aim of the study

The dissertation will mainly focus on clarifying theories on ensuring political security in the border area. Basing on the clarifications, the author can assess the current status of ensuring political security in the Southeast border area and propose solutions to further improve the quality of political security in this land border area for the next period.

2.2. Research tasks

- Focus on clarifying theoretical and conceptual frameworks about political security in border regions such as: some concepts, subjects, contents, influential factors and significance of ensuring political security.

- Conduct surveying and assessing the current status of activities in ensuring political security (territorial security, ideological security, institutional security) in the Southeast region, and pointing out the achievements and limitations in these activities.

- Propose solutions to improve the quality of ensuring political security along the Vietnam - Cambodia border area of the Southeast provinces in the coming time.

3. Objectives and scope of the study

3.1. Research objective

The dissertation mainly focuses on ensuring political security along the land border between Vietnam-Cambodia in the southeastern region.

3.2. Scope of the study

- Content: Undeniably, ensuring political security along border areas has a broad scope, but the main topic of this study pays full attention to studying political security activities among three contents (territorial security, ideological security and institutional security) along the Vietnam - Cambodia land border area in the Southeast region.

- Space: In the two border provinces of Tay Ninh and Binh Phuoc

- Time period: From 2016 to 2024.

4. Research method

The dissertation uses such methods as: Marxist-Leninist researching methodology, Ho Chi Minh's thought and Vietnam Communist Party's standpoints which are related to the research issue; Meta-analytic methodology, Comparison and contrast method; Methodology of logic, Historical methodology; Sociological investigation method.

5. Contributions of the study

- Further enlighten the concepts, contents, subjects, influential factors and significance of ensuring political security along the land border area. Through that, a theoretical framework is built for the research content of the dissertation, which is ensuring political security along the land border area of Vietnam and Cambodia in the Southeast from 2016 to present from the perspective of Political Science.

- Evaluate the current reality of ensuring political security along the Vietnam - Cambodia land border area in the Southeast region from 2016 to present on three contents: territorial security, ideological security and institutional security. Thereby, we clearly understand how the authorities execute the tasks in ensuring political security along the border area such as: issuing policies and plans; creating projects and programs; arranging forces, mobilizing resources, etc. At the same time, we can also see the achievements and limitations of ensuring political security in this area.

- Provide forecasts on factors affecting political security assurance in border areas in two aspects: advantages and difficulties, challenges, combined with accomplishments and limitations in ensuring political security along the land border areas in the Southeast region from 2016 to present. The author establishes specific solutions to ensure political security for this region more effectively for all of the three contents: territorial security, ideological security and institutional security in the time to come.

6. Theoretical and practical significance of the study

6.1. Theoretical significance

- Systematize theoretical issues on political security, political security along

land border areas.

- Clarify the importance of ensuring political security, especially political security in land border areas, for the construction and development process of the Southeast region in particular and Vietnam in general.

6.2. Practical Significance

- The results of this study will become a scientific basis, a source of documents for politicians' reference and application in implementing policies in different localities, especially the border ones.

- The results of this study will also be a source for reference serving the research and teaching activities of lecturers and students of universities, research centers concerning about the majors of Political Science and International Relations, etc.

7. Structure of the dissertation

In addition to the introduction, conclusion, list of materials for references, and appendix, the dissertation consists of 4 chapters as follows:

- Chapter 1: An overview of the research situation related to the thesis topic
- Chapter 2: Theoretical issues on ensuring political security in the land border area
- Chapter 3: Current reality of ensuring political security along the Vietnam - Cambodia border area in the Southeast region.
- Chapter 4: Forecasts of the situation and some solutions to ensure political security along the Vietnam - Cambodia border area in the Southeast region for the time to come.

Chapter 1

LITERATURE REVIEW OF THE DISSERTATION

1.1. Literature Review

1.1.1. Theoretical Background related to national and political security

“Definition of national and non-traditional security”, published by Council on Foreign Affairs, 58 East 68th St, New York, NY 1002); Bijan Karimi (2016), “Applying the analytical structure of economic security, internal security, and national security”, internal security issues, volume 12, essay number 4; Peter J. Katzenstein, conclusion section “National security in a volatile world”; “The Vietnam Communist Party’s perception on strategic security from 1986 to present” by Phan Duy Quang, grassroots level topics - Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics in 2016; “New points on national security in the documents of the 13th National Party Congress” by To Lam, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2021; OZ. Hassan (2015), Political security: From the 1990s to the Arab Spring, Contemporary Politics, Vol. 21, No. 1, page 86–99; “Contribution to the discussion on the intension of the concept relating to political security in Vietnam today” by Mai Thi Hong Lien, Journal of Theoretical Activities, No. 7 (172), 2020...

1.1.2. Scientific researches on ensuring political security along land border areas of some other countries in the world

V.S. Karlkov, “Modern economic and political challenges to the national security of the Russia”, News of the University of Finance. 2019; 9 (6); G.V. Lepas, “Modern threats to border security and sustainable development”, Issues of equipment and service technology, No. 4(46), 2018; Grigoriev V. N., “Methods in protecting the borders of the Russia”, Social and political sciences, No. 1(16), 2010; Gurmeet Kanwal, “Evidence of poor management in border security of India”, Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, No. 55, October, 2007; Pushpita Das, “India’s Approach to Border Management from Barriers to Connectivity”, Manohar Parrikar, Institute for Defense Studies and Analysis.... New Delhi, 2021; Zhang Bao Ping 张保平: “The fundamental Situation of Border Security in Vietnam”, Pacific Magazine, No. 4, 2018; M.V. Kazanin, “Challenges and Three Border Security Issues of the People’s Republic of China”, Eurasian Trade Union:

International Relations Issues, No. 5(14), 2015; Li Zhi Huan 李智环, "Research on Non-Traditional Security Issues in Multi-Ethnic Border Gate Areas - Practices at the PianMa Border Gate of China-Myanmar", Guizhou Ethnic Studies, No. 6, 2019; Qin Jin Biao 覃进标, "Thinking on social security control in border areas - from the practice of Guangxi border areas", Journal of Guangxi Police College, No. 2, 2013...

1.1.2. Researches on the practice of ensuring political security along border areas in Vietnam

The work "The role of Border Guards in resolving " the trouble- spot" of national security along border areas" by Dang Xuan Binh, Journal of Border Defense Education Science, No. 35, November 2013; "Socio-economic development associated with ensuring national defense and security in the northern border provinces" by Le Van Nam, People's Army Publishing House, Hanoi, 2020; "Ensuring political security of the Central Highlands provinces in the new situation" by Mai Hong Lien, Journal of Theoretical Activities, No. 6 (179), 2021; Ensuring political security along the ethnic minority border area of Vietnam - Laos in Dien Bien province today" by Dang Thi Thanh Hoa, PhD thesis in Political Science, Hanoi, 2018; "public Security activities of border guards along the Vietnam - China land border area", People's Army Publishing House, Hanoi, 2021; "The current political security situation of the Vietnam - Cambodia border" by Nguyen Huy Hoang and Tran Xuan Hiep, Journal of Southeast Asian Studies, No. 7 - 2019; "Cooperation between Vietnam and Cambodia in ensuring security along the land border" by Bui Nam Khanh, Do Thi Thanh Binh, Journal of International Studies, No. 1(112), March 2018.

1.1.3. Practical scientific researches on border security, ensuring political security along border areas in the Southeast region

"7th Military Region builds a strong and comprehensive armed force to firmly protect the sovereignty and security of the country's borders, seas and islands" by

Tran Don, Military Science Magazine, No. 1 (1.2014); "Well- performed task of Ba Ria - Vung Tau province's border guards in managing and protecting the sovereignty and security of the land border, seas and islands" by Truong Van Tai, National Defense Magazine No. 11/2012; "Building the defense zone of Binh Phuoc province in the new period" by Nguyen Tan Hung, National Defense Magazine No. 11/2012; " Binh Phuoc province's border guard well performs the border diplomacy policy" by Bui Minh Soai, National Defense Magazine No. 9/2022; Maintaining peace and border security in Tay Ninh province during the integration period", by Le Thi Ban, National Defense Magazine, No. 4 - 2009; Cross-border relations with ensuring national defense and security (practical scientific research in Tay Ninh province)" by Ly Van Ngoan and Le Minh Hieu, Journal of Political Theory, No. 5/2021; Tay Ninh Provincial Border Guards promote mass mobilization activities in border areas" by Nguyen Hoai Phuong, National Defense Magazine, No. 12/2012.

1.2. Assessment of the literature review and avenue of research of the topic

1.2.1. The achieved results of researches on the topic

Through the typically-mentioned researches above, it can be seen that political security in general, political security along border areas in particular, is an essential and practical content for the task of ensuring national security. Thus, it has been mentioned by scholars in different aspects and perspectives with remarkable results:

Firstly, the researches have mentioned a number of theoretical issues on political security. Those results help researchers grasp the theoretical framework of political security, and form the basis to deploy the content of political security along the Vietnam - Cambodia land border area.

Second, border political security has been exploited in terms of influencing factors, implementing forces, experience of some other countries and Vietnam... Thusly, this is considered a direct basis for the dissertation to have references in

building the content, determining subjects, roles, assessing the current situation and proposing solutions.

Third, the operation method, subjects and solutions to ensure political security along the border area of Vietnam with neighboring countries have been mentioned by researchers in different spaces, times and subjects. Therefore, the dissertation can completely trust and inherit when implementing these contents for activities to ensure political security along the land border area between Vietnam and Cambodia.

Fourth, a number of researches have discussed the relationship between Vietnam and Cambodia in general; the authorities and people of the two border provinces in the Southeast region with the authorities and people of Cambodia in particular.

Fifth, when discussing the subject of ensuring political security along the border area in the Southeast region, many researches focused on exploiting the role and activities of the Border Guard - the core and specialized force in this task.

Sixth, through the above - mentioned researches on the practice of political security and border security of some countries, some major lessons can be learned so that Vietnam can apply such as:

The issue of political security and border security is always complicated. Threats and challenges to security are not only from traditional security but also from non-traditional security issues. Therefore, it is necessary to have a comprehensive and appropriate assessment, especially in the new context with many complex and unpredictable fluctuations on political and economic security.

To effectively manage the public security situation and safety along border areas, there must be synchronous solutions, in which special attention must be paid to developing resources, improving infrastructure; adjusting policy mechanisms. Besides, there must be coordination and clear assignment of responsibilities between management bodies and functional forces performing tasks along border areas and there need focuses on reforming and building the political system along

border areas in the direction of serving and maintaining stable relations with neighboring countries ...

1.2.2. Limitation of the above-mentioned researches

In addition to the achieved results, there are still many issues that the above researches have not mentioned or just referred to cursorily:

Firstly, very few researches have comprehensively examined theoretical issues of political security, especially political security along land border areas.

Secondly, although the subjects about implementing political security along border areas have been mentioned in the aforesaid researches, they have mainly focused on the armed forces, most typically the Border Guard, while other subjects such as party committees, authorities of different levels, the Fatherland Front, the masses, etc. have seldom been mentioned. If there have been, they are not profound and comprehensive.

Third, the content of ensuring political security along border areas in general and the Vietnam - Cambodia border area in particular has been mainly exploited cursorily in terms of territorial security, while very few researches have exploited and mentioned institutional security and ideological security.

Fourth, researches on the content and subjects of ensuring political security along Vietnam's border areas with neighboring countries in general, and political security within the Vietnam - Cambodia border area in particular, have mostly been mentioned by researchers since before 2015. Therefore, in the current context, it will lack historical and specific characteristics.

Fifth, there has not been any research focusing on clarifying comprehensively from theoretical issues such as concepts, contents, subjects, methods... to the current situation and solutions for ensuring political security along the Vietnam - Cambodia land border area in the Southeast region from 2016 to present.

1.2.3. The questions selected for the dissertation

Based on the content of scientific researches about national security, political security and political security along border areas at home and abroad. The dissertation continues to study and solve the following issues:

- Supplementing and perfecting the theoretical framework on political security along land border areas, ensuring political security along land border areas in general, and the Vietnam - Cambodia land border area in particular;

- Creating contents, identifying the implementing subjects and pointing out the factors that impact, and influence on the assurance of political security along the Vietnam - Cambodia land border area;

- From the researched content, the dissertation focuses on assessing the current situation of ensuring political security along the Vietnam - Cambodia border area through the practice in the Southeast region from 2016 - Present.

- After those tasks, the dissertation forecasts the political security situation and suggests solutions to ensure political security along the Vietnam - Cambodia border area of the Southeast in the near future.

Chapter 2

THEORETICAL ISSUES ON ENSURING POLITICAL SECURITY ALONG LAND BORDER AREAS

2.1. Some fundamental concepts

- **National border:** The national border is the line and the vertical plane along that line to determine the territorial limits, national sovereignty over the land, underground, sea, seabed, underground under the seabed and the airspace directly projected from that land and sea area. The national border includes the land border, the sea border, the air border.

- **National land border area:** The land border area of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam includes communes, wards and towns with administrative boundaries

adjacent to the national land border.

- **National land border line:** is a specific line clearly drawn on the ground and marked in the field by a system of landmarks or other signs, drawn on maps and recorded in Treaties, Agreements, and Border Protocols.

- **Border belt:** is the territory adjacent to the national border with a depth from the border line inwards at the narrowest point of 100m, at the widest point of no more than 1,000m, except in special cases which will be regulated by the Prime Minister; The specific scope of the border belt is determined by the People's Committee of the border province after reaching agreement with the Ministry of National Defense, the Ministry of Public Security, relevant sectors and reporting to the Government.

- **Security:** is a state in which individuals, organizations, nations - peoples and humanity are not in danger, threatened or intimidated by any factor.

- **National security:** is the stability and sustainable development of the socialist regime and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the inviolability of the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Fatherland.

- **Political security:** is an important part of national security, in which the main task is to maintain the stability and development of the Party's ideological foundation, of the political regime; the party's leadership, internal security; the effectiveness and efficiency in the management of the State apparatus; protect the independence, sovereignty and sacred territorial integrity of the Fatherland.

- **Ensuring political security:** is the deliberate and certain actions of political entities in maintaining the stability and development of the political ideology, political institutions, internal security, effectiveness and efficiency of the State apparatus and maintaining the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country.

- **Ensuring political security in land border areas:** are the deliberate and certain actions of the entire political system and the masses to maintain and

strengthen the party's leadership role; the effectiveness and efficiency of the State apparatus along the border areas and maintaining the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country.

2.2. Contents and subjects of ensuring political security along land border areas

2.2.1. Contents of ensuring political security along land borders

- **Contents of ensuring territorial security:** Activities of demarcation, erecting boundary stones in the field and embellishment, increasing the density of boundary stones and stakes; Activities of constructing works to ensure territorial security along border areas such as: Border belt roads, border residential areas, border patrol stations; Patrol activities and coordinated patrols to protect border security.

- **Contents of ensuring political and ideological security:** Activities in protecting the ideological foundation, political regime, protecting the Party, protecting the State against distorted and incorrect arguments and the "peaceful evolution" strategy of hostile forces; Activities of state management in ethnic and religious work; Activities in preventing and combating the dissemination of fake documents, false information and the use of social networks to affect the reputation of the Party, the political regime and the State.

- **Contents of ensuring institutional security:** Activities in building strong grassroots party organizations; Activities in building a strong grassroots government system; Activities of the political system in resolving the issue of Vietnamese people migrating freely to Vietnam; Activities of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations in protecting border security; Activities of coordination between the Vietnamese political system and neighboring countries in socio-economic development and protecting safety, security and order in border areas.

2.2.2. Subjects implementing political security assurance on land borders

- **Central level includes:** Party, Government, ministries, departments, branches, Vietnam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations.

- **Local level includes:** Party committees, local authorities, Vietnam Fatherland Front and grassroots socio-political organizations, armed forces (the core is the Border Guard), and the masses.

2.3. Factors affecting political security assurance along land border areas

2.3.1. World and regional situation

- The world and regional security and political situation is complicated
- Strategic competition between major countries is increasingly fierce
- Strong development of science and technology
- Globalization issues
- Non-traditional security issues
- Relations between Vietnam and neighboring countries

2.3.2. Domestic situation

- Achievements and difficulties of the country after nearly 40 years of renovation
- Determination of the political system
- Advantages and challenges in the relationship between Vietnam and neighboring countries.

2.4. The significance of ensuring political security along land border areas

- Ensuring political security along land border areas contributes to protecting the Party, the State and the political regime.
- Ensuring political security along land border areas plays a significant role in protecting territorial integrity and national sovereignty
- Ensuring political security along land border areas is the basis for the process of stabilizing and developing the socio-economy, ensuring national security and

defense

- Ensuring political security along land border areas creates a more cohesive relationship between entities in the grassroots political system
- Ensuring political security along land border areas is an important premise to help maintain close and friendly relations between Vietnam and neighboring countries
- Ensuring political security along land border areas contributes to peace, stability and development in the region and the world.

Summary of Chapter 2

Chapter 3

CURRENT STATUS OF POLITICAL SECURITY ALONG THE SOUTHEAST BORDER AREA OF VIETNAM - CAMBODIA

3.1. Factors affecting political security along the Southeast border area of Vietnam - Cambodia

- Natural and social characteristics of the Southeast region in relation to Cambodia.
- The relationship between the government and people along the Vietnam Southeast border area and the border provinces of Cambodia
- The political situation in Cambodia
- The determination of the political system in ensuring political security along the southeast border area of Vietnam - Cambodia
- The political security situation along the Southeast land border area of Vietnam - Cambodia before 2016.

3.2. Implementing political security assurance along the Vietnam - Cambodia land border area in the Southeast from 2016 - 2024.

3.2.1. The current status of ensuring the territorial security

3.2.1.1. Activities of erecting and renovating and thickening boundary stones.

The People's Committee of the border provinces has made efforts to establish and create comprehensive conditions for the Fort Demarcation Steering Committee, creating an important premise for the implementation of erecting boundary stones. Thanks to the correct policies, and timely efforts of the subjects, the activities of erecting boundary stones have achieved about 98% of the workload. The activities of renovating and reinforcing have also taken place regularly and ensured the safety of the entire main, secondary and sealed boundary stones along the border.

3.2.1.2. Construction of patrol roads and park border grounds

This is an activity of great significance in protecting national border sovereignty, so in the period of 2016 - 2024, Tay Ninh and Binh Phuoc provinces have paid great attention to developing this activity and have achieved good results such as: Tay Ninh province completed 208 border area signs, border belts, border patrol roads with a total length of 130.41 km and 16 side road sections of 18.3 km)... Binh Phuoc province has built and put into use 200.5 km of border patrol roads, 11 permanent militia posts on the border line...

3.2.1.3. Patrolling and joint patrolling activities to protect the border

To ensure territorial security on the mainland of Vietnam and Cambodia, patrolling and joint patrolling activities regularly carry out by the two southeast border provinces. From 2016 to present, Tay Ninh Border Guard has organized 342 regular and unscheduled references, meetings, scheduled and unscheduled exchanges with the Cambodian border protection force; coordinated bilateral patrols 297 times with the participation of 1,488 officers and soldiers. Similarly, Binh Phuoc province also organized regular and unscheduled talks with border protection forces in neighboring Cambodian provinces: Provincial level: the scheduled: 20 regular talks/240 officers participating, the unscheduled : 12 times/210 officers participating; Station level: Periodic talks: 210 times/1000 cadres participating...

3.2.2. Current status of ensuring ideological security

3.2.2.1. Activities to protect the Party's ideological foundation, the Party and the State against the "Peaceful Evolution" strategy and prevent the dissemination and propaganda of fake and untrue documents and wrong information

In this activity, the People's Committees of border provinces have issued many plans, policies, and assigned specific tasks to agencies and organizations at all levels, especially in border areas. Therefore, from 2016 to 2024, many positive results have been achieved as follows: newspapers and radio stations of Tay Ninh province have published and broadcast more than 5,697 news and articles on the implementation of Directive 5 and Resolution 4 of the 12th Central Committee; This province has also established propaganda teams in border communes. By 2022, the whole province had established and put into operation 254 public forums with more than 444,000 members. Particularly, 5 border districts and towns have put into operation nearly 100 forums... Binh Phuoc province. Provincial newspapers and radio stations publish more than 200 news and articles each year in 4 types of press; Conducted direct counter-arguments with more than 100 accounts, discovered more than 200 cases of sharing false information. Through professional measures, more than 50 cases were verified and handled, 183 cases were administratively sanctioned...

3.2.2.2. Ensuring activities in ethnic affairs

Thanks to the correct policies and timely actions of Party committees, authorities and other entities in the grassroots political system in ethnic affairs, the material and spiritual life of ethnic minorities along border areas has continuously improved; There are more and more cadres, party members, civil servants and public employees in the grassroots political system who are ethnic minorities.

3.2.2.3. Ensuring activities in religious affairs

The work of caring for people's lives, protecting legitimate interests, and

administrative management of religions along border areas has always been of interest to entities in the grassroots political system, and has been implemented promptly, thus achieving many positive results. Contributing to strengthening the trust of religious people in the Party and State and mobilizing resources from ethnic people in activities to maintain safety, security and order along border areas.

3.2.3. Current status of ensuring institutional security

3.2.3.1. Activities to build strong party cells and local government systems

In order to have a strong local political system, ensure the quality of party members to enhance the leadership capacity and combat strength of the Party, the Party committees at all levels of Tay Ninh and Binh Phuoc provinces pay great attention to the work of admitting more party members. Despite many difficulties, by 2023, Tay Ninh province has had 39,626 party members, accounting for 3.28% of the province's population, of which 20 border commune party committees has had 3,872 party members, accounting for 2.20% of the population of border communes. In the period from 2020 to 2023, the province admitted an average of 1,062 party members each year (reaching 110.6% of the plan), 20 border communes admitted 360 party members; Similarly, the entire Binh Phuoc Provincial Party Committee has admitted more than 8,400 new party members, and the three border districts alone have admitted more than 1,000 party members during this period.

Party cells in the two provinces have always been consolidated and improved, 100% of hamlets have party cells, and the party member ratio is 2.11% compared to the population. Party cells in hamlets along border areas have always received attention from the province and district regarding conditions for party member development, activities, meeting documents, and sending border guards to participate in regular party cell meetings. From 2016 to 2023, 100% of local party organizations have completed their tasks well. There are no weak bases and the number of party members completing their tasks well is over 96.8%.

The executive committee work in increasing the number of officers at border guard stations participating in district and commune-level border party committees has also been concentrated on by border provinces and achieved many good results. As of 2023, Binh Phuoc province is maintaining 1 cadre participating in the executive committee level and district committee level, 9 cadres participating in the commune-level Party Committee, of which 5 are reinforced cadres. In Tay Ninh province, the Standing Committee of the Provincial Party Committee has assigned 5 Border Guard station cadres to participate in 05/05 border district-level Party Committees and 14 Border Guard station cadres to participate in 14/20 border commune-level Party Committees.

Thanks to the timely policies and close supervision of the Party Committees, Provincial and District People's Committees for the affiliated units, the results of streamlining the apparatus of Tay Ninh and Binh Phuoc provinces have achieved some remarkable results. By 2023, Tay Ninh province has reorganized the apparatus down to 20 agencies and organizations. Within the agencies, the number of 150 departments, offices, branches and equivalents (in 2017) has been reorganized to 110 departments, offices, branches and equivalents, a decrease of 40. In Binh Phuoc province, compared to the phrase before the reorganization, the provincial administrative agencies have reduced by 57 departments; the district administrative agencies have reduced by 16 focal agencies; and the public service units have reduced by 81 focal agencies. The total number of provincial administrative agencies is 184, and the district level has 193 units. In addition, the training and fostering of cadres, civil servants and public employees, especially commune-level civil servants in border areas, has also been promoted by Tay Ninh and Binh Phuoc provinces, achieving many significant results, contributing to improving the quality of the local political system.

3.2.3.2. Activities of the political system in resolving the issue of Vietnamese people migrating freely from Cambodia to the southeast border areas

From 2016 to present, Tay Ninh province has resolved 1,274 cases of

confirmation of Vietnamese nationality. The People's Committees of border communes have registered the birth of 1,680 eligible children. By the end of 2019, Binh Phuoc province have had 352 households with 1,544 people considered and supported with the necessary conditions to have identity papers, residential land, credit loans, vocational training, job support, etc., contributing to stabilizing life.

3.2.3.3. Activities of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations in protecting border security

Promoting its role, functions and tasks, from 2016 to present, through specific activities such as propaganda, mobilization, consulting, building core forces in implementing the movement; making proposals, initiatives and replicating models of "Self-managed border and boundary stones groups". At the same time, promoting the work of monitoring, resolving complaints, denunciations and recommendations of the People related to violations of territorial sovereignty, security along border areas... has contributed significantly to socio-economic development and maintaining security, order and safety along border areas.

3.2.3.4. Cooperation and support activities of the political systems along the border areas on both sides of the Vietnam - Cambodia in economic development, social stability and ensuring security - national defense.

On the basis of the documents that Vietnam and Cambodia have actively discussed and signed, the exchanging and cooperating activities to develop the economy, stabilize society and ensure national defense and security along the southeast border area between Vietnam and Cambodia have also taken place strongly, bringing about many positive results, contributing greatly to strengthening the relationship between the two countries along the border area, while providing strong support for activities to ensure political security in this area.

3.3. Assessment of political security activities in the Vietnam - Cambodia southeast border area from 2016 - 2024

3.3.1. Achievements and reasons

- **Achievements:** Basically completed border demarcation and erecting boundary stones; More park border grounds were built; Patrolling and joint patrolling activities of border protection forces were also strengthened; The work of protecting the Party's ideological foundation, preventing the exploitation of ethnic, religious issues or social networks for propaganda and sabotage has also achieved many remarkable achievements; The work of admitting more Party members, building local Party organizations and streamlining the apparatus to improve the quality of service to the People, successfully implementing the goals of socio-economic development, ensuring national security and defense was also focused on and strengthened; The Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations along border areas have strongly promoted their roles and functions in protecting border security...

- **Reasons for those achievements:** The correct and timely leadership of the Party and State, together with the attention and facilitation of the political system and central ministries and branches in all fields; The determination and solidarity of the local political system; The masses basically comply with policies and guidelines, and the border provinces have always maintained good relations with the Cambodian border authorities and people.

3.3.2. Limitations and causes

- **Some shortcomings:** Despite great efforts, the demarcation and erecting boundary stones have not been completed in Tay Ninh province; Forecasting and grasping the situation of the subjects performing ideological security work has remained many shortcomings; ethnic and religious affairs still have certain limitations; penalties for individuals who violate the law are mainly at the administrative level, with a deterrent effect; activities to strengthen party work, admit more party members and streamline the apparatus have not fully met political tasks, the coordination between subjects in ensuring political security along border areas still exists shortcomings...

- **Causes of those shortcomings:** The sections that have not been completely

resolved and the boundary stones that have not been determined are all related to land exchange, to the failure to find standard objects and the poor cooperation and coordination between Cambodia and the two provinces of Vietnam; The awareness of a number of cadres, party members and people about the importance of ensuring political security along border areas is not high; The capacity of cadres and civil servants is not uniform. The streamlining of the apparatus is still subjectively imposed, so it does not really reflect the need for human resource use, and has not created the driving force and effectiveness of the political system; The socio-economic conditions along border areas are still under many difficulties; The coordination between the subjects of the political system in ensuring political security in many different places and periods of time still remains difficult and limited; The coordination between Vietnam and Cambodia in ensuring political security still has many shortcomings...

Summary of chapter 3

Chapter 4

PREDICTIONS AND SOME SOLUTIONS TO ENSURE POLITICAL SECURITY ALONG THE VIETNAM - CAMBODIA BORDER AREA IN THE SOUTHEAST REGION FOR THE COMING TIME

4.1. Forecast of factors affecting the situation in ensuring political security along the Vietnam - Cambodia border area in the Southeast region for the time to come

4.1.1. Strengths and favorable conditions for ensuring political security in the Southeast border area for the year to come

- Policies and foreign policies of the Party and State of Vietnam with Cambodia.
- The grassroots political system has constantly been improved and strengthened
- Strengthen the traditional friendly relationship between the authorities and people of Vietnam - Cambodia along the border area

- The responsibility and coordination between the subjects in the political system is always enhanced.

4.1.2. Difficulties and challenges for ensuring political security along the Southeast border areas for the coming time

- Socio-economic conditions along the border areas are still in difficulties
- The sabotage activities of hostile forces in exploiting social networks, ethnic and religious issues are increasingly popular and sophisticated
- Political life in Cambodia is still complicated
- The involvement of major countries in Cambodia still exists
- Coordination activities in ensuring political security along the border areas between Vietnam and Cambodia still remain shortcomings.

4.2. Solutions to ensure political security along the Vietnam - Cambodia border area in the Southeast for the coming time

- Strengthen the leadership of the Party and the State's management of all activities to ensure political security along the border area
- Raise awareness and capacity of cadres, party members and the masses on the importance of ensuring political security along the border area
- Promote socio-economic development to improve the material and spiritual life of the people along the border area
- Strengthen the stable and developing Vietnam - Cambodia relationship
- Border provinces continue to be proactive and flexible in building border construction clusters
- Strengthen the fight against and refute false and hostile arguments in the new situation among border districts and communes in the spirit of Resolution 35 of the Politburo
- Promote the role and influence of religious dignitaries, officials, and prestigious

people among ethnic minorities in implementing the Party's policies and the State's laws

- Consider, propose and apply higher penalties for cases of spreading false propaganda, taking advantage of ethnic and religious issues to sabotage the Party and the State
- Continue to improve the quality of activities of grassroots party organizations and promote the development of party members along border areas to meet the requirements of the new situation
- More strongly implement the work of increasing the number of border guards participating in district and commune-level Party committees along border areas
- Implement the streamlining of the apparatus but in the direction of respecting the actual conditions of each locality, not imposing quotas, or stereotype on border districts and communes
- Strengthen coordination between the subjects of the political system in all activities to ensure political security.

Summary of chapter 4

CONCLUSION

Ensuring political security in general and political security along border areas in particular is of great significance to national security. Because this is an activity aimed at protecting not only the Party and the Party's ideological foundation, but also the political regime, the effectiveness of the State apparatus and sovereignty and territorial integrity.

As an area with an important position in terms of economy, politics, security and national defense for the stability and development of the Southern region and the whole country, promoting activities to ensure political security, especially along border areas holds the top priority of the subjects among the grassroots political system.

From the theoretical research and practical summary through activities to ensure political security along the border area in the Southeast region from 2016 to 2024, the dissertation contributes to clarifying the following contents:

1) Interpreting general theoretical issues on ensuring political security along the Vietnam - Cambodia land border area.

2) Based on the theoretical framework which has been formed , the author further clarifies the factors affecting the activities to ensure political security along the border area in the Southeast region. Thereby, the author deeply analyzes the activities and achievements of ensuring political security along the border area in the Southeast region from 2016 to 2024. To clarify this content, the author carefully starts from the formation of plans and policies to the specific activities of the subjects in the political system of the border area and finally points out the achievements in ensuring territorial security, ideological security and institutional security. The results that have been achieved reflect the determination and efforts of Party committees, authorities, organizations and people in the border areas.

3) From analysis of the reality, the author detailedly points out the gained achievements, reasons of those achievements, limitations and causes of those limitations. In order to form convincing solutions, the author has combined with forecasting the impact factors, the situation of ensuring political security along the border areas in the Southeast for the coming time by SWOT analysis. Thereby, the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges of this activity are clearly pointed out. Integrating the data and events, the author can build groups of solutions to ensure political security along the border areas in the Southeast for the next period.

LIST OF AUTHORS' SCIENTIFIC WORKS RELATED TO THE DISSERTATION

1. Dang Thi Thao (2019), "Ensuring political security in the Vietnam - Cambodia border area (Practical research in Binh Phuoc province)", Political Science Journal, No. 6, pp. 66 -71.
2. Dang Thi Thao (2024), "Demarcation and erecting boundary stones on the Vietnam - Cambodia mainland, Current situation and recommendations", State Management Review, No. 336-01, p. 131.
3. Dang Thi Thao (2024), "Ensuring ideological security in Tay Ninh province today", Argument Activities Journal, No. 3, pp. 44-48.
4. Dang Thi Thao (2024), "Ensuring territorial security along the Vietnam - Cambodia border area in Binh Phuoc province", Journal on Politics and Communications, Special Issue No. 1, pp. 181 - 183.
5. Dang Thi Thao (2024), "Building a political system to ensure institutional security along the border area in Binh Phuoc province today", Journal of Political Science, No. 6, pp. 78-83.