

HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS

TO QUOC ANH

**THE ROLE OF THE GRASSROOTS POLITICAL SYSTEM
IN BUILDING THE BLOC OF GREAT NATIONAL UNITY
IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS TODAY**

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

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Supervisor:

Chairman of the Council



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hoang Phuc Lam

1. Dr. Hoang Ngoc Son



2. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Trinh Thi Xuyen

Examination 1: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Huu Lap



Political Academy of the Ministry of National Defense

Examination 2: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Cao Thu Hang

Communist Review

Examination 3: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lam Quoc Tuan

Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics

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INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale of the study

Great national unity is a precious tradition and the source of strength of the Vietnamese nation. During his lifetime, President Ho Chi Minh pointed out: "...thanks to the power of great unity, the revolution succeeded... thanks to the power of great unity, the resistance war will be victorious"; "Great unity is a victorious force. Thanks to great unity, the revolution won, and the resistance succeeded. Now, if we have great unity, our political struggle will certainly be victorious, and the country will certainly be unified".

Inheriting and promoting his ideology, throughout revolutionary periods, our Party has always determined: "unity" is the core value, and "great national unity" is the strategic line, the source of strength, and the main driving force of the Vietnamese revolution, decisive for all victories in the cause of building and defending the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Building and consolidating the bloc of great national unity is the responsibility of the entire Party, the entire people, the entire army, and the entire political system, in which the grassroots political system plays a very important role. The grassroots political system directly propagates, mobilizes, and organizes the implementation of the Party's viewpoints and guidelines, and the State's policies and laws regarding great national unity; and performs well the inspection, supervision, and summary evaluation of building the bloc of great national unity in the locality.

The Central Highlands is an area where many ethnic groups live together with different languages; at the same time, it is an area with a particularly important strategic position regarding social-economics, national defense, and security. Consolidating and strengthening the bloc of great national unity is one of the strategic tasks to ensure stability and development for the Central Highlands. Therefore, in recent years, the political system at all levels, especially the grassroots political system in the Central Highlands provinces, has had many guidelines and measures to strengthen and consolidate the bloc of great national unity.

The work of education and propaganda to raise awareness among the masses about the Party's viewpoints and guidelines, and the State's policies and laws on great national unity has been focused on by all levels and sectors; the implementation of ethnic and religious policies and the Law on Implementation of Grassroots Democracy has seen clear changes, people's lives have been gradually improved, and the great unity bloc has been maintained.

However, besides the achieved results, the grassroots political system in the Central Highlands in performing the role of building the bloc of great national unity still has certain limitations and inadequacies: Some local party

committees have not correctly and fully perceived the position and role of the work of building the bloc of great national unity; the content and forms of propaganda and mobilization work are not yet practical, specific, and lack depth; coordination between subjects in the political system as well as between the political system and other organizations and forces in building the bloc of great national unity is not yet effective,... The bloc of great national unity in many localities has not been yet stable and firm.

Currently, the tasks of social-economic development and consolidation of national defense and security of provinces in the Central Highlands have new developments. The Politburo issued Resolution No. 23-NQ/TW dated October 6, 2022, on directions for social-economic development and ensuring national defense and security in the Central Highlands region until 2030, with a vision to 2045, in which one of the contents to focus on is "Strengthening the construction and development of the great national unity bloc".

Resolutions of the Party and State on the arrangement and reorganization of administrative units at all levels and the construction of a 2-level local government model, including the merger of provinces in the Central Highlands with provinces in the South Central Coast, and the merger of commune-level administrative units, will have certain impacts on the role of the grassroots political system regarding the task of building the bloc of great national unity when the functions, tasks, and powers of the grassroots political system undergo many changes towards strengthening decentralization and delegation of power to the grassroots.

Meanwhile, hostile forces in the area continue to take advantage of ethnic and religious issues to intensify sabotage with many new, sophisticated, and malicious tricks, especially using the internet and social networks to connect and build forces to sabotage the Party and State from within. This poses increasingly high requirements for promoting the role of the grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity, maintaining political security, and social order and safety in the Central Highlands today.

From the issues mentioned above, the selection of the research topic "The role of the grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity in the Central Highlands today" has profound urgent significance in both theory and practice.

2. Research Objectives and Tasks

2.1. Research Objectives

On the basis of clarifying theoretical and practical issues regarding the implementation of the role of the grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity in the Central Highlands, the dissertation identifies the issues posed and proposes viewpoints and solutions to promote the role of the

grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity in the Central Highlands in the coming time.

2.2. Research Tasks

To achieve the research objectives, the topic sets out the following tasks:

- Overview of the research situation related to the dissertation topic.
- Explain theoretical issues regarding the role of the grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity in Vietnam.
- Survey and evaluate the current status of the role of the grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity in the Central Highlands today; identify causes and some issues that need to be focused on for resolution.
- Propose viewpoints and main solutions to promote the role of the grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity in the Central Highlands in the new context.

3. Object and Scope of Research

3.1. Object of Research

The role of the grassroots political system in the Central Highlands in building the bloc of great national unity.

3.2. Scope of Research

- Content scope: The dissertation researches the theory and practice of the role of the grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity in the Central Highlands.
- Spatial scope: The topic focuses on researching the role of the grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity in the Central Highlands, including the political systems of communes, wards, and towns in the provinces of Kon Tum, Gia Lai, Dak Lak, Lam Dong, and Dak Nong before the provincial merger in July 2025.
- Time scope: Research from 2003 (the time of issuance of Resolution No. 23-NQ/TW dated March 12, 2003 "on promoting the strength of great national unity for 'Rich people, strong country, fair, democratic, and civilized society'") to mid-June 2025 (the time when the National Assembly issued Resolution No. 203/2025/QH15 on amending and supplementing a number of articles of the Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, dated June 16, 2025; Law No. 72/2025/QH15, Law on Organization of Local Government, dated June 16, 2025) and provide forecasts and solutions for the period 2025 – 2030, vision to 2045.

4. Research Methodology

The topic uses dialectical materialism and historical materialism to solve the set research tasks. The topic uses specific research methods as follows:

- Analysis and synthesis method: used throughout the dissertation to collect, analyze, and exploit information from available sources related to the research topic.

- Logical-historical research method: based on researching scientific works related to the dissertation, the topic explains, analyzes, and clarifies the contents mentioned by scientific works.

- Statistical method: the topic focuses on collecting, analyzing, synthesizing, and statistically processing documents and data in summary reports on the work of building the grassroots political system and building the bloc of great national unity in the Central Highlands.

- Forecasting method: Used in research to provide forecasts, development trends, and factors affecting the promotion of the role of the grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity in the Central Highlands in the coming time.

- Questionnaire survey method: The dissertation uses the sociological survey method with questionnaires to assess the current status of the implementation of the role of building the bloc of great national unity of the grassroots political system in the Central Highlands.

- In-depth interview method: In-depth interviews with leading officials of party committees, authorities, the Fatherland Front, social-political organizations, and village elders in some localities in the Central Highlands.

5. Scientific and Practical Significance of the Topic

5.1. Scientific Significance

From the perspective of political science, clarify the theoretical framework regarding the role of the grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity in Vietnam.

5.2. Practical Significance

Provide scientific arguments for promoting the role of the grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity in the Central Highlands in particular, and the whole country in general.

6. New Contributions of the Topic

- Theoretically: Construct the concept and clarify the role of the grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity; determine evaluation criteria and factors affecting the role of the grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity.

- Practically: The dissertation proposes 4 viewpoints and 7 solutions to promote the role of the system.

7. Structure of the Topic

Apart from the introduction, the dissertation is structured into 4 chapters:

Chapter 1: Overview of the research situation related to the topic.

Chapter 2: Some theoretical issues regarding the role of the grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity in Vietnam.

Chapter 3: Current status of performing the role of the grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity in the Central Highlands today and issues posed.

Chapter 4: Viewpoints and solutions to promote the role of the grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity in the Central Highlands in the coming time.

Chapter 1

OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH SITUATION RELATED TO THE DISSERTATION TOPIC

1.1. RESEARCH SITUATION RELATED TO THE DISSERTATION TOPIC

1.1.1. Group of research works on the political system, grassroots political system, and great national unity

Research on the political system and the grassroots political system has attracted the attention of many scholars, typically including studies by Hoang Chi Bao, Nguyen Van Huyen, To Huy Rua, and Nguyen Huu Dong. These works all affirm that the political system is basically composed of three parts: political parties, the state, and social organizations and movements. However, in different political models, the role of each component varies.

From another aspect, studies by Pham Duc Kien, Le Huu Nghia, Ngo Thi Khanh, and Phan Xuan Son delve into analyzing and clarifying the necessity of innovating and improving the quality and operational efficiency of the political system at all levels and the grassroots political system in Vietnam.

Meanwhile, regarding research on political systems abroad, there are also some typical works by scholars: Yves Meny, Rolf H.W. Thee and Frank L. Wilson, Louis D. Hayes, Jay M. Shafritz, Jing Jing, Elizabeth J. Perry, and Merle Goldman. In these works, the authors analyzed and clarified fundamental issues regarding political systems in countries around the world, focusing on interpreting the relationship between political parties and state agencies as well as local management functions performed by administrative agencies or self-governing bodies.

Regarding research on ethnic issues and great national unity in Vietnam, there are several typical works by authors: Bui Dinh Bon, Le Thi Ha, Nguyen Duong Hung, Le Hai Binh, and Mach Quang Thang, Vu The Tung, Do Thi Thach, Dao Thi Hoan, To Lam. In the above works, the authors summarized the basic contents of Ho Chi Minh's ideology and our Party's viewpoints through congresses on great unity; affirming that great national unity is a precious tradition, an important content throughout the Party's leadership process, and a

decisive factor for all victories of the Vietnamese revolution. The authors also proposed a number of requirements and solutions to promote the strength of the great national unity bloc in the coming time.

Abroad, research on solidarity, national solidarity, and social solidarity also attracts the participation of scholars, typically Richard Rorty, Jürgen Habermas, Barry Markovsky & Edward J. Lawler, Larry May, Lindenberg S., Fetchenhauer D., Flache A. & Buunk, Francis Mading Deng, Beatrice Boufoy-Bastic, James Leibold, and Jing Xin. In their works, the authors focused on analyzing and providing concepts of solidarity, origins, nature, and factors influencing national solidarity and social solidarity; analyzing and assessing the current status of national solidarity and social solidarity in some countries around the world.

1.1.2. Group of research works on theoretical issues regarding the role of the political system and grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity

Research on the role of the political system and grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity includes works by typical authors: Nguyen Huu Dung, Truong Ho Hai, Dang Thi Hoai, Dang Quang Dinh, Luong Thanh Duy, Vu Thi Mai Oanh, Tran Tang Khoi, and Hoang Thi Trang.

These works focused on approaching the political system and the grassroots political system as a unified entity with a strict structure and a coordinated operating mechanism among key components such as the Communist Party of Vietnam, the State, the Vietnam Fatherland Front (VFF), and social-political organizations. Within that entity, each component assumes a separate role but all aim for the common goal of ensuring comprehensive leadership and effective operation of political institutions, thereby organizing, coordinating, and mobilizing the strength of the entire people for the cause of building the bloc of great national unity.

The works not only affirm the strategic directing role of the political system but also clarify the specific capacity of each component in implementing policies, managing society, and ensuring social consensus. Studies by Tran Tang Khoi and Hoang Thi Trang have clarified many specific roles of the political system and the grassroots political system in organizing and operating the practical work of building the bloc of great national unity.

1.1.3. Group of research works assessing the current status of the role of the political system and grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity

Research focuses on assessing the comprehensive reality of the role of the political system, especially the grassroots political system, in building the bloc of great national unity in areas with large ethnic minority populations. Typical

works include: "Religion and ethnic issues with the grassroots political system in the Central Highlands" by Hoang Minh Do (2008); "The issue of building the bloc of great national unity in the Northwest today according to Ho Chi Minh's ideology (through reality in Son La)" by Duong Van Manh; and "Building the bloc of great national unity, promoting social-economic development in Son La province (2001 - 2010)" by Pham Xuan Thu. These works all approach from a practical perspective associated with specific localities, vividly reflecting the current status, achievements, and shortcomings in the process of building the bloc of great national unity.

Some works focus on researching and reflecting the practical role of the political system and grassroots political system in directly implementing tasks of building the bloc of great national unity in areas with specific characteristics regarding ethnicity, religion, terrain, and development level. They also look at the specific roles of components in the local political system, especially VFF organizations in provinces and cities, in performing the task of building the great national unity bloc, such as: "Strengthening mass mobilization work among ethnic groups in the Central Highlands - Core content to build the bloc of great national unity" by Pham Manh Quang; "Building the bloc of great national unity in Lai Chau province - Results and some experiences" by Giang Pao My; "Promoting the role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front to build the bloc of great national unity in the new situation" by Phung Khanh Tai; "The bloc of great national unity - a factor creating Hanoi's success" by Tuan Minh; "VFF at all levels in Quang Ninh province: Promoting the central role in consolidating the bloc of great national unity" by Vu Manh Ha; "Vietnam Fatherland Front strengthens mobilization, solidarity, and promotes religious resources to build the bloc of great national unity" by Nguyen Van Thanh.

1.1.4. Group of research works on directions, objectives, viewpoints, and solutions for the political system and grassroots political system in performing the role of building the bloc of great national unity

In the group of research works proposing viewpoints, orientations, and overall solutions to promote the role of the political system and grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity, authors focused on affirming the urgency of innovating content, methods of operation, and improving the operational efficiency of the political system in the new context.

Typical works in this group include: Duong Van Manh, "The issue of building the bloc of great national unity in the Northwest today according to Ho Chi Minh's ideology (through reality in Son La)"; Tuan Minh, "The bloc of great national unity - a factor creating Hanoi's success"; Nguyen Huu Dung, "Some solutions to promote the role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front in building the bloc of great national unity in the new situation"; Nguyen Phu

Trong, "Raising high the banner of great national unity, promoting patriotic traditions and the political core role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, determined to build our country to be increasingly rich, strong, prosperous, civilized, and happy"; "Consistency and new thinking on promoting people's strength and the strength of great national unity in the new situation" by Vu Van Phuc.

The content of the above works has suggested theoretical and practical values of great national unity, while proposing specific solutions to build the bloc of great national unity and promote the role of the political system and grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity. Based on different approaches, authors have proposed many solutions and systems of solutions for a part of the political system as well as the entire political system in consolidating and building the bloc of great national unity. Meanwhile, research by Nguyen Phu Trong, Mach Quang Thang, and Vu Van Phuc all mention macro solutions and long-term strategic orientations in building the bloc of great national unity.

1.1.5. Group of research works on the role of the political system and grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity in the Central Highlands

Researching the role of the political system and grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity in the Central Highlands, authors exploit and approach from many different angles, in which some authors have focused on researching the relationship between ethnic and religious issues and the work of building the bloc of great national unity.

Typical for this approach are works such as: "Consolidating and strengthening the grassroots political system in ethnic minority areas following Protestantism in the Central Highlands provinces" by Nguyen Huu Tri; the work "Religion and ethnic issues with the grassroots political system in the Central Highlands" by Hoang Minh Do; the project "Ethnic relations and the strategy of building the bloc of great national unity in the sustainable development of the Central Highlands" headed by Pham Quang Hoan; "Harmonizing interethnic relations to contribute to building and promoting the great national unity bloc, creating a driving force and foundation for sustainable development in the Central Highlands in the new context" by Truong Minh Duc; Vu Xuan Thuy, "Party Committees in the Central Highlands leading mass mobilization work in the current period"; Pham Tat Thang, "Mass mobilization work in the great national unity strategy in the Central Highlands: Current status and solutions in the new period"; Lam Dong Provincial Party Committee, "Mobilization work, promoting great unity in building new rural areas and actively participating in patriotic emulation movements and campaigns

launched by the Party and State"; "Preservation of cultural space in the Central Highlands and the requirements in the process of administrative unit reorganization" by Nguyen Duy Thuy.

The above works have deeply analyzed the ethnic and religious situation, ethnic and religious relations, and the implementation of ethnic and religious policies of the political system at all levels in the Central Highlands. From there, they explain the relationship between the implementation of ethnic and religious work and the issue of building the bloc of great national unity in the Central Highlands today. Consequently, the authors propose a number of solutions to consolidate and strengthen the bloc of great national unity in the Central Highlands.

In addition, a number of studies by foreign scholars, including *We Have Eaten the Forest* by Georges Condominas, *The Ethnography of Vietnam's Central Highlanders* by Oscar Salemink, and *Forest, Women and Madness* by Jacques Dournes, have offered profound analyses of the natural environment, cultural patterns, and ethnic characteristics of several ethnic groups in Vietnam's Central Highlands.

1.2. ASSESSMENT OF ACHIEVED RESULTS AND ISSUES NEEDING FOCUSED RESEARCH

1.2.1. Achieved results

Theoretically, research works have mentioned quite richly under many different approaches the role of the political system in building the bloc of great national unity, focusing on clarifying a number of concepts such as the political system, grassroots political system, ethnic work, great national unity, and building the bloc of great national unity; and the development of our Party's theoretical thinking on great national unity and building the bloc of great national unity. Some works focus on analyzing and clarifying the role of members of the political system in building the bloc of great national unity.

Practically, some authors have assessed the reality of strengths and limitations of the political system and grassroots political system in performing their functions and tasks, including the role of building the bloc of great national unity; explaining the causes of strengths and limitations, thereby proposing valuable solutions to promote the role of the political system in general, and members of the political system and grassroots political system in particular, in building the bloc of great national unity.

1.2.2. Issues posed for the dissertation to focus on researching

First, clarify the theoretical basis of the grassroots political system such as concepts, functions, tasks, organizational structure, as well as the relationship between components of the grassroots political system; the connotation of

building the bloc of great national unity and the role of the grassroots political system in determining guidelines, measures, building plans, organizing implementation, inspecting, supervising, and recommending policies to build and consolidate the bloc of great national unity.

Second, analyze the specific factors of the Central Highlands region to clearly identify factors affecting the implementation of the role of the grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity. On that basis, the dissertation will survey and assess the current status, point out achievements and limitations, clarify causes, and from there draw out core issues that need to be continued to be resolved in the coming time.

Third, forecast the situation trends in the coming time. On that basis, the dissertation proposes a number of viewpoints and a system of synchronous, feasible solutions associated with local reality to promote the role of the grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity, contributing to maintaining social-political stability and creating a favorable environment for the sustainable development of the Central Highlands region.

Chapter 2

SOME THEORETICAL ISSUES ON THE ROLE OF THE GRASSROOTS POLITICAL SYSTEM IN BUILDING THE BLOC OF GREAT NATIONAL UNITY IN VIETNAM

2.1. CONCEPTS OF GRASSROOTS POLITICAL SYSTEM AND BUILDING THE BLOC OF GREAT NATIONAL UNITY

2.1.1. Concept of grassroots political system

2.1.1.1. Political system and Vietnamese political system

Based on inheriting and creatively applying Marxist-Leninist theory and world theoretical elites on political systems, the concept of the political system was raised by the Communist Party of Vietnam from the 6th Plenum of the 6th Central Committee (March 1989). The Document of the 7th National Congress (1991) officially used the term “political system,” according to which the political system during the transition period to socialism in our country is a unified entity comprising the Communist Party of Vietnam, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam State, together with legal social-political organizations, operating under a certain mechanism to gradually perfect socialist democracy, ensuring all power belongs to the People and realizing the objective of building and safeguarding the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

2.1.1.2. Concept of grassroots political system in Vietnam

The grassroots political system is a part of the Vietnamese political system in communes, wards, and towns, including party organizations, authorities (People's Council, People's Committee), the Fatherland Front, and social-

political organizations organized and operating according to certain principles to exercise political power locally, safeguard and promote the people's right to mastery, and contribute to the goal of building and defending the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

2.1.2. Concept of building the bloc of great national unity

Based on summarizing the basic contents of Ho Chi Minh's thought and the viewpoints of the Communist Party of Vietnam on great national unity, the author proposes the concept of building the bloc of great national unity: Building the bloc of great national unity is the totality of purposeful activities of the political system and the People, aiming to mobilize, gather, unite classes, ethnic groups, religious and non-religious compatriots, creating a unified bloc in politics, ideology, and action, contributing to promoting aggregate strength to successfully carry out the cause of building and defending the Socialist Republic of Vietnam..

2.2. ROLE OF THE GRASSROOTS POLITICAL SYSTEM IN BUILDING THE BLOC OF GREAT NATIONAL UNITY IN VIETNAM

2.2.1. Concept of the role of the grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity

From theoretical issues on the political system, grassroots political system, and building the bloc of great national unity, the author conceives: The role of the grassroots political system in building the great national unity bloc refers to the totality of activities carried out in the performance of the functions and tasks of Party organizations, local authorities, the Fatherland Front, and socio-political organizations in leading and organizing the implementation of the Party's guidelines and policies as well as the State's laws on great national unity at the local level. These activities aim to mobilize, gather, and unite different classes and social strata, ethnic groups, and both religious and non-religious communities into a unified whole in terms of politics, ideology, and action, thereby contributing to the promotion of combined national strength in order to successfully accomplish the cause of building and defending the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

2.2.2. The role of the grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity

2.2.2.1. Defining guidelines; establishing plans and programs for building the bloc of great national unity

This is the important, primary role of the grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity.

Based on the Party's viewpoints and lines, the State's policies and laws on building the bloc of great national unity, directives, resolutions, and plans of the party committee, People's Council, and People's Committees at all levels,

directly the district level; guiding documents of specialized agencies, the grassroots party committee, and authorities need to propose guidelines, leadership measures, and build plans and programs to implement the building of the bloc of great national unity.

2.2.2.2. Organizing the implementation of programs and plans on building the bloc of great national unity

Performing this role has important significance, deciding the quality and effectiveness of building the bloc of great national unity at the grassroots level.

Based on objectives, guidelines, and measures determined in the resolution of the grassroots party committee, programs, and plans of the authorities, Fatherland Front, and social-political organizations, members of the grassroots political system need to deploy and organize the implementation of building the bloc of great national unity on the following contents:

First, propaganda and education on building the bloc of great national unity.

Second, gathering, rallying, protecting rights and interests the classes and strata of people

Third, maintaining and implementing fairness and equality among ethnic groups in economic, cultural, and social development and ensuring national defense and security.

Fourth, training, fostering, and arranging the use of ethnic minority cadres.

Fifth, implementing grassroots democracy, fighting against bureaucracy, corruption, wastefulness; resolving conflicts among people's strata and ethnic groups.

Sixth, fighting against plots and tricks of hostile forces dividing the bloc of great national unity.

2.2.2.3. Inspecting, supervising, preliminary reviewing, summarizing, and drawing experiences on the work of building the bloc of great national unity

The role of inspection and supervision of the grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity is expressed through specific stages and steps from building plans for inspection and supervision of the implementation of Party resolutions, State policies and laws on building the bloc of great national unity to deployment and assignment of implementation; directing the construction of regulations on coordination of activities between the Inspection Committee and related forces in performing inspection and supervision tasks; directing the implementation of inspection and supervision tasks; timely resolving recommendations of subordinate party organizations.

Along with inspection and supervision, preliminary review, summary, and drawing experiences on building the bloc of great national unity is a content demonstrating the role of the grassroots political system.

Through preliminary review and summary, the political system can have an overall view, thereby comprehensively assessing advantages and difficulties,

drawing lessons learned in the process of organizing the implementation of Party viewpoints and lines, State policies and laws on building the bloc of great national unity locally, thereby proposing guidelines and measures for subsequent activities.

2.2.2.4. Feedback, recommendations, and proposals to the upper-level political system regarding initiatives, policies, and measures for building the bloc of great national unity

The grassroots political system in each locality needs to timely recommend and propose to the upper-level political system contents and measures to build the bloc of great national unity suitable for local reality.

Along with that, through reflection and proposal, comments and recommendations on targets, plans, mechanisms, policies, measures, models, initiatives, and good practices on building the bloc of great national unity of cadres, party members, and the masses are transferred to the upper-level political system, from which there are plans to remove and overcome difficulties, provide appropriate guidelines and measures, and replicate typical models and initiatives contributing to building and consolidating the bloc of great national unity locally.

2.2.3. Some criteria for evaluating the role of the grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity

* Group of criteria for evaluating role implementation

- First, the level of thorough grasping and concretization of guidelines and policies of the Party and State on building the bloc of great national unity.

- Second, the level of organizing the implementation of building the bloc of great national unity.

- Third, the level of coordination among subjects belonging to the grassroots political system in implementing programs and plans on building the bloc of great national unity.

* Group of criteria for evaluating role implementation results

- First, results of implementing grassroots democracy, fighting against bureaucracy, corruption, wastefulness, and resolving conflicts, creating stability in society.

- Second, results of building the contingent of ethnic minority cadres.

- Third, results of grasping, preventing, and fighting against plots and tricks of hostile forces dividing the bloc of great national unity.

- Fourth, results of inspecting, supervising, preliminary reviewing, summarizing, recommendation, advisory, and proposal work to competent authorities in building the great unity bloc.

- Fifth, unity in thought and political action of the People.

- Sixth, people's trust in social progress and fairness from results of economic, cultural, social, national defense, and security development.

2.3. FACTORS AFFECTING THE GRASSROOTS POLITICAL SYSTEM IN PERFORMING THE ROLE OF BUILDING THE BLOC OF GREAT NATIONAL UNITY

First, viewpoints and lines of the Party, policies and laws of the State on building the bloc of great national unity and the leadership and direction of the upper level.

Second, natural, economic, cultural, and social factors of the locality.

Third, the ethnic and religious situation and ethnic and religious relations in the locality.

Fourth, the quality of the grassroots political system.

Fifth, the level of sabotage and causing ethnic division by hostile forces.

Chapter 3

CURRENT STATUS OF PERFORMING THE ROLE OF THE GRASSROOTS POLITICAL SYSTEM IN BUILDING THE BLOC OF GREAT NATIONAL UNITY IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS TODAY AND ISSUES POSED

3.1. GENERAL CONTEXT AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GRASSROOTS POLITICAL SYSTEM IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

3.1.1. Overview of the Central Highlands area

Historical and natural characteristics

The Central Highlands (Tây Nguyên) is a land located in the center of the mountainous region of Southern Indochina, with an area of about 54,474 km², accounting for 16.3% of the country's area.

This is a land with a long history of formation and development with a unique and distinct culture.

This is a land rich in potential for social-economic development, with fertile basalt soil and forest resources of high economic value.

This is also a land rich in minerals (peat, iron, kaolin, bauxite), water resources, hydroelectric energy, and favorable conditions for tourism development.

However, the geographical conditions of the Central Highlands also create certain difficulties and obstacles to the development process of this land, such as a large area, many mountains, rivers, and streams; being divided topographically by a system of rivers, streams, and high mountain ranges makes travel and traffic difficult, especially during the rainy and stormy season.

Along with that, the climate of the Central Highlands frequently experiences natural disasters, storms, and floods, significantly affecting people's lives.

Economic, cultural, and social situation

In recent years, receiving the attention of the Party and State, the social-economic situation in the Central Highlands has changed significantly. The economy has gradually shifted from backward, unbalanced agricultural production towards developing economic sectors based on available potential, forming large commodity production areas for industrial crops, developing high-tech agriculture, agricultural processing technology, and mining.

Education and training work has received investment attention, and the healthcare network has been consolidated.

However, the Central Highlands still has limitations and weaknesses, and development is not commensurate with its potential and advantages.

Ethnic and religious situation and the relationship of ethnic groups and religions in the area

The Central Highlands is the residence of 54 ethnic groups, of which ethnic minority people number nearly 2.2 million (accounting for more than 37% of the total population of the Central Highlands).

In general, ethnic groups in the Central Highlands have relationships of solidarity, harmony, mutual support, and help for mutual development following an increasingly deep and wide trend in all fields of social life.

However, ethnic relations in the Central Highlands also have certain limitations and inadequacies, especially conflicts in areas of social life.

Regarding the religious situation, currently, in the Central Highlands, there are followers of 13/16 religions recognized by the state operating.

In general, the trend of abiding by the law, adapting, being harmonious, and demonstrating the motto "good life, beautiful religion" is still the common, overarching trend in religious activities in the Central Highlands provinces.

Besides that, the religious situation in the Central Highlands still holds latent complex issues.

3.1.2. Characteristics of the grassroots political system in the Central Highlands

First, the quality of the grassroots political system in the Central Highlands is still limited and uneven among areas and localities.

Second, the contingent of ethnic minority cadres plays an important role in the grassroots political system in the Central Highlands.

Third, the operation of the grassroots political system in the Central Highlands is influenced by reputable people and customs and practices among ethnic and religious communities.

Fourth, the grassroots political system in the Central Highlands operates in a large area with diversity in ethnicity and religion, and low intellectual levels.

Fifth, the grassroots political system in the Central Highlands frequently has to resolve economic, cultural, and social contradictions and conflicts among the People and the sabotage of hostile forces.

3.2. CURRENT STATUS OF PERFORMING THE ROLE OF THE GRASSROOTS POLITICAL SYSTEM IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS IN BUILDING THE BLOC OF GREAT NATIONAL UNITY TODAY

3.2.1. Defining guidelines; establishing plans and programs for building the bloc of great national unity

The grassroots political system in the Central Highlands performs well the role of defining guidelines; establishing plans and programs for building the bloc of great national unity.

However, the grassroots political system in some localities also has certain limitations in defining guidelines, building plans, and organizing implementation, which has significantly affected the building of the bloc of great national unity locally.

3.2.2. Organizing the implementation of programs and plans on building the bloc of great national unity

The grassroots political system in the Central Highlands has effectively implemented programs and plans for building the bloc of great national unity in specific aspects such as: Education and propaganda work; gathering and rallying classes and strata of the People; maintaining social progress and fairness through economic and socio-cultural development, ensuring national defense and security; training, fostering, arranging, and using ethnic minority cadres; implementing democracy, fighting against bureaucracy, corruption, wastefulness, and resolving social conflicts; fighting against the plots and tricks of hostile forces to divide the bloc of great national unity.

3.2.3. Inspecting, supervising, preliminary reviewing, summarizing, and drawing experiences on building the bloc of great national unity

The grassroots political system in the Central Highlands has implemented contents of inspection, supervision, preliminary review, and summary work on building the bloc of great national unity, thereby overcoming shortcomings and defects and timely adjusting and supplementing contents and solutions to continue implementation in accordance with practical requirements.

3.2.4. Feedback, recommendations, and proposals to the upper-level political system regarding initiatives, policies, and measures for building the bloc of great national unity

In recent years, Party committees, authorities, the Fatherland Front, and grassroots social-political organizations in the Central Highlands have implemented the function of criticism and policy feedback, timely proposing many policies and measures to improve the effectiveness of building the bloc of great national unity.

3.3. ASSESSMENT OF THE ROLE OF THE GRASSROOTS POLITICAL SYSTEM IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS IN BUILDING THE BLOC OF GREAT NATIONAL UNITY TODAY

3.3.1. Assessment of performing the role of building the bloc of great national unity

3.3.1.1. Advantages

First, the grassroots political system in the Central Highlands has done well in thoroughly grasping and concretizing the guidelines and policies of the Party and State on building the bloc of great national unity.

Second, the grassroots political system in the Central Highlands has organized well the implementation of guidelines and policies on building the bloc of great national unity.

Third, the grassroots political system in the Central Highlands coordinates well in implementing guidelines and policies on building the bloc of great national unity.

3.3.1.2. Limitations and shortcomings

First, the thorough grasping and concretization of guidelines and policies of the Party and State on building the bloc of great national unity by the grassroots political system in some localities still has many limitations.

Second, the organization of implementation of some programs and plans is not yet suitable or feasible.

Third, the coordination work of members within the political system in deploying and organizing the implementation of programs and plans for building the bloc of great national unity in some contents and some localities is not yet effective.

3.3.2. Assessment of results the role of building the bloc of great national unity

3.3.2.1. Advantages

First, the grassroots political system has performed quite well in promoting grassroots democracy, fighting against bureaucracy, corruption, wastefulness, and resolving conflicts, creating stability in society.

Second, the grassroots political system has effectively carried out the work of grasping, preventing, and fighting against the plots and tricks of hostile forces to divide the bloc of great national unity.

Third, the grassroots political system has done well in the work of building a contingent of ethnic minority cadres.

Fourth, the grassroots political system has performed quite effectively the work of inspecting, supervising, preliminary reviewing, summarizing, recommending, advising, and proposing guidelines and measures to build the bloc of great national unity.

Fifth, the grassroots political system has basically created unity in thought and political action among the People.

Sixth, the grassroots political system has created trust among the people in social progress and fairness from the results of local economic, cultural, social, national defense, and security development.

3.3.2.2. Limitations and shortcomings

First, in deploying the implementation of grassroots democracy, fighting against bureaucracy, corruption, wastefulness, and resolving social conflicts, some grassroots political systems still have certain limitations.

Second, the work of building the contingent of ethnic minority cadres at the grassroots level also has many inadequacies.

Third, the work of fighting against plots and tricks of hostile forces to divide the bloc of great national unity by the grassroots political system is not highly effective in some contents.

Fourth, the implementation of the role of inspection, supervision, preliminary and final review, feedback, recommendation, and proposal to the upper-level political system regarding initiatives and measures to build the bloc of great national unity by the grassroots political system in some localities is not frequent, and some contents are not truly effective.

Fifth, the improvement of awareness, thought, and political action of the People still has certain limitations.

Sixth, the deployment of building the bloc of great national unity through economic and social development and consolidation of national defense and security to create trust among the People in social progress and fairness also has weaknesses.

3.4. CAUSES OF ADVANTAGES, LIMITATIONS AND ISSUES POSED FOR THE GRASSROOTS POLITICAL SYSTEM IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS IN PERFORMING THE ROLE OF BUILDING THE BLOC OF GREAT NATIONAL UNITY TODAY

3.4.1. Causes of advantages and limitations

3.4.1.1. Causes of advantages

First, the grassroots political system in the Central Highlands always receives leadership attention and direction from the Party, State, and upper-level political system, and coordination from forces stationed in the area.

Second, the social-economic and cultural situation of the country and the Central Highlands area has developed, and national defense and security are maintained, contributing to consolidating the People's trust in the Party and State.

Third, the level of awareness and capacity of the contingent of cadres and civil servants of the grassroots political system in the Central Highlands has changed positively.

Fourth, the vast majority of ethnic communities in the Central Highlands have a tradition of loving their homeland and country and are united and attached in a unified bloc.

3.4.1.2. Causes of limitations

First, natural and social-economic conditions still have many difficulties, affecting the efficiency of deploying activities to build the bloc of great national unity.

Second, the grassroots political system in some places does not operate effectively, and cadre capacity is still limited.

Third, there are some inadequacies in the guidelines and policies of the Party and State on building the bloc of great national unity.

Fourth, the sabotage by hostile forces takes place strongly, increasingly sophisticated and unpredictable.

Fifth, the intellectual level and political awareness of a part of the people are still low.

3.4.2. Issues posed for the grassroots political system in the Central Highlands in performing the role of building the bloc of great national unity today

3.4.2.1. The inadequacy between the increasingly high requirements of the task of building the bloc of great national unity and the limited awareness and responsibility of a part of grassroots cadres

In the current context, the task of building the bloc of great national unity demands increasingly high requirements regarding awareness, capacity, and political bravery of grassroots political system cadres. However, in reality, the awareness and responsibility of a part of cadres regarding the role of building the bloc of great national unity are still one-sided, formalistic, and lack strategic character.

3.4.2.2. The lack of compatibility between current institutions and mechanisms and the requirement to promote combined strength in building the bloc of great national unity at the grassroots level

The task of building the bloc of great national unity requires the participation, coordination, and promotion of the combined strength of all organizations and forces.

However, currently, the coordination mechanism is still loose and formalistic; the remuneration regime for cadres and civil servants is still inadequate.

3.4.2.3. The inadequacy between the requirement for comprehensiveness in implementing equality, respect, and mutual help among ethnic groups and the reality of implementing this principle

To build a truly solid bloc of great national unity, it is necessary to thoroughly grasp and implement well the principle of equality, respect, and mutual help among ethnic groups. However, in practice, this principle has not been perceived and executed effectively.

3.4.2.4. The lack of compatibility between the requirement of building the bloc of great national unity and the limited capacity of a part of grassroots cadres

The task of building the bloc of great national unity sets increasingly high requirements for innovating and improving the operational efficiency of the grassroots political system. However, currently, the limited qualifications and capacity of a part of cadres and civil servants have become a barrier to improving the effectiveness of the grassroots political system in performing the role of building the bloc of great national unity.

Chapter 4

VIEWPOINTS AND SOLUTIONS TO PROMOTE THE ROLE OF THE GRASSROOTS POLITICAL SYSTEM IN BUILDING THE BLOC OF GREAT NATIONAL UNITY IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS IN THE COMING TIME

4.1. FORECAST OF IMPACT THE PROMOTION OF THE ROLE OF THE GRASSROOTS POLITICAL SYSTEM IN BUILDING THE BLOC OF GREAT NATIONAL UNITY IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS IN THE COMING TIME

4.1.1. Impact from the trend of international integration and non-traditional security issues

The development of the international integration trend along with non-traditional security issues has a huge impact on building the bloc of great national unity in our country today.

4.1.2. Impact from the strong development of science-technology, media, and artificial intelligence

The development of science-technology, media, and artificial intelligence both creates favorable opportunities and poses challenges for the task of building the bloc of great national unity.

4.1.3. Impact from the requirement to innovate the political system and rearrange the two-level local government structure

The requirement to continue to innovate and improve the efficiency of the political system, rearrange administrative units at all levels, and implement the two-level local government model will have a positive impact on the overall efficiency of the political system, including promoting the role of the grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity.

4.1.4. Impact of enhancing the position and role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations and the requirements for building the great national unity bloc in the new era

The enhancement of the position and role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations, together with the Party's new theoretical developments on building the great national unity bloc, has created an increasingly comprehensive and clear legal framework enabling these organizations to more effectively promote their roles in strengthening the great national unity bloc.

4.1.5. Impact from the plots and tricks of hostile forces to sabotage and divide the bloc of great national unity

In the coming time, hostile forces will intensify sabotage against the Party and State, with sophisticated plots and tricks, directly affecting the stability of the great national unity bloc.

4.2. VIEWPOINTS ON PROMOTING THE ROLE OF THE GRASSROOTS POLITICAL SYSTEM IN BUILDING THE BLOC OF GREAT NATIONAL UNITY IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS IN THE COMING TIME

4.2.1. Promoting the role of the grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity must be placed under the comprehensive, direct, and centralized leadership of the Party

This is the fundamental principle and the core factor ensuring the political, ideological, and organizational consistency, unity, and cohesion among components of the grassroots political system to successfully implement the task of building the bloc of great national unity.

4.2.2. Promoting the role of the grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity must be closely linked with social-economic development, defense, and security assurance

This viewpoint requires that the guidelines, plans, and organization of implementation of building the bloc of great national unity must be placed within the overall tasks of social-economic development, national defense, and security assurance in the locality.

4.2.3. Promoting the role of the grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity in the Central Highland requires promoting synergistic strength, tight coordination among all parties and a persistent approach of simultaneously building up and combating negative forces throughout the political system.

Building the great national unity bloc is the responsibility of the entire Party, people, and army, across all levels, sectors, the political system, and the entire population. Therefore, it is essential to ensure close coordination among all stakeholders, persistently combining 'construction' with 'combat' throughout the political system to promote aggregate strength, creating a solid posture for the process of building the great national unity bloc in the Central Highlands today.

4.2.4. Promoting the role of the grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity must be closely linked with consolidating and improving the quality of the grassroots political system itself

This viewpoint requires that in promoting the role of the grassroots political system in building the bloc of great national unity, attention must be paid to consolidating and improving the quality of party organizations, authorities, the Fatherland Front, and social-political organizations; actively innovating the content and methods of operation of the grassroots political system; and building a contingent of cadres, especially ethnic minority cadres, who are knowledgeable, capable, and reputable.

4.3. SOLUTIONS TO PROMOTE THE ROLE OF THE GRASSROOTS POLITICAL SYSTEM IN BUILDING THE BLOC OF GREAT NATIONAL UNITY IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS IN THE COMING TIME

4.3.1. Strengthening education, raising awareness, and unifying action on the issue of building the bloc of great national unity

The grassroots political system needs to pay attention to strengthening propaganda and education work on the great national unity policy of the Party and State for all classes of people, cadres, and party members, especially in ethnic minority and religious areas.

4.3.2. Innovating and improving the quality and operational efficiency of the grassroots political system

Focus on building a strong, clean, and comprehensively excellent grassroots party organization, being the core leading force in building the bloc of great national unity. Continuing to innovate and improve the quality and operational efficiency of the grassroots People's Council and People's Committee; promoting the core role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and social-political organizations in gathering and rallying people.

4.3.3. Improving the quality of the contingent of cadres, civil servants, especially ethnic minority cadres, of the grassroots political system

Focus on training, fostering, and standardizing the contingent of cadres and civil servants of the grassroots political system in terms of political theory, professional qualifications, and working capacity in ethnic and religious areas; building a contingent of ethnic minority cadres in both quantity and quality.

4.3.4. Innovating and perfecting guidelines and policies on ethnic and religious work

Focus on reviewing, supplementing, and perfecting policies on social-economic development, especially policies on land, production, and poverty reduction for ethnic minority areas. Continuing to research and perfect the legal framework, mechanisms, and policies related to religion and belief to create a favorable environment for religious activities according to the law.

4.3.5. Improving the effectiveness of coordination among components of the grassroots political system and between the grassroots political system and other forces in the area

Consolidating and improving the effectiveness of coordination among components of the grassroots political system, with the grassroots party committee being the nucleus. Building a mechanism for coordination between the grassroots political system and units of the armed forces, public security, border guard, and reputable individuals, village elders, and heads of villages in the area.

4.3.6. Improving the effectiveness of management and resolution of social conflicts, especially ethnic and religious conflicts, and the fight against hostile forces

Implementing democracy at the grassroots level in parallel with managing and resolving social conflicts, especially those related to land, ethnicity, and religion. Actively grasping the situation, preventing, and fighting against the plots and tricks of hostile forces to sabotage and divide the bloc of great national unity.

4.3.7. Developing the economy, culture, and society, ensuring national defense and security in the locality to create a foundation for consolidating the People's trust

Focus on investing in developing infrastructure, transforming the economic structure, and improving people's livelihoods, especially ethnic minority people. Preserving and promoting the unique traditional cultural values of ethnic groups. Ensuring national defense and security, maintaining political stability and social order and safety.

CONCLUSION

1. The grassroots political system plays a crucial role in building national unity, which is manifested through specific activities such as: determining guidelines, formulating plans and programs, and organizing the implementation of policies on national unity; conducting inspection, supervision, evaluation, reporting, and review of experiences; and proposing initiatives and policies for strengthening the great national unity bloc

2. Over the past years, based on a correct understanding of the position, role, and importance of the national great unity strategy, the grassroots political system in the Central Highlands has been active and proactive in determining guidelines, developing plans and programs, and effectively implementing the task of building the national great unity bloc. As a result, this bloc has been increasingly strengthened and developed. However, the role of the grassroots political system in building the national great unity bloc in the Central Highlands has also revealed certain limitations, particularly in leadership capacity, direction, management, education, dissemination, and the implementation of national great unity policies.

3. In the coming time, building the bloc of great national unity in the Central Highlands needs to thoroughly grasp and simultaneously implement the viewpoints and solutions, focusing on strengthening education, raising awareness; innovating and improving the quality of the grassroots political system; improving the quality of the contingent of cadres, civil servants, especially ethnic minority cadres; innovating and perfecting guidelines and policies on ethnic and religious work; improving the effectiveness of coordination between the grassroots political system and forces in the area; improving the effectiveness of management and resolution of social conflicts; developing the economy, culture, and society, and ensuring national defense and security in the locality.

LIST OF PUBLISHED SCIENTIFIC WORKS RELATED TO THE DISSERTATION TOPIC

1. To Quoc Anh (2025), "Promoting the Role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the Grassroots Level in Building the Bloc of Great National Unity in Lam Dong Province," *Electronic Journal of State Management*, January 14, 2025.

2. To Quoc Anh (2025), "Mass Mobilization Work of the Grassroots Political System Contributing to Building the Bloc of Great National Unity in the Central Highlands," *Electronic Journal of Political Theory*, April 25, 2025.

3. To Quoc Anh (2025), "Promoting the Role of the Grassroots Political System of Lam Dong Province in Building the Bloc of Great National Unity Today," *Electronic Journal of Political Theory*, May 19, 2025.

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