

# Eastern Philosophical Theories and Marxism-Lenin Philosophies in Viet Nam Society and Education

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## Abstract

Eastern philosophies esp. Buddhism philosophies has affected Vietnam society and eastern nations through many years. This study will hence use dialectical materialism concept combined with qualitative analysis including synthesis and inductive methods. Among values of Buddhism philosophies is that building peace instead of war for nations and human being.

Next, *Marxism-Lenin* philosophies also show progressive ideologies to construct society better. (*Van der Walt et al., 2014*) stated that dialectics has been considered as a model by Marx (for development stages), and he considered it (Dialectical materialism) as his metaphysical perspective, a framework for history.

Last but not least, our study showed that (*Engels, 1995,*) has contributed much with his dialectical materialism philosophy that can be applied in many sciences nowadays. And (*Lenin, 2005,*) as a learner of (*Engels, 1995,*), hence, he developed it for Russia society development and revolution.

**Keywords:** eastern philosophies, Buddhism philosophy, Marxism-Lenin philosophies, Vietnam society

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## Introduction

In the East, society and the individual are the main focus to look around. Therefore, the object of Eastern philosophy is mainly social, political, ethical, spiritual and therefore tends to be inward, taking the inside to explain the outside. Most schools favor idealism. Eastern philosophy, on the other hand, often uses intuition, which is to go straight to understanding, to the depths of the nature of things and phenomena. Intuition keeps the whole that analytical thinking reaches. But it has some limited disadvantage (for example, not widely available). Everyone's intuition is different. And intuition is not always right. Actually, the two measures combine, but here we are talking about bias.

## Research questions

Question 1: What are eastern philosophies, esp. Buddhism philosophies influencing society?

Question 2: What are strengths of Marxism-Lenin philosophies?

## Literature review

First, materialism combined with dialectic has been becoming core of dialectical materialism. The characteristic of the method of dialectical materialism is to consider a thing or a phenomenon in an ever-evolving state and consider it in relation to other things and phenomena. (Fazio et al., 2004) inherited the ideas and developed Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel's dialectical method and he also developed Ludwig Andreas von Feuerbach's materialism theory. The (Engels, 1995) philosophers considered the dialectical materialist method to be the philosophical basis for their ideology.

**Table 1**

Summary of previous studies

Authors	Year	Contents, results
(Gills, 1987)	1987	the capitalist mode of production and its internal logic is one of greatest achievements of K.Marx. Historical materialism's general theoretical views developed based on assumptions of the overall causal primacy of the socio-economic base on political superstructure.
(Ho)	2018	The great ideas of Marx about man that we pay attention to present and value for today's time are: 1). Man is a natural human being. 2). The natural world is the inorganic body of man. 3). People are real individuals, their activities and their material living conditions. 4). Human nature is the sum total of social relations. Those are thoughts that really have a great dimension. Today these ideas are still the real theoretical premise at the core of many human sciences. In real life, these ideas are also the basic worldview and methodological guides of many social theories.
(Pham, Tran, & Sanjayan, 2020)	2020	the world religion has harmonized with indigenous religious life, quickly when it spread into Vietnam
(Lanuza, 2016)	2016	Argue that Marxist tradition can rival the paradigms that dominate the current studies in the sociology of conflicts.
(Huy, 2021)	2021	With Marxism -Lenin philosophies and development from it, Ho Chi Minh contributed to both practice and theory of the task of constructing the government and constructing the political system.
(Pham et al.,	2020	Ho Chi Minh has inherited and developed Marxism ideologies in

2020)

Vietnam society context

Marxist philosophy is one of the three components constituting Marxism, is the core of the worldview, the methodology of the working-class ideology, is a great cognitive tool for the working class to perceive and understand the construction of a new and better social regime, which means socialist society and communist society and renovating the world. The great contributions of C. Marx in the field of philosophy are to create a unity between the materialistic worldview and the dialectic; created historical materialism; making philosophy a worldview, scientific and revolutionary methodology to liberate the working class and the working people all over the world.

(Source: luatminhkhue.vn, access date 16/9/2021)

We present a summary of related studies as follows:

## Methodology

Authors mentioned insights of dialectical materialism concept in the study. The method that authors used in this research is qualitative analysis, synthesis and inductive methods and observations and explanatory research.

Beside the study considered methods of using historical information and carry with historical combined with dialectical materialism methods.

## Main findings

### Eastern philosophical theories and its influence in Vietnam

Eastern philosophical theories including Chinese confucianism philosophies and Buddhism philosophies and they have influence in Vietnam society: Among 6 big religions in Vietnam is Buddhism.

**Table 2**

Values and morals philosophies of Buddhism in our country

Contents	Values and benefits
- Intangible cultural values of Buddhism, first of all, must refer to moral values.	- Buddhist ethics is expressed in the goal of wanting to bring happiness and peace to people. The moral principles that the Buddha taught sentient beings are to strive for self-reliance, promote compassion, selflessness - altruism, do good, and prevent evil.
- philosophy of cause-effect	- encourage people to do good things for society and live for others
- make a living by a genuine occupation, not trading in fraud, making fake goods... but living by their own labor, sweat and capital. Righteous life also means mastering life, living without waste, not being miserly, knowing how-to do-good deeds, knowing how to take care of the lives of relatives, relatives and society, knowing how to accumulate for this life and standards. given to the afterlife.	- live faithfully, morally, sacrifices, live for family and society
- With the idea of tolerance, peace, promotion of good and prevention of evil, Buddhism will contribute to awakening human conscience, enabling people to live in peace and compassion, proactively preventing evil and the dangers of war. destruction by nuclear weapons, as well as international terrorism and religious strife	- building peace instead of war for nations and human being

(Source: made by authors)

### Marxism-Lenin philosophies and its influence

Marxism or Marxism (transliterated from Marxist) is a system of philosophical, historical and political economic doctrines based on the works of (Engels:, 1995,) and (Engels:, 1995,). Since the third volume of "Capital" (*Das Kapital*) was published in 1895, Marxists have been trying to integrate its ideas into a common scheme for the construction of a new order. The new society is called socialism or communism. Social Democratic movement of which Austrian Marxism (Austromarxism) is a special form. Currently, some social democratic parties or leftist groups in this movement, all countries in the West recognize the progressive social models in Marx's theory, but advocate building a new society by means of struggle. long-term peace to promote social evolution. Examples of this tendency are some of the Social Democrats in Europe and a few other countries.

One of big achievements of (Engels:, 1995,) and Engels is the foundation of Marxism-Leninism or Marxism-Leninism (being one of three constituent parts of Marxism-Leninism) in the mid-nineteenth century. Marxist-Leninist philosophy was born in the 30s of the 19th centuries and was developed closely with scientific and practical achievements in the workers' revolutionary movement. The birth of Marxist-Leninist philosophy is a real revolution in the history of human thought, in the history of philosophy.

Lenin has developed Marxist-Leninist philosophy, which relied on the system of views of (Engels:, 1995,). In it, Engels developed Marx's philosophy, through generalizing scientific achievements and criticizing idealistic, metaphysical philosophical theories and even trivial materialistic conceptions among those who wanted to become Marxist.

(Macones, Hankins, Spong, Hauth, & Moore, 2008) stated that in 1857 (time of Dialectical materialism being born) it is harder for Marx in Turning Hegel upside down. And at this time K. Marx adopted a realist epistemology. But his dialectic was incompatible with his materialism.

**Table 3**

Strengths of Marxism Lenin philosophies in building society

Marxism	Lenin
<p>- Dialectical materialism or dialectical materialism is a part of the philosophical doctrine proposed by (Engels:, 1995,) materialism combined with dialectic has become core of dialectical materialism.</p> <p>The characteristic of the method of dialectical materialism is to consider a thing or a phenomenon in an ever-evolving state and consider it in relation to other things and phenomena.</p> <p>Marx inherited the ideas of Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel's dialectical method and developed Ludwig Andreas von Feuerbach's materialism theory. The Marxist-Leninist philosophers considered the dialectical materialist method to be the philosophical basis for their ideology.</p> <p>(Source: wikipedia.org, access date 16/9/2021)</p> <p>- Marx wrote: "Philosophy does not hang outside the world, just as the brain does not exist outside of man". But philosophy was not born in a barbaric and ignorant society. That is, philosophy can only come into being when the state, the tool for repressing and regulating class interests, matures enough, "from being a servant of society (the state) to becoming the master of society. (Engels:, 1995,)</p>	<p>- (Lenin:, 2005, ) wrote: "As Marx and Engels have repeatedly stated, the philosophical basis of Marxism is dialectical materialism, which has completely absorbed the historical traditions of the materialism of the world. 18th century in France and by Feurbach in Germany in the first half of the 19th century".</p> <p>According to (Lenin:, 2005, ), "Marx's historical materialism is the greatest achievement of scientific thought. A very complete and rigorous scientific theory has replaced the confusion and arbitrariness that has always reigned in the conceptions of history and politics; That theory shows us how, as the productive forces grow, from one form of organization of social life emerges and develops another higher form of organization of social life" (Lenin:, 2005, )</p>

In the field of philosophy, "Marx's philosophy is a complete philosophical materialism, which provides mankind and especially the working class with great cognitive tools". (Engels:, 1995,) applied materialist dialectic to the study of history and society, founded historical materialism, made dialectic materialism complete, from the point of understanding the world. natural to human social awareness. "Just as Darwin (Darwin & Burkhardt, 2015) discovered the law of



development of the organic world, K.Marx discovered the law of development of human history" (source: K. (Engels;, 1995,) and this is one of the great discoveries. Marx's greatest contribution to mankind, as (Lenin;, 2005, ) asserted: "Marx's historical materialism is the greatest achievement of scientific thought" (source: (Lenin;, 2005, ): Complete Volume, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2005, t. 23, p. 53)

(Engels;, 1995,) built the materialist dialectic, inherited the advantages and overcome the limitations and shortcomings of the previous dialectics. On the basis of dialectical materialism and materialistic dialectic, applied to the study of the movement and development of human society, F. Elgels together with Marx built historical materialism history, systematically presenting the basic principles of historical materialism.

In particular, F. Elgels has deeply analyzed the dialectical relationship between the elements constituting the superstructure and their opposite effects on the economic infrastructure; fight against the view that emphasizes one-sidedly the decisive role of economic infrastructure over superstructure.

(Source: <https://nhandan.vn/tin-tuc-su-kien/f-elgels-voi-k-marx-va-chu-nghia-marxism-427756>, acces date 16/9/2021)

We see in below table that both Marxism and Lenin philosophies help to build better life.

## Discussion and Conclusion

Formed and developed at the end of the 19th century, the system of ideas and views of Marxism, later developed by (Lenin;, 2005, ), has been increasingly proven to be correct in practice, becoming the ideological guidelines for global working class's revolutionary action, its pioneering revolutionary parties. The scientific opinion of Engels in particular, Marxism in general, converges the wisdom of mankind in the transitional era from capitalism to socialism on a worldwide scale.

In Vietnam, the great victories of the Vietnamese revolution during the past 70 years stem from the Communist Party's loyalty and creative application of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thought into practice of our revolution.

Last but not least, (Nguyen, 2018), , (Le et al., 2008), (Huy et al., 2021) stated that we need to equip our workforce with skills and Marxism-Lenin ideologies and During integration and globalization era, Vietnam human resources face challenges but also have lots of opportunities .

## Research limitation

Authors need to present more details of eastern philosophies influence in the nation.

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