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ABSTRACT 1/2025

1. Do Quang Hung: *More than “Opium”*: Revisiting the Issue of Marx and Religion

Abstract: Marx’s theory of religion remains one of the most profound and complex aspects of his revolutionary proletarian doctrine, from the latter half of the nineteenth century to the present. The Marxist approach to religion in the Soviet Union and other former socialist states has shaped a lasting school of thought in understanding and responding to religious issues, rooted in Marx’s legacy. In the contemporary context, where the Communist Party of Vietnam and the State seek to refine and improve policies on religion, revisiting the question of “Marx’s legacy on religion” is particularly necessary. This study expands upon approaches that were previously unavailable and utilizes new sources to deepen analysis. The research addresses four major themes: (a) Marx and Religion; (b) Marx’s Legacy on Religion: The Reception and Traditional Marxist Critique; (c) Western Marxist Critique of Religion; and (d) Marx’s Legacy on Religion in Vietnam. A central conclusion of this study suggests the need for further understanding, comprehensive evaluation, and supplementation of Marx’s legacy on religion in the present era.

Keywords: Theory of Religion, Definition of Religion, Traditional Marxism, Marx, Engels.

2. Nguyen Hong Duong, Nguyen Thi Que Huong : *The Value System of Catholicism in Vietnam: An Approach from the Perspective of Vietnamese Cultural Value System*

Abstract: Over more than 400 years of evangelization and development in Vietnam, Catholicism has significantly influenced and left notable imprints on various aspects of Vietnamese life. This article highlights some of the key values of Catholicism in Vietnam across three dimensions: culture, ethics, and lifestyle. These constitute the prominent categories of values that have played a central role throughout the history of Catholicism’s presence in Vietnam. From the cultural perspective, Catholicism is regarded as a cultural bridge between East and West, expressed through worldview, human outlook, and both tangible and intangible cultural values. From the ethical perspective, the article focuses on the moral cultivation of Catholic believers. From the lifestyle perspective, the analysis emphasizes family life, community relations among co-religionists, and interactions between Catholics and followers of other religious and spiritual traditions.

Keywords: Catholicism; cultural values; ethical values; lifestyle values; Vietnam.

3. Tran Hong Thu: *Transformation of Community Lifestyles in Vietnam’s Land Border Regions: A Perspective from Social Space Theory and Cultural Hybridity Theory*

Abstract: Based on quantitative and qualitative surveys conducted in several provinces in three border regions of Vietnam, this article employs the approaches of social space theory and cultural hybridity theory to analyze border communities’ lifestyle transformations, focusing on cultural elements such as language, housing, and clothing. The findings indicate significant cultural acculturation and hybridization among these communities, affected by state policies, intercultural exchanges among ethnic groups and across borders, and the market economy. Each border region reflects distinct patterns of lifestyle transformation based on the unique characteristics of its social space, demonstrating the flexible restructuring of community identities in the context of integration.

Keywords: Lifestyle, border regions, social space theory, cultural hybridity theory

4. Vuong Xuan Tinh: *Culinary Identities of the Brau and the Ro-mam - Two Ethnic Minorities with very Small Populations*

Abstract: Drawing on the approach of ethnic identity as not only distinctiveness but also a sense of “belonging,” along with approaches from regional culture and historical-ethnographic studies, this article elucidates the culinary identities of the Brau and the Ro-mam, two ethnic minority groups with very small populations. These identities are expressed through ethnic taste preferences, including dishes prepared by cooking in bamboo tubes, grilling, raw-eating, fermenting, and a preference for upland sticky rice and leaf-fermented rice wine. They are also reflected in the relationship between cuisine and spirituality, such as sacrificial offerings for bountiful harvests, good fortune, gratitude, and totemic food taboos. These elements of culinary identity share similarities with many ethnic groups in the Truong Son (Annamite Range) - Central Highlands region. This study further supports the argument that Vietnam’s culinary identity is closely tied to ethnic and regional cuisines.

Keywords: Culinary identity, Brau, Ro-mam, ethnic taste preferences, cuisine and spirituality.

5. Nguyen Thi Tam, Tran Minh Hang: *Spiritual and Cultural Life of Ethnic Minority Workers Migrating to Industrial Zones in Hanoi and Bac Ninh*

Abstract: The number of ethnic minority workers from northern mountainous regions migrating to work in industrial zones is increasing. Bac Ninh Province and Hanoi City, as key industrial hubs in Northern Vietnam, provide employment opportunities, income improvement, and cultural experiences for these migrant workers in industrial and urban settings. This article examines the spiritual and cultural life of ethnic minority migrant workers in industrial zones in Hanoi and Bac Ninh, focusing on aspects such as language, religious beliefs, festivals, arts, sports, and leisure activities. Based on these findings, recommendations and solutions are proposed to enhance the spiritual and cultural well-being of ethnic minority migrant workers in industrial zones.

Keywords: Spiritual and cultural life, ethnic minorities, migration, industrial zones.

6. Nguyen Cong Thao: *Challenges in Developing Community-Based Tourism in Nghe An Province’s Ethnic Minority Areas*

Abstract: Community-based tourism is an effective strategy for poverty reduction, economic development, cultural preservation, and environmental protection, holding particular significance in Vietnam’s ethnic minority regions. However, several challenges must be addressed to maximize the effectiveness of this economic activity. From this perspective, this article analyzes and evaluates community-based tourism of the Tai and Hmong ethnic groups in two ethnic minority communes in Nghe An province. The findings suggest that community-based tourism can only be effective with specific investment and development plans tailored to local tourism resources, and economic, cultural, and social conditions. Additionally, each tourism destination should leverage its cultural identity to create suitable tourism products and encourage active community participation.

Keywords: Community-based tourism, cultural tourism, ethnic minorities, Nghe An province.

7. Le Tam Dac: *Some Religious Characteristics in the Northern Mountainous Region of Contemporary Vietnam*

Abstract: Since the late 1980s, religious life among ethnic minority communities in Vietnam -particularly in the northern mountainous region - has undergone significant changes that strongly affect various aspects of local society. These transformations raise pressing issues such as ensuring citizens' right to freedom of belief and religion, addressing activities that exploit religion to destabilize society or threaten national security, and improving religious policies and laws while enhancing the effectiveness of state governance in religious affairs. Building on previous studies and drawing from the author's field surveys over the past decade, this article clarifies several key features and current dynamics of religion in the northern mountainous region of Vietnam.

Keywords: Religious Change; Religious Transformation; Northern Mountains; Ethnic Minorities.

8. Tran Thi Thao Nhu (Thich Nu Bao Nhu): *Applying Buddhist Principles to Human Resource Management in Enterprises to Enhance Business Efficiency*

Abstract: In the context of increasingly fierce competition, sustainable business development requires more than the pursuit of profit; it must also be aligned with corporate social responsibility. This calls for leadership characterized by vision, ethics, and wisdom to foster a humane corporate culture while simultaneously enhancing organizational performance. Buddhism, with its core values of compassion and wisdom, offers a significant foundation for contemporary human resource management and business practices. Drawing on Buddhist perspectives on economic activity and human resource governance, this article proposes the application of Buddhist principles in human resource management - building cohesive, equitable, and innovative workplaces - and in business operations - integrating production with sustainability and social responsibility.

Keywords: Buddhist ethics; Human resource management; Business operations; Corporate social responsibility; Social responsibility.