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ABSTRACT NO.2/2025

Do Quang Hung: *More than Opium: Revisiting the Issue of Marx and Religion (Part 2)*

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, Western Marxism, Marx, Engels.

Duong Van Bien: *The Phenomenon of Marian Apparition: Research from Interdisciplinary Perspectives and Regulations of the Catholic Church*

Abstract: Marian apparition is a complex religious phenomenon that has attracted interest from various sides, including the general public, scholars, social administrators, and the Catholic Church. Research on this phenomenon has been conducted using a range of approaches. This article selects the perspectives from Holism in Anthropology and the Phenomenology of Religion, arguing that "Marian apparition" should be understood as a multi-dimensional religious phenomenon. In addition, the article emphasizes that the official viewpoint and regulation of the Catholic Church on the phenomenon of Marian apparitions, particularly the regulations released in 1978 and 2024, need to be regarded as significant references. A comparison of these regulations from two different years as such reveals certain changes in the Catholic Church's stance regarding the phenomenon of Marian apparition, providing useful suggestions for scholarly research and religious administrations, especially in the context of Vietnam.

Keywords: Marian Apparition, Anthropological Holism, Religious Studies, Phenomenology of Religion, Catholic Church, Religious Phenomenon

Nguyen Thi Tam, Bui Thi Bich Lan: *Folk Performing Arts in the Vietnam-China Border Region - A Case Study of the Lo Lo and Hmong Ethnic Groups in Lung Cu Commune, Ha Giang Province*

Abstract: This article analyzes the current state of folk performing arts in the Vietnam-China border region through case studies of the Lo Lo and Hmong ethnic groups in Lung Cu

Commune, Ha Giang Province (now Tuyen Quang Province). The research findings indicate that the Lo Lo have effectively preserved and utilized their folk performing arts, harmoniously blending traditional elements with modernity and closely integrating them with community-based tourism. This approach creates a “dual value”, preserving cultural identity while boosting local livelihoods. In contrast, among the Hmong people, folk performing arts are gradually fading due to a lack of performance environments, limited infrastructure and tourism services, and disruptions in transmission. Based on these findings, the authors propose some solutions for preserving and promoting the values of folk performing arts tailored to each ethnic group, aligned with the requirements for sustainable development in the border region.

Keywords: Folk performing arts, Vietnam-China border, Lo Lo, Hmong, Lung Cu commune.

Nguyen Thanh Trung; *Housing for Ethnic Minority Migrant Workers in Some Industrial Zones in Hanoi*

Abstract: Housing has always been a top priority in addressing social welfare for migrants in industrial zones, particularly for ethnic minority migrant workers. Ethnic minority workers currently employed in industrial zones in Hanoi face numerous housing challenges, including poor housing quality, limited recreational spaces, a lack of spiritual well-being, and cultural differences with the local community. Although they have made efforts to adapt to these obstacles, the persistent housing issues, coupled with the absence of supportive policies from the state and local authorities for this group, make it difficult for most ethnic minority workers to overcome social welfare barriers and establish long-term ties with industrial zones.

Keywords: Housing, industrial zones, migration, social welfare.

Le Thi Huong; *Traditional Cuisine in Brau People’s Life*

Abstract: The Brau are one of the 14 extremely small ethnic minority groups in Vietnam, residing primarily in a single village in the border region of Kon Tum province (now Quang Ngai province). Throughout their history of survival, they have maintained a close connection with the forest and river ecosystems, which provide essential food resources, shaping a cuisine rich of their cultural identity. The Brau cuisine not only ensures nutrition but also reflects community cohesion, supports disease prevention and treatment, and holds value for tourism development. In the context of integration, local authorities and the Brau community are steering toward transforming Dak Me village into a community-based tourism destination, thereby preserving and promoting their culinary culture, increasing income, and affirming their cultural identity in the national border region.

Keywords: Traditional cuisine, Brau ethnic group, Kon Tum.

Pham Thi Thu Ha; *Custard Apple Tree’s Role in the Household Economy of Nung People in Chi Lang Commune, Lang Son Province*

Abstract: Agricultural development is a major policy of the Party and State of Vietnam, aimed at transitioning from traditional farming to commodity production and market integration, thereby

achieving a breakthrough in economic efficiency and promoting sustainable rural transformation. Based on research conducted in Chi Lang commune, Lang Son province, this article clarifies the current situation and role of the custard apple tree in the household economy of the Nung people across several aspects: the shift from traditional farming to building local brands, changes in customs, mindset, and adoption of modern scientific techniques, as well as income growth and poverty reduction. On this basis, the article identifies key issues and proposes solutions to develop sustainable agricultural livelihoods for the Nung people in Chi Lang commune under current condition.

Keywords: Custard apple tree, household economy, Nung people, Chi Lang, Lang Son.

Nguyen Thi Que Huong: *Characteristics of Indigenous Religions in Vietnam's Land Border Areas*

Abstract: Indigenous religions in Vietnam refer to religious traditions that originated in the southern region of the country during the mid-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Over time, some of these religions have expanded nationwide, from rural to urban areas, while others remain confined to their places of origin, or even attach themselves to border regions as a symbolic affirmation of Vietnam's sovereignty. Each religion in each border area demonstrates its own distinctive characteristics, with religious practices adapted to the specific local context. Based on the synthesis and analysis of secondary sources as well as fieldwork, this study identifies several characteristics of indigenous religions currently present in Vietnam's land border areas, including Cao Đài, Hòa Hảo Buddhism, the Pure Land Buddhist Association of Vietnam, Tứ Ân Hiếu Nghĩa Buddhism, Bửu Sơn Kỳ Hương, and Hiếu Nghĩa Tà Lơn Buddhism.

Keywords: Indigenous religions; Characteristics; Land borders; Vietnam.

Vu Van Chung: *Islamic Denominations in the World: History of Division and Comparisons*

Abstract: Islam is a monotheistic religion with strict regulations for practicing faith and community life. However, during its development, conflicts within the believer communities led to the division into different sects. In addition to similarities, each branch of Islam has distinct differences that reflect its own identity and characteristics. Understanding the similarities and differences between the branches of Islam worldwide, especially Sunni and Shi'ah, will provide an objective perspective on the historical process as well as the religious, political, and contemporary issues of Islam in the modern world.

Keywords: Islam, Sect, Sunni, Shi'ah, Sufi, Kharijites.