

## BUILDING THE CIVIC CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE SOCIALIST RULE OF LAW IN VIETNAM NOWADAYS

[A CONSTRUÇÃO DA CONSCIÊNCIA CÍVICA DO SOCIALISMO NO VIETNÃ NOS TEMPOS ATUAIS]

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**ABSTRACT:** Vietnam is implementing global socio-economic integration, so the law must also be renovated to meet the requirements of international integration. Because the law is attached to the country's institutions, it shows the consistency in Vietnam's politics, economy, and diplomacy. In the world, the rule of law is a typical value that humanity aims for because it upholds the law, expressing our nation's aspiration for a democratic and equal society. Therefore, Vietnam has built a socialist rule of law. To achieve this, Vietnam must ensure the free power of its citizens, promote the democracy of the state, and ensure that power belongs to the people. The paper uses a materialist dialectical method to examine the building of civic consciousness that promotes the perfection of Vietnam's current socialist rule of law. At the same time, the article also uses analytical methods and synthetic methods to clarify the sense of citizenship in the Vietnamese state, Vietnam's political institutions, and the development of the socialist rule of law is correct.

**KEYWORDS:** civic consciousness, the socialist rule of law, Vietnam.

**RESUMO:** O Vietnã está implementando sua integração socioeconômica com o mundo, o que impõe, por sua vez, a adaptação de suas leis internas, a fim de adequar-se aos critérios de integração global. O Estado de direito é um valor típico que a humanidade almeja. Também nós, vietnamitas, expressamos o desejo de nossa nação por uma sociedade democrática e igualitária, integrada à comunidade mundial. Nesse sentido, o Vietnã, ao estabelecer-se como um Estado de direito socialista, deve, a um só tempo, garantir a livre iniciativa dos seus cidadãos, comportar-se democraticamente enquanto Estado, e fazer jus ao fato de que todo poder advém do povo. Este artigo compõe-se a partir de um método analítico-empírico e tem como objetivo analisar o grau de consciência cívica das pessoas que sustenta o atual modelo de estado socialista do Vietnã, bem como buscar entender o alcance da consciência cidadã das pessoas, e também das instituições políticas, procurando entender o grau de retitude que estado socialista auferre como um todo.

**PALAVRAS-CHAVE:** consciência cívica, Estado de direito socialista, Vietnã

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Building and perfecting the socialist rule of law in the State of Vietnam is one of the major undertakings of the Party and State of Vietnam nowadays. The socialist rule of law is a state that demonstrates openness, transparency, and effective operation

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because the people serve and take the sense of citizenship as a development goal. Thus, the socialist rule of law is an organizational method of exercising the power of citizen consciousness. Also, based on society and the state in which citizens live, the sense of citizenship is the basis for perfecting the socialist rule of law of the people, by the people, and for the people. Accordingly, when many citizens have good sense, society will be good and worth living. So civic consciousness becomes human morality, social morality. Social order and discipline are maintained by law, but some acts are not sanctioned by law. Still, underground institutions regulate them to guide acts of treatment in the community, which can be considered legal barriers based on citizens' self-awareness. Therefore, civic consciousness requires people to speak their voices and contribute their strength and wisdom to work with the government to solve society's pressing and unbeautiful things. The article uses a materialist dialectical method with objective principles and development principles to clarify the relationship of citizen consciousness to help perfect the socialist rule of law that Vietnam built and developed. At the same time, the article uses analytical and synthetic methods to clarify the manifestations of the rule of law state with human consciousness and show that the socialist rule of law must guide the empowerment of the people. From there, the article affirms that the sense of citizenship must be the central expression of a democratic society, a progressive society for people, and that is the socialist rule of law. The socialist rule of law States that want to promote the sense of citizens must take the constitution as the basis and respect and protect the constitution. At the same time, state power is unified, assigned, coordinated, and controlled among state agencies in the exercise of legislative, executive, and judicial powers.

## 2. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

What is civic consciousness?

What are the characteristics of the civic consciousness of the socialist rule of law?

How is the sense of citizenship of the socialist rule of law in Vietnam manifested?

## 3. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 3.1. The concept of civic consciousness

According to research by D. Çakmaklı pointed to Rights and obligations in civil society organizations (Çakmaklı, 2017), civic awareness enhances citizens' understanding of rights and obligations. That is, the awareness of the validity of natural rights and the rights granted go hand in hand with the duties and duties of each citizen. Only when clearly understanding what their rights are and how much their obligations are can the implementation and protection of human rights and citizens' rights be complete, comprehensive, and substantive. At the same time, civic awareness enhances the social responsibility of individual citizens to the community, society, and the state, reflected in the actual behavior of individuals in social life. Civic

consciousness is also the morality of each individual that goes beyond legal responsibility, forming the regulation of behavior in the social community. Each individual in the activity process adjusts himself in the direction of operating responsibly and following the interests of society.

According to research by M. O. Hardimon, on the contrary, society also has an obligation and responsibility to meet the interests of individuals (Hardimon, 1994). The sense of mutual responsibility for each other is the glue that binds citizens to create a united, cordial, progressive, and civilized society. Civic awareness helps the enforcement and observance of the law to be self-conscious. Whether or not the law comes to life depends much on citizens' sense of enforcement and compliance. The passivity of citizens before the law does not increase the rule of law, but on the contrary, the content of coercion is high, which slows down the process of building the rule of law. Only the active and self-conscious implementation, application, and observance will reflect the effectiveness of the law, create favorable conditions for the implementation of social justice, and perfect the rule of law. Civic consciousness is associated with promoting the implementation of social and moral standards, contributing to building citizen personality and preventing the deterioration of the ideals and morals of some citizens. Civic consciousness is closely associated with the belief of each citizen in the justice, leadership, orientation, and administration of the state.

### ***3.2. The role of civic consciousness in the development of the state***

3.2.1. The sense of citizenship reflects the rights and obligations of citizens in the socio-historical conditions in which citizens live. It was born in association with the formation, existence, and development of the democratic state. It is not that civic consciousness came into being with the emergence of human history, much less that there is a state with citizens and a sense of citizenship, through the writings of thinkers of the ancient Greek period, civic spirit and citizenship in slave democracy (of course, citizenship was reserved only for the upper echelons of society, while peasants and enslaved people were not recognized as citizens). Still, they were quickly extinguished as they entered the period of domination of religious theocracy. The Roman Empire even used "Roman citizen" as a right to give people. Particular populations in conquered territories when they show loyalty to the empire (Déloye, 2000).

3.2.2. *Citizen awareness is creative in building and exercising rights and obligations towards society.* This is reflected externally through self-awareness and voluntary compliance in the implementation of regulations, especially the provisions of the law and the initiative and responsibility to contribute opinions to build the state and the law. Through social solidarity to fight for the implementation of civil rights and human rights, through participating in state-building oneself, actively building a democratic legal system, etc. These are the products of creativity, responsibility, civic self-discipline, and civic positivity. Thereby, people's level is raised in both knowledge and action. Acts and attitudes of voluntary compliance with regulations, especially legal provisions, show: Such acts must be based on a particular understanding of the state's laws. These provisions satisfy citizens' rights and ensure that civic duties are also fulfilled to maintain social order. It is not a product of unreasonable imposition, inconsistent with objective practice, trampling on justice or good traditional values,

moral norms, and culture on the part of the state(Faulks, 2013).

3.2.3. Civic consciousness is a combination of harmony, interweaving, and close attachment between the civic consciousness of each citizen and the sense of social citizenship.Citizen consciousness manifests itself externally in the behaviors and actions of individual citizens, reflecting their views, thoughts, feelings, attitudes, and will in exercising citizens' fundamental rights and obligations. As a citizen, each individual must be governed by legal regulations, norms, moral values, culture, politics, etc. Since then, the sense of citizenship of each citizen has been formed and developed due to the influence of social factors (economic, political, cultural, moral, educational, etc.) and unique conditions and circumstances of each person (living environment, work, etc.) health, family background, education level, social literacy, etc.). The sense of citizenship, once formed, always has specific content. These are notions of rights and duties, attitudes, and evaluating behaviors in social relations as proper or improper, good or bad. The content of civic consciousness, in turn, is the basis for guiding their practical activity. In practical activities, each citizen must adjust their behavior per the provisions of law, social moral norms, and values and take personal responsibility for their behavior. In this respect, civic consciousness has all the characteristics of the civic consciousness of individual citizens(Meikle-Yaw, 2006).

3.2.4. The sense of citizenship reflects the correlation of interests between classes and classes in acquiring, holding, and exercising state power. Citizens are subject to the control of the state and the ruling class economically, leading to dominating society's political tendencies.The sense of citizenship is united with the political line and platform of political parties and political movements that promote, support, and fight for the interests of most people in society. To some extent, citizens' consciousness differs or reacts to the political party's guidelines and policies because some of the political party's members do wrong, wrong, or distort guidelines and policies for personal gain. In bourgeois democratic society, with the emergence of many tendencies, parties and political movements draw a particular force of supporters to their side to win a majority of votes. It reflects the deep divisions in liberal bourgeois society, social instability, confusion, and disorientation of citizens, and they are subject to the guidance of whichever political organization wins. On the contrary, in a socialist society, the leadership of the Communist Party has always shown political consistency in its platform, development line, comprehensiveness, and determination to care for the interests of the majority of people. That creates unity and high consensus in society, and citizens always show solidarity, support, and participation with the state in national development. Citizens even show their sense of responsibility in defending the right, protecting the weak in society, protecting the political regime, protecting the law, demonstrating initiative and boldness in contributing opinions and wisdom to the construction, perfecting the state, boldly criticizing and eliminating the bad, the limitations and existence of the State apparatus and in social life(Somers, 1993).

### 3.3. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SOCIALIST RULE OF LAW

3.3.1. The economic basis of the socialist rule of law in Vietnam is a socialist-oriented market economy. Building a socialist rule-of-law state also makes a socialist-

oriented market economy. From a materialist point of view of history, the state is an element of superstructures constructed on a particular economic basis. The socialist orientation of the monetary base regulates the socialist character of the rule of law in Vietnam. The document of the XI Congress clearly stated that developing a socialist-oriented market economy in our country aims at the country's socio-economic development, realizing: "Rich people, strong countries, democracy, justice, and civilization." To achieve that goal in the development of a market economy, conditions must be created to unleash production power and constantly develop production forces vigorously; develop modern production forces in association with building appropriate socialist production relations in all three aspects: ownership, management, and distribution; develop a market economy to build economic infrastructure for socialism gradually; improve and enhance people's lives(Bui, 2014).

The socialist orientation of the market economy does not negate the objective laws of the market but rather serves as the basis for determining the difference between the market economy in the capitalist period and during the transition to socialism. Therefore, the characteristics of the socialist market economy make a difference between the bourgeois rule of law state and the socialist rule of law, and at the same time, create the essence of the socialist rule of law in Vietnam: The socialist rule of law State of Vietnam has an economic basis as a socialist mode of production with public ownership of the means of production as the main, the management and regulation of the economy of the state under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam(Gillespie, 2005). Therefore, the state's management in the market economy must orient the economy to develop effectively based on ensuring national interests and the interests of the working people through the legal system, strategies, plannings, plans and policies for economic development, etc. society, giving workers the right to own the means of production, democratic rights, radical and complete freedoms. At the same time, the market economy laws should be applied to stimulate production, free up production power, promote the positive aspects, and limit the negative aspects of the market mechanism(Bui, 2020).

3.3.2. The political basis of the socialist rule of law is a unitary democracy under the conditions of the Communist Party's leadership (Lane & Lane, 2019). Monistic democracy manifests itself in affirming the leading role of a single ruling party in Vietnam. It is essential for creating a highly unified democratic life, a unified political system, and an intrinsic requirement of the socialist State. This State requires unity and high organization in the organization and in the operation of all state structures to achieve the goals of socialism. The nature of democracy does not depend on multi-party or one-party systems but on who the ruling Party represents and for what practical purposes state power is used. The leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam in social and State life is not only not contrary to the rule of law in general but also a prerequisite for building a socialist rule of law state of the people, by the people, for the people in our country. The State has the task of institutionalizing the Party's guidelines and lines into law and managing society by law. The one-party leading factor not only does not hinder this process but also supports it to the highest level through political documents that show consensus, consistency in the Party's guidelines, guidelines, and increased political determination(Vasavakul, 2019). The Communist Party of Vietnam plays a leading role because First, the reality of national history has shown that the Communist Party of Vietnam is the most stable, wisest, most resolute, and united political force, leading the Vietnamese nation to victory after

victory since its establishment and the people recognize that, support. Second, the Communist Party of Vietnam takes Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought as the foundation and guideline for actions and goals of building socialism with the goal of "Rich people, a strong country, democracy, justice, and civilization. Third, the leading role of the Communist Party of Vietnam is stipulated by the constitution. The 2013 Constitution further affirms the leading role of the State and society of the Communist Party of Vietnam: as the leading force of State and society, closely attached to the People, serving the People, subject to the People's supervision, responsible to the People for their decisions The constitution also clearly defines the responsibilities and operational framework of the Party organization and its members as: "within the framework of the constitution and law(Hang & Anh, 2017).

3.3.3. The social basis of the socialist rule of law is the great national unity. Based on the workers-peasants-intellectuals alliance, building a socialist rule of law state has a broad social basis and remarkable ability to gather and organize people of all classes to practice and promote democracy. The socialist state is instrumental and represents the interests of the working class and, at the same time, is fundamentally united with the interests of the peasantry and other classes of working people based on public ownership of the principal means of production, the state of the working class represents the interests of all working people. In that sense, the rule of law socialism is a state of the people, by the people, and for the benefit of the people(C. C. d. S. Gomes, 2023). The growth of the state also means vigorously promoting the role, effort, wisdom, and beliefs of the people. As a result, the socialist rule of law has broad support from society and strength from the unity of the people. It promotes the creativity of all classes of people in practicing, promoting democracy, and constantly expanding democracy. Developing democracy to the end, finding those forms of development, and experimenting with them in practice were considered by V.I.Lenin as one of the tasks constituting the socialist revolution, as a normative problem of the development and perfection of the socialist state(Lenin, 2024).

3.3.4. The process of building a socialist rule of law state is associated with propaganda activities, education, raising the level of awareness, and the spirit of the rule of law for all citizens. Starting from a small-scale, individual, spontaneous agriculture, Vietnamese people lack discipline in productive labor. In addition, there is also arbitrary freedom in lifestyle and living; most people behave according to the rules of the neighborhood, conventions, and village rules instead of obeying the law(Zitelmann, 2024). Therefore, grasping, understanding, and applying the law is not good, and neither is changing it to suit their subjective will. As a result, there is a lack of awareness and habits of behaving according to the law. We do not have an economic and socio-cultural basis conducive to building a socialist rule of law. Therefore, creating a socialist rule-of-law state is also a process of changing the financial foundation and socio-cultural basis, focusing on propaganda, education, and raising the level of knowledge, understanding, and the spirit of the rule of law of all citizens.

3.3.5. The process of building a socialist rule of law state is associated with the process of deepening international integration, in which the State respects and commits to implementing international conventions and treaties acceded to, signed, and ratified as part of building the rule of law(Maney Jr, 2023). This characteristic was initially taken for granted by any state or government in the modern world, especially when international organizations were established. Previously, Vietnam had

wrong perceptions about socialism, so there was a period of economic and political crisis because the state institutions followed the same model as Russia and Eastern European countries (Verdery, 1991). Nowadays, in awareness and action, the Party, State, and people of Vietnam are always seriously committed to working with the international community to build a peaceful, progressive, democratic, and civilized world. In 1991, our Party declared for the first time that Vietnam was ready to be friends with countries in the international community (Logevall, 2023). In 1996, our Party affirmed more strongly that Vietnam wanted to be a friend of all countries in the world community, striving for peace, independence, and development. Entering the twenty-first century, we add that Vietnam is ready to be a friend and reliable partner of other countries... And commitment: Vietnam is a friend and reliable partner of countries in the international community, actively participating in global and regional cooperation (Moraiti, 2023). The document of the XI Congress further affirmed and added the phrase, Vietnam is ready to be a friend, a reliable partner, and a responsible member of the international community. The document of the XII Congress continued to affirm the importance of developing cooperative, friendly, and traditional relations with neighboring countries and promoting relations with significant partners. Proactively, actively, and responsibly work with ASEAN countries to build a strong Community.

#### **4. METHODS**

The paper uses materialist dialectics with objective principles to clarify the relationship between civic consciousness and the social consciousness of the state. The principle of development is used to clarify the role and impact on the promotion of the role of civic consciousness on social consciousness such as economic, social, cultural, etc. Thereby demonstrating outstanding characteristics of the socialist rule of law. The article also uses synthesis and analysis methods to highlight a number of factors strongly affecting the promotion of the role of citizen consciousness in building the current socialist rule of law state in Vietnam.

#### **5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

##### ***5.1. Civic consciousness promotes the coherence of interests of citizens in the socialist rule of law state***

Marxist-Leninist philosophy asserts that the deep motivation that motivates people to function is benefit; in the 1844 Economic-Philosophical Manuscript, *The Divine Family, German Ideology ...*, Marx pointed out that the main advantage is the product of human activity, the crystallization of human nature and humanity. Any human activity is aimed at satisfying specific needs when needs arise and at the same time when people form motives of interest (M. B. Gomes, 2023). But that product becomes a benefit only when it belongs to someone, is involved, and can satisfy some of their human-relations needs. According to Marx, the benefit is not the social relationship itself but the bearing of social ties; the benefit is what unites the members

of society; it is placed in the relationship between people and serves as the basis for establishing relations between them(Kain, 2023).

Benefit reflects the needs of individuals, social groups, and classes derived from production relations; economic relations become their motives and purposes of activity. Ensuring the interests of all citizens is a strong driving force in the process of improving human positivity, in which paying attention to material benefits and economic interests of citizens, such as stimulating participation in labor, production, business, and service activities, or ensuring their necessities in terms of income, employment, housing, transportation, health care, rest, etc. In addition, there are policies to develop spiritual and physical life for citizens. That will create a bond between individual citizens and the community, urging citizens to take action. He once said that participating in activities to achieve economic benefits is the motive of the masses.

In the state construction field, the issue of interest also significantly impacts citizens' attitudes, sentiments, and enthusiasm toward the state. Only when citizens understand and realize the benefits and values the state brings them can they contribute their minds and energy to building the state. Through the rule of law, citizens have the opportunity to assert their position as their master, be protected by the state, and ensure the implementation of human rights, fundamental rights of citizens, protected by law against infringements on interests from others, brought to justice, fairness, being taken care of in all aspects, etc. Citizens will actively contribute to building and perfecting the socialist rule of law instead of being indifferent and distant from politics(Zhao et al., 2023).

Implementing foreign policy with the development steps in each stage of building that socialist rule of law state, we have been implementing many modes of operation in many aspects, signing and adhering to many international treaties and conventions. International treaties, conventions, and commitments have gradually become inseparable from Vietnam's national governance legal system(Staiano, 2023).

The document of the XIII Congress officially stated, the task of building people to meet the requirements of the period of industrialization, modernization, and international integration. Which links the task of building culture and people with the task of building and developing the country, linking the construction of the cultural environment with human construction, initially forming new human values with the qualities of social responsibility, sense of citizenship, democracy, initiative, creativity, and aspiration to rise. In building a socialist rule of law, the state of the people, by the people, for the people(Duong, 2024).

The national renovation initiated by the Communist Party of Vietnam since the VI National Congress (December 12-1986) has achieved outstanding achievements in all aspects of social life, from economic development to social development, improving the material and spiritual life of the people, including the process of expanding and promoting the people's mastery role. However, building a prosperous, democratic, civilized socialist Vietnam requires more extraordinary efforts of the whole political system, society, and each citizen. In particular, each citizen must be fully aware of their mastery role and actively participate in building and defending the country, including the responsibility for state building. In other words, promoting the role of citizenship consciousness (citizen consciousness) is one of the essential conditions for the achievement of the goal of building socialism (socialism) in general in Vietnam nowadays and the goal of building and perfecting the rule of law (the rule



of law) in particular(C. C. d. S. Gomes, 2023).

To fully express and realize the nature of its power, the socialist state must exist as a democracy; moreover, it must be a socialist democracy, the highest, most radical, and most widespread democracy. However, in the pre-Doi Moi era (1986), Vietnam built a state heavy with bureaucracy and administrative orders and lacked democracy or formal democracy. Therefore, during the renovation period, our Party affirmed that it is necessary to renovate the state in the direction of democratizing the organization and mode of operation of the state, and at the same time, must be associated with the process of fundamental renewal of the organization and operation of the state. To meet that requirement, the choice of the socialist rule of law model in Vietnam is an objective necessity. Because the implementation of democracy is one of the essential contents of the rule of law, especially the socialist rule of law state of the people, by the people, and for the people. Without a valid rule of law, there is no broad and sustainable democracy. Democracy plays a fundamental role and a driving force in developing the rule of law(C. C. d. S. Gomes, 2023).

### ***5.2.Civic consciousness promotes the capacity for democratic practice to create motivation for perfecting the socialist rule of law***

Citizens exercise their mastery in life through behaviors in the fields of politics, law, society, economy, ethics, culture, etc., such as elections, making suggestions on the formulation of the constitution and laws, sending proposals to state power agencies, supervising the operation of state management agencies, directly participating in local socio-economic development activities together with grassroots authorities, support the community, frankly, boldly criticize and condemn acts of law violation, immorality, counterculture in society, etc. To achieve that, citizens must first be conscious of democracy. Citizens need to know how many rights they have, what they are, the right to do, the right to act, or the right to be protected. What rights must be delegated to the representative, and what rights do citizens directly exercise? Which rights are unlimitedly enforceable and exercised only to the extent allowed? Which rights fall within the scope of exercise as citizens, and which are universal within human rights? etc...(Kien, 2023)

We know that translating awareness into action is a process regarding citizens' capacity to practice democracy. Understanding the law, mastering citizenship, mastery, and many other regulations, but its use, application in work, and implementation in life (including areas such as politics, culture, society, the rule of law, and ethics...) in each person is different. It poses a lot of problems that need to be solved nowadays. Only when each citizen is aware of, aware of their position and role in the relationship with the state, always aiming to build a state of the people, the institution of the state apparatus established by the people and for the people to serve and by concrete actions with a high sense of responsibility, We have a clean, strong and modern State that meets the requirements of national renovation, industrialization, and modernization, serving the goals of national development, building a civilized and progressive society. On the contrary, if citizens are not active, irresponsible, and do not realize their role in building the state apparatus, inevitably, there will appear a weak, backward, conservative, autocratic, abused state, the state apparatus will not be able to lead the whole society, does not create stability, order, safety and bring

benefits to citizens.

Moreover, for civic consciousness to play its role, it must be revealed in a truly democratic space. Only a democratic social environment and citizens' consciousness can fully express their roles and influence the process of building organizations and operational capacity of the State apparatus towards perfection and improvement of efficiency in the operation of State agencies. It is the living space of citizens, along with social relationships, regulations, tools, means, and material and spiritual conditions, to support citizens in democracy.

For individual citizens, the nearest and most familiar and frequent space for expressing behavior is through relationships in families, schools, agencies, units, neighborhoods, neighborhoods, unions, groups, associations, etc.) so that each citizen can promote their capacity and sense of responsibility. In addition, attention should be paid to building an environment of interaction between citizens and the state, in which, based on law and the principles of openness and transparency, state agencies must actively show their demand, truly respect citizens in the process of receiving comments from citizens as well as handling work related to legitimate interests France, righteousness of citizens.

In Vietnam, social democratization is a prerequisite for building and perfecting a socialist rule of law state and a fundamental measure to accelerate development. Even to a certain extent, it can be said that the construction of a socialist rule of law state of the people, by the people, for the people in our country greatly influences the success and defeat of the regime and the Communist Party. This has also been evident in fighting against corruption, one of the four major threats to the Party and the government over the years, and in consolidating, perfecting, and improving the effectiveness of the state apparatus. It can be said that if we do not create a valid rule of law state of the people, by the people, for the people, in the future, our society and our people may suffer consequences that are difficult to predict nowadays(Chen, 2023).

### ***5.3. Citizen consciousness forms the industrial working style in the socialist rule-of-law state***

Vietnamese have the small production style of a minor, backward, fragmented, individual agriculture, "nowadays's fields are not plowed, let tomorrow," with small, rudimentary production tools, with spontaneous small-scale production, mainly based on nature, the Vietnamese people do not depend on a large-scale production process that requires strict labor discipline, not depending on rigid chains, not depending on certain social conditions, but if any, only conditions set by them in a narrow scope (family, village, commune, ward, association,...). It is this that gives them freedom, a sense of freedom, but not freedom understood in the sense of grasping the objective certainty, but arbitrary, unprincipled freedom, which also means indiscipline, disrespect, and strict observance of the law, manifested in habits, thoughts, feelings, and lifestyles in almost all classes of people and all spheres of social life. In Vietnamese villages have existed as an isolated and closed economic unit in society from the feudal period to the present; forming the village space with both conventional and practical limitations of the village bamboo ramparts has become a condition for maintenance, develop the locality, the narrow vision of workers in that production. They live only according to the rules of the village and the guild

agreement and behave within that bond instead of being influenced by the laws of the state. Therefore, the sense of grasping, understanding, and applying rules (village rules, incense treaties, etc.) is swift and skillful. Still, on the contrary, learning and understanding the law is fragile, prolonged, and very unsystematic, even modifying the law to suit their subjective wishes. As a result, there is a lack of awareness and habits of behaving according to the law. Some Vietnamese citizens do not regularly use the law to protect their legitimate rights and comply with the law in fulfilling their obligations to the state. When it is necessary to perform a specific job, many people, even cadres, civil servants, and public employees, do not actively learn the legal provisions related to the work they need to solve but often learn from each other's experiences. They value the small, the particular, and the local but disregard the common, the big, the common good, and the standard regulations, affect the progress and quality of work resolution, and even cause damage to themselves. In another aspect, when there is an incident related to the government or the law, many people's first thing to do is "pick up the phone" to call influential people, acquaintances, and positions in society affecting responsible people, competent to solve work quickly, for favorable, most profitable. This manifests not only in citizens' social lives but also negatively affects state management (Tuoi, 2023).

Moreover, resignation (expression of subjective consciousness) still exists in the thoughts and actions of a part of citizens. People are content with a quiet life behind the bamboo ramparts, avoiding collisions with others, especially not wanting to get involved and touch the authorities. When a policy or law is issued, few people raise their voices or criticisms to the competent authorities. Many citizens do not want to fight even though they know that some policy or law may more or less violate the people's interests or lack feasibility. When faced with public employees, facing corruption, bossiness, bureaucracy, and authoritarianism, most people avoid fighting the bad and the negative that happens. Moreover, people have no habit of looking to knowledgeable people, legal aid, or consulting organizations for help. This feature hurts the current process of building the rule of law, especially when the state needs citizens to boldly criticize policies and regulations, vigorously fight the evils of civil servants and state employees, enthusiastically participate in supervising the activities of state agencies to correct wrongdoing, improve work efficiency and quality of staff. Therefore, it is necessary to build civic awareness so that people can rely on the law to regulate their behavior. Only then will society be better, and the socialist rule of law state can be quickly perfected.

#### ***5.4. The sense of citizenship of the socialist rule of law state must affirm that the constitution and law hold the supreme position.***

That all people and organizations must respect the law, and that the state apparatus shall be bound by the rules themselves created by the state, clearly define responsibilities for reciprocity between the state and citizens, citizens and the state. Successfully building a socialist rule-of-law state depends on many factors, such as the leadership of the Party, the process of organizing and operating the state apparatus, the perfection of the legal system, the contingent of civil servants, public officials, etc. In particular, it is necessary to mention the critical role of citizens - with their special status, both as subjects and at the same time as objects of state management. The state

and its institutions do not make the cause of building a socialist rule of law successful. Still, it is imperative to have a citizen factor in the state citizens of that state. Therefore, creating a socialist rule of law state must take into account the position, role, rights, and responsibilities of citizens and their implementation in practice because: (i) Citizens are important subjects together with the state to formulate the constitution and laws of the country; (ii) Citizens are the enforcers of the constitution and laws; (iii) Citizens play a decisive role in the exercise of state power in practice. State citizens play a decisive role in building a civilized and progressive socialist rule of law. That requires full awareness, high responsibility, and concrete actions; citizens promote their mastery to build a socialist rule of law. In particular, citizen consciousness, as a part of social consciousness, plays a vital role through specific acts affecting the state and the process of building a socialist rule of law. When the Democratic Republic of Vietnam was established, it affirmed its status as citizens of a free, independent, and democratic Vietnam. The civic consciousness was gradually formed and developed. Citizens are increasingly aware of their rights, obligations, and responsibilities in society and the process of interacting with the state, contributing to state building. Democratic implementation mechanisms are paid attention to developing, promulgating, and implementing in life, partly meeting the needs for the democratization of social life. However, after nearly 40 years of national renovation, shortcomings and limitations exist besides essential achievements, and new obstacles and difficulties have arisen in perfecting the socialist rule of law. In particular, the intellectual level of some citizens is still low, especially the awareness of citizens' rights and obligations about the state, which is still limited; citizens have not actively participated in building a socialist rule-of-law state. The development cohesion of individual citizens with the task of building the state and the cause of defending the Fatherland has not been created. This significantly affected the process of building a socialist rule of law. Therefore, the deep study of the relationship between citizen consciousness and the construction of the rule of law and, on that basis, research, analysis, and finding solutions to promote the role of citizen consciousness in the construction of a socialist rule of law state is one of the necessary tasks nowadays (Jamieson, 2023).

## CONCLUSIONS

Vietnam is now an independent and self-reliant country so that all Vietnamese citizens can exercise mastery. The Vietnamese state, under the wise leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam, is a new type of democratic Vietnam – the socialist rule of law. In order to perfect the socialist rule of law, citizens' awareness and responsibility should be increasingly raised, progressive, and developed, especially in terms of citizens' knowledge, civic feelings, bravery, and citizens' will. At the same time, citizens unite to create mechanisms to ensure the implementation of their fundamental rights in modern society, and the most superior form is the rule of law, especially the socialist rule of law. The study clarifies the interplay relationship between citizen consciousness and the rule of law, in which the role of citizen consciousness in building and perfecting the rule of law in socialist Vietnam is vital. Although there are many influencing factors, such as interest issues, democratic environment and capacity of citizens to practice democracy, small-production

mentality, etc., affecting the promotion of the role of civic consciousness, citizen consciousness directly affects all three aspects of the institutional system, organize the apparatus and cadres to move towards a valid Vietnamese socialist rule of law state of the people, by the people and for the people. That has excellent significance, contributing to the success of the cause of building socialism in our country in the current period.

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