

## Research on organizations similar to the united front in Chao-Yue-Lao-Gu countries

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**Abstract:** This paper intends to study organizations similar to the united front in Chao-Yue-Lao-Gu countries. By systematically researching and comparing these organizations in these countries, we can comprehensively and accurately understand the current world situation. It will also help us deepen our understanding of the nature and role of united front organizations in foreign socialist countries.

### 1. Introduction

Upon careful examination of the world today, there are also similar united front organizations in some countries. Chao-Yue-Lao-Gu (Refers to the countries of North Korea, Vietnam, Laos, and Cuba.) are recognized as scientific socialist countries in the world. In these scientific socialist countries, there have always been similar united front organizations that play an important role in their respective political lives. This paper intends to study organizations similar to the united front in Chao-Yue-Lao-Gu countries. By systematically researching and comparing these organizations in these countries, we can comprehensively and accurately understand the current world situation. It will also help us deepen our understanding of the nature and role of united front organizations in foreign socialist countries.

### 2. United Front Organization in North Korea - "Korean Fatherland Unification Front"

There is a similar organization in North Korea called the "Korean Fatherland Unification Front". Its full name is the "Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland of Korea", which is written as "조국통일민주주의전선" in Korean. It is a social group and united front organization under the Unified Front Department of the Workers' Party of Korea. The organization was established on July 22, 1946. The background of the establishment of this organization was to unite the broadest national forces, promote the reunification of the motherland, and force foreign troops to withdraw from Korea in the face of the increasingly serious danger of the permanent division of the motherland. It is similar in nature to the People's Patriotic United Front. It is a united front organization composed of representatives of participating parties such as the Workers' Party of Korea, the Korean Social Democratic Party, the Chondogyo Ch'ongu Party, and social groups such as the Korean Agricultural Workers Alliance and the Korean Federation of Trade Unions. Its mission is to promote the peaceful reunification of Korea. Its purpose is to unite all patriotic and democratic forces regardless of occupation, gender, religious belief, or party differences, promote the line and policy of national autonomy and peaceful reunification proposed by Kim Jong-un, and actively organize and mobilize the masses to carry out the nationwide struggle to implement this line and policy. Its basic task is to unite all patriotic and democratic forces who aspire to the freedom and independence of the motherland regardless of occupation, gender, religious belief, or party differences on the basis of the alliance between workers and peasants, closely around the supreme leader of Korea, Kim Jong-un, and actively support and promote his line and policy of national autonomy and peaceful reunification, and actively organize and mobilize the masses to vigorously carry out the nationwide struggle to implement this line and policy. In North Korea, the

Supreme People's Assembly is the highest organ of state power. Candidates for representatives of the Supreme People's Assembly must be nominated by the "Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland of Korea", and their names will only appear on the ballot after being nominated by the organization. The "Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland of Korea" has the qualification to nominate representatives to the Supreme People's Assembly[1].

### **3. North Korea's two participating parties: the Korean Social Democratic Party and the Chondogyo Ch'ongu Party**

North Korea is the only socialist country besides China with participating parties. This section briefly introduces North Korea's two participating parties. The Korean Social Democratic Party is a democratic party in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that was founded in 1945. It is a patriotic and democratic party that fights to uphold the requirements and interests of the masses in all walks of life and the nation's interests, and to achieve social justice. The party's mission and task are to take autonomy as its guiding principle, participate in the cause of national and human autonomy, and aim to build a self-reliant society, achieve national self-reliance, and ultimately realize a future society of human autonomy, national autonomy, and human self-reliance - a self-reliant world. Since its founding, the party has formed a united front with the Workers' Party of Korea, actively participated in people's political power, and fought unremittingly for the construction of a new society, the victory of the country's liberation war, post-war recovery and construction, socialist revolution and construction, North Korea's independent and peaceful reunification, and the friendship, cooperation, and unity with democratic parties of various countries around the world.

The Chondogyo Ch'ongu Party is a democratic party in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that was founded in 1946. It is a democratic party that autonomously works to safeguard the interests of the Korean nation and followers of the Chondogyo religion. Its purpose is to participate in the cause of national independence and build a strong democratic state with the "support the country and secure the people" patriotic ideology and the spirit of self-reliance. As a member of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland, the party has actively participated with the Workers' Party of Korea and other parties in anti-imperialist and anti-feudal democratic revolutions, the country's liberation war, socialist revolution and construction, and supported and assisted the people of all walks of life in South Korea in their struggle for autonomy, democracy, and unity, as well as the patriotic struggle of overseas compatriots for justice. The party has also fought to strengthen unity with democratic parties and groups in other countries around the world.

### **4. Vietnam's United Front organization - "Vietnam Fatherland Front"**

In Vietnam, there is a similar organization, the "Vietnam Fatherland Front" (Mặt trận Tổ quốc Việt Nam in Vietnamese). Vietnam practices a one-party system, and the Communist Party of Vietnam serves as the "leading force of the state and society" and is the only political party. Therefore, there are no other democratic political parties in Vietnam. The "Vietnam Fatherland Front" is a united front and political consultation organization that brings together various social groups and mass organizations under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam. It is an important member of Vietnam's political system, and its status is second only to the Communist Party, the government, and the National Assembly.

The Vietnam Fatherland Front currently has 44 member organizations, including the Communist Party of Vietnam, the People's Army, the Youth Union, the Trade Union Federation, the Women's Union, the Farmers' Association, the Red Cross, the Buddhist Association, the Catholic Solidarity Committee, the Bar Association, the Press Association, and representatives of various strata, groups, ethnicities, religions, and even overseas Vietnamese. Half of the Central Committee are non-party members. The Vietnam Fatherland Front has played a crucial role in Vietnam's national independence and reunification process. Since the Communist Party of Vietnam implemented the renovation and opening up strategy in 1986, the Vietnam Fatherland Front has played an important

role in implementing the Party's policies and ideological line, and maintaining social stability during the transformation period. The Communist Party is both a member and a leader of the Front.

The activities of the Vietnam Fatherland Front follow the principles of voluntariness and democratic consultation, with members cooperating and acting in unison. Its program is to unite the entire people and build a peaceful and unified socialist Vietnam. The Vietnam Fatherland Front has an important position in Vietnam's political system, and its leaders are at the core of Vietnam's political decision-making circle. The powers of the Vietnam Fatherland Front include being responsible for the entire process of National Assembly elections and screening candidates, proposing the dismissal of People's Council members who have made mistakes, expressing opinions at People's Council meetings, listening to reports on People's Council activities, and attending People's Council meetings on relevant issues. The "Vietnam Fatherland Front Law" enacted in 1999 formally established its role in the political system as a platform for expressing the people's will and accepting the Party's leadership while serving as an important supplement to the Party in political life. It officially defines the mission of the Vietnam Fatherland Front as bridging communication between the Party and the people, supervising government activities, electing National Assembly representatives and state employees, and requiring all levels of government to cooperate and consult with the Vietnam Fatherland Front and help it effectively carry out its work.

In Vietnam's national political life, the National Assembly is the highest organ of state power and legislative institution, but the Vietnam Fatherland Front can also play a role in political consultation on major issues. According to its charter, the Vietnam Fatherland Front can conduct political consultations with the Communist Party of Vietnam and local government at the same level. The Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front holds joint consultation meetings with the Standing Committee of the National Assembly and the central government leadership every year. At the annual National Assembly session, the Vietnam Fatherland Front can even participate in legislation, send representatives to participate in discussions on important laws, propose amendments, participate in the construction, consolidation, and management of the political system, and question relevant government departments[2-4].

## **5. Unified Front Organization in Laos - "Lao Front for National Construction"**

In Laos, there is also a similar organization called the "Lao Front for National Construction," which is a unified front organization led by the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP). The Constitution of Laos states that Laos is a people's democratic state and the LPRP is the only political party and ruling party in Laos. After the 1990s, the LPRP proposed to implement a "comprehensively selective reform policy" while adhering to party leadership and socialism. The Lao Front for National Construction was established in January 1956, originally known as the "Lao Patriotic Front," and is a national united front organization led by the LPRP.

According to Article 7 of the Constitution of Laos, the status of the "Lao Front for National Construction," the "Lao Federation of Trade Unions," the "Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union," the "Lao Women's Union," and other social organizations are "to unite and mobilize people of all ethnicities and classes to participate in defending the homeland, building the country, exercising their rights as masters of the country, and protecting the legitimate rights and interests of their members in their own organizations."

The background of the establishment of the "Lao Front for National Construction" was the "Lao Patriotic Front" established in 1956, which was a united front organization led by the LPRP in the struggle against the US to save the country. Its main leader was Souphanouvong. In 1957, it was renamed "Lao Patriotic Front Party" and participated in the coalition government. In 1962, it participated in the temporary coalition government of the three parties in Laos. Before 1975, when the LPRP could not carry out public activities, it acted on behalf of the LPRP in administrative affairs. After the establishment of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in 1975, it continued to operate as a united front organization. In February 1979, it was renamed the "Lao Front for National Construction." Its task is to organize Lao mass groups and other social and political groups. Since 1988, it has also been responsible for some ethnic minority affairs, and it is also responsible for

religious affairs. All religious organizations in Laos must register with it.

The nature of the "Lao Front for National Construction" is a united front of all patriots who support socialism in Laos. It supports the leadership of the LPRP, the organizer and leader of all victories of the Lao people. It is based on the alliance of workers and peasants, and also accepts various mass organizations as its main members. Its task is to mobilize all patriotic and socialist factors to work hard to build socialism and defend the socialist motherland.

The Central Committee of the "Lao Front for National Construction" includes many representatives of ethnic minorities. This is an active step taken by the Lao Party and government to win the support of ethnic minorities and to reduce anti-government activities by ethnic minorities, especially those in the northern mountainous areas. The Front plays a unique role in promoting national unity and social harmony and stability in Laos. The role of the "Lao Front for National Construction" is also reflected in its religious relief activities and its important role in the development of Laos. Because of the great contribution of the predecessor of the "Lao Front for National Construction," the "Lao Patriotic Front," to the country's independence, Laos has designated January 6th as "Lao Patriotic Front Day" every year. The "Lao Front for National Construction" focuses on organization building, and has grassroots organizations in every natural village in Laos[5].

## **6. "Special relationship" of the unified front organizations of Laos and Vietnam**

In addition, there is a "special relationship" between the Laos Patriotic Front and the Vietnam Fatherland Front. This is because of the special comradery and brotherhood relationship between the parties and governments of Laos and Vietnam, which was formed under special historical conditions. Therefore, the unified front organizations of the two countries also have a "special relationship". The communication between the two "fronts" is close, and high-level visits are frequent. Nguyen Thien Nhan, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, pointed out during a meeting with leaders of the Laos Patriotic Front that the two "fronts" should exchange experiences in training cadres and innovating operational methods, and carry out close cooperation in major matters. At the same time, both "fronts" should educate the younger generation about the traditional friendship, special unity, and comprehensive cooperative relationship between the two parties, two countries, and two peoples. Saisomphone Phomvihane, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Laos Patriotic Front, also expressed during his visit to Vietnam that "the traditional friendship and special unity between the two peoples are invaluable assets. The cooperative relationship between the two front organizations is constantly advancing and making huge contributions to further strengthening the traditional relations between the parties, states, and peoples of Vietnam and Laos."

## **7. Cuba's united front organization - "Committees for the Defense of the Revolution"**

Cuba is the only socialist country in the Americas and the only socialist country in the Western Hemisphere. Its socialist system has its unique characteristics. Cuba's united front was formed during a historical period. In July 1953, a group of passionate young people led by Castro launched an armed uprising against the Moncada Barracks in the eastern city of Santiago, attempting to overthrow the dictatorship. During the Cuban Revolutionary War, the "26th of July Movement" led by Castro formed a broad revolutionary united front with partisan organizations such as the People's Socialist Party, the "March 13th Revolutionary Directorate", the Cuban Revolutionary Party, the Cuban People's Party, the National Party, and the "Cuban Workers' Movement" to fight against the Batista dictatorship.

In 1961, Castro declared that the Cuban Revolution was a socialist revolution. That same year, the "26th of July Movement" and the "March 13th Revolutionary Directorate" merged into the Cuban Revolutionary United Organization, which was later renamed the Communist Party of Cuba in 1965. The victory of the Cuban Revolution opened a new page in Cuba's history. During this historical period, there were multiple political parties in Cuba, but several major parties merged to

form the Communist Party of Cuba, which became the only political party in Cuba and the historical choice.

The Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDRs) is a unique and important component of Cuba's political system. It is the largest social and political organization in Cuba, founded in September 1960 as a grassroots mass organization. The position of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution is clearly stated in Article 7 of the Cuban Constitution: "The Socialist State of Cuba recognizes, protects and encourages the activities of the following mass social organizations: the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, the Central Workers' Union of Cuba, the Federation of Cuban Women, the National Association of Small Farmers, the Federation of University Students, the Federation of High School Students, the League of Pioneers of Cuba, and other organizations representing various residential strata, representing their special interests, absorbing them to participate in construction tasks, and consolidating and defending socialist society, produced in the process of the struggle of our people. In their activities, the state relies on various mass social organizations, which also directly exercise various state functions assigned to them under the constitution and existing laws." The purpose of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution is to defend Cuba's political system, promote social welfare, and is known as the "eyes and ears of the revolution". The Committees for the Defense of the Revolution have united a large number of people from all walks of life and various industries. Initially, the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution were responsible for vigilance and mobilization to prevent imperialist forces from destroying the Cuban socialist revolution. Later, they also assumed responsibilities in education, health, economics, and politics, becoming one of the centers of the Cuban Revolution's activities.

Currently, the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution are mainly engaged in mass propaganda work, organizing various forces, conducting literacy campaigns, combating diseases, and undertaking production tasks. The Communist Party of Cuba believes that the establishment and activities of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution have made a significant contribution to the theory and practice of socialist revolution and socialist construction. Unlike other mass organizations, it can reflect the various demands of the revolutionary process truthfully, find and use the most effective ways to solve the problems that have already arisen. "In defending the homeland and conducting ideological and political education for the masses, it has played an irreplaceable role in carrying out the tasks facing our society" (Castro).

The Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDRs) is a unique and important component of the Cuban political system. It is the largest social and political organization in Cuba and was established in September 1960 as a grassroots organization. The purpose of the CDRs is to defend Cuba's political system, promote social welfare, and serve as the "eyes and ears" of the revolution. The CDRs unite a large number of people from various professions and sectors, and were initially tasked with guarding and mobilizing the population to prevent imperialist forces from disrupting the socialist revolution. Over time, the CDRs also took on responsibilities in education, healthcare, economics, and politics, becoming one of the centers of activity in the Cuban Revolution.

The CDRs are organized by region and have solid grassroots support, with over 83.9% of the population aged 14 and above being members. The highest governing body of the CDRs is the National Revolutionary Council, which oversees the activities of CDRs at all levels. Unlike other mass organizations, the CDRs can accurately reflect the various demands of the revolution and find the most effective solutions to existing problems. Currently, the main role of the CDRs is to conduct mass propaganda, organize various forces, launch literacy campaigns, combat diseases, and conduct production campaigns.

According to the Cuban Constitution, the Cuban socialist state recognizes, protects, and encourages the activities of the following mass social organizations: Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, the Central Union of Cuban Workers, the Federation of Cuban Women, the National Association of Small Farmers, the Federation of University Students, the Federation of High School Students, the Cuban Pioneer Organization, and other various organizations that have emerged in the historical process of the Cuban people's struggle, unite various resident classes, represent their

special interests, absorb them to participate in construction tasks, and consolidate and defend socialist society.

The establishment and activities of the CDRs have been a major contribution to the theory and practice of socialist revolution and construction in Cuba. The Cuban Communist Party attaches great importance to the role of social mass organizations such as the CDRs in the political system, and believes that further support for their work is the party's most important task.

## 8. Conclusion

The differences between the united front organizations in North Korea, Vietnam, Laos, and Cuba are mainly seen in their political party systems, with only North Korea having participating parties such as the Social Democratic Party and the Chondoist Chongu Party. From a grassroots organization perspective, Vietnam and Laos have organizations that extend to the village level, while Cuba's extends to various communities and neighborhood committees. In terms of their roles in national governance, the "North Korean Fatherland Front" has the right to nominate representatives to the "Supreme People's Assembly," while the "Vietnamese Fatherland Front" has the authority to elect representatives to the National Assembly and participate in legislation. Due to the "special relationship" between Laos and Vietnam, the "Lao Patriotic Front" also has similar functions. As for Cuba, its location in the Western Hemisphere leads to differences in the forms, operation, and role of its united front organizations from those in East Asian socialist countries such as North Korea, Vietnam, and Laos. Although the Cuban united front organization, as the largest mass organization, has united people from all walks of life and has the greatest representative power, it has not participated in the construction and governance of the state power, and its political status and role are inferior to those of East Asian socialist countries.

However, the similarities among these united front organizations in North Korea, Vietnam, Laos, and Cuba are that they are all led by the Communist Party (known by different names in each country), as socialist countries around the world. They all aim to unite and mobilize the masses to the maximum extent possible, which is fundamentally different from the Western party system and democratic consultation. In practice, united front organizations may differ in their form and role. Such differences are not "substantial," but rather reasonable arrangements made by socialist countries based on their national conditions and needs. The unique characteristics of socialist united front organizations enrich and improve the theoretical connotations and practice of scientific socialism. As long as they meet the needs of socialist construction in each country, they are scientifically and rationally reasonable. Of course, we should also learn from the good practices and policies of united front organizations in other socialist countries. Therefore, studying similar organizations in foreign socialist countries is very beneficial.

In conclusion, the social systems and organizations in various countries around the world are diverse. Even for socialist countries with united front organizations, there are similar organizations in other socialist countries. Therefore, a comprehensive study of similar organizations in other socialist countries is necessary and beneficial for us to base our development on national conditions while drawing on all useful achievements of human civilization

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