

HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS

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**THE STATE MANAGEMENT
ISSUE ABOUT RELIGION IN NGHE AN
PROVINCE IN THE CURRENT**

**SUMMARY OF THE DOCTORAL THESIS
MAJOR: DIALECTICAL MATERIALISM
AND HISTORICAL MATERIALISM
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**The thesis can be found at the National Library and
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INTRODUCTION

1. The necessity of the thesis

Religion is a social phenomenon that appeared early in human history and has a significant impact on a portion of the population. Therefore, no matter which political regime is adopted, every country pays attention to big questions such as what should be the attitude towards religions? What methods do you use to regulate religious activities and other issues related to religion to serve the common purpose of the social community. Does religion help in the development of the country?

Due to objective and subjective factors, Vietnam is a country with diverse beliefs and religions. Throughout history, religions in Vietnam have always lived in peace, sticking with the nation. State management of religion plays an extremely important role in the implementation of the religious policy of the Party and the State of Vietnam. The State management of religion is the orientation for religions to operate in compliance with the Constitution and laws of Vietnam. Every believer and religious organization strictly follows the main legal provisions to ensure freedom of belief and religion not only of individuals, and their religious organizations but also that of citizens and other religious organizations. However, in many places, religious issues are still relatively complicated, including Nghe An province.

Nghe An is the largest province in Vietnam by area, in the North Central region, located in an important geo-economic-political position of our country, with two major religions: Catholicism and Buddhism. In addition, Nghe An also has Protestantism and new religious phenomena in operation. In recent years, thoroughly grasping the lines, guidelines, and policies of the Party, State law on religious work, all levels, branches, and localities in Nghe An have focused leadership, directing and closely coordinating in the state management of religion, accordance with policies and laws, in line with reality and achieved many positive results. However, the State management of religion in Nghe An in recent years has also revealed some shortcomings and limitations. It is these limitations that have affected the stability of the situation in terms of religion, security, order to develop the economy - culture - the society in the area, etc. Since then, it is necessary to research and summarize the practical experience, draw opinions, the core solution in solving the problem of State management of religion in Nghe An province. So, the PhD candidate chooses the topic: *“The State management issue about religion in Nghe An province in the current”* research topic for his doctoral thesis in Philosophy. This is an important issue from a theoretical point of view and practice in State management of religion in Nghe An in particular and in the whole country in general in the current period.

2. Purpose and research tasks of the Thesis

2.1. Research purposes

Based on clarifying the theory of State management of religion and the actual state of state management of religion in Nghe An province, along with some of the problems raised from this situation, the thesis makes a forecast about the religious situation in Nghe An shortly and proposes solutions to improve the efficiency of State management of religion in Nghe An in the current.

2.2. Research task

Overview of the research situation related to the thesis topic.

Analyze and clarify some theoretical issues of State management in Nghe An province.

Surveying and assessing the state of state management about religion in Nghe An province over time and pointing out some problems arising from this situation.

Give some forecast of the religious situation in Nghe An the next time and propose solutions to improve the efficiency of State management regarding religion in Nghe An province in the current.

3. Objects and scope of research of the thesis

3.1. Research subjects

The thesis research the state management of religion in Nghe An province, from the perspective of interdisciplinary philosophy - religion studies and state management of religion.

3.2. Research scope

Space: Nghe An province.

The time: From 2016 (since the Law on Belief and Religion was passed) until now. In particular, the thesis focuses on surveying from January 1, 2018 (Law on belief and religion takes effect).

The content:

The State management of religion according to the Law on Belief and Religion 2016 includes 07 contents. However, from a philosophical perspective, studying the activities of leadership and state management in religion and derived from Nghe An practice, it is possible to consider the State management of religion including 04 main contents, which are: formulating policies, promulgating documents, organizing the implementation of State management of religion; dissemination and education of religious policies and laws; inspect, examine, settle complaints and denunciations and handle violations of the law on religion; international relations in the field of religion.

The State management of religion is understood as the State management of religious activities according to law.

4. Theoretical basis and research methods

Theoretical basis: The thesis is made based on the point of view of Marxism - Leninism, Ho Chi Minh thought, guidelines and policies of the Party, and laws of our State on religion and State management of religion; inheriting research theories and scientific results that previous authors have achieved.

Research Methods: The thesis uses the methodology of dialectical materialism and historical materialism such as: the dialectical relationship between objectivity and subjectivity, between infrastructure and superstructure, between practice and theory, etc., combined with the philosophical approach to religion; specific methods are comparison, historical-logical method, analytical-synthetic method, questionnaire method during the implementation.

5. New contributions of the thesis

The thesis highlights the factors affecting the State management of religion in Nghe An province; analyzed and pointed out the problems raised by the current state of State management of religion in Nghe An. Since then, the thesis proposes some correct and winning solutions and is feasible to improving the efficiency of State management of religion in Nghe An in the current.

6. Theoretical and practical significance of the thesis

Theoretical significance: Deepen the theoretical basis of State management of religion; especially clarifying the contents related to the State management of religion since the Law on Belief and Religion 2016.

Practical significance: The thesis is used as a reference to supplement and perfect the law on belief and religion; clarifying the factors affecting the State management of religion; propose solutions to improving the efficiency of State management of religion in Nghe An province.

7. Structure of the thesis

In addition to the preamble, the list of abbreviations, a list of tables, charts, conclusions, a list of references, a list of published works by the author and appendices, the thesis consists of 4 chapters and 10 periods.

Chapter 1

OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH WORKS RELATED TO THE THESIS

1.1. RESEARCH WORKS RELATED TO THE THEORY OF

1.1.1. RESEARCH WORKS RELATED TO THE STATE MANAGEMENT OF RELIGION IN VIETNAM

Regarding the theory of state management of religion, we find that there are relatively many documents in the country and internationally when researching this content. Regarding foreign documents, it is possible not to mention specifically the State management of religion, but expressed by the relationship between the state or policy and religion. These are very important works for our reference and comparison between state management of religion in Vietnam with the implementation of religious management tasks in other countries. The thesis has analyzed, interpreted, and inherited 07 books and 01 journal article by foreign authors. Regarding domestic reference works, the thesis reviews 15 books and 10 articles in journals by some researchers.

1.2. RESEARCH PROJECTS RELATED TO STATE MANAGEMENT ABOUT RELIGION IN VIETNAM IN GENERAL, IN NGHE AN PROVINCE IN PARTICULAR

Surveying works related to the state management of religion, the thesis conducts an overview of 06 books by several authors. Besides, the thesis also analyzes, and comments on 01 topic related to the State management of religion in Nghe An and 07 articles published in relevant journals.

1.3. RESEARCH WORKS RELATED TO THE RELIGIOUS SITUATION AND SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF STATE MANAGEMENT ABOUT REGION IN VIETNAM, IN NGHE AN PROVINCE IN PARTICULAR

The thesis has research, reference, and inheritance of 04 books; consult and comment on 02 ministerial-level projects and 01 provincial-level project. The thesis also conducts a review of 07 articles in several related journals.

1.4. SUMMARIZE THE VALUE OF THE OVERVIEW WORKS RELATED TO THE TOPIC AND THE PROBLEMS RAISED IN THE THESIS THAT NEED TO BE FURTHER RESEARCHED AND SOLVED

1.4.1. Summarize the value of the reviewed studies

Firstly, theoretical issues of state management research on religion in Vietnam have been extensively researched in detail from the point of view of Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's thought on religious issues, the Party's guidelines and lines, and the State's law on religion and the State's management of religion.

Secondly, the current state of state management of religion has had many in-depth studies. We inherit and select the research direction of the works when going to review the current state of state management issues on religion on the contents of the State management of religion.

Thirdly, the works have been based on their research to make predictions about the religious situation in the coming time and several comprehensive solutions, with important reference properties to solve state management issues on religion in Nghe An province.

1.4.2. The problems raised in the thesis continue to be researched and solved

Firstly, the thesis researches analyze, and clarify several theoretical issues related to the state management of religion, specifically: The concept of State management of religion, subject, and content and methods of state management of religion are updated according to the Law on Beliefs, religion in 2016 and Decree No. 162/2017/ND-CP detailing several articles and measures to implement the Law on Belief and Religion.

Secondly, analyze the state management of religion in Nghe An province, and pay special attention to the problems arising from this situation.

Thirdly, give a forecast of the religious situation in Nghe An province next time and propose some key solutions to improving the efficiency of State management regarding religion in Nghe An province in the current.

Chapter 2

THE THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL BASIS OF STATE MANAGEMENT OF RELIGION IN NGHE AN PROVINCE

2.1. THE THEORETICAL OF STATE MANAGEMENT OF RELIGION IN NGHE AN PROVINCE

2.1.1. The State management of religion and state management characteristics on the religion of the Socialist rule of law State of Vietnam

2.1.1.1. State management of religion

State management of religion can be affirmed as a special type of State management and can be understood in two meanings as follows:

In a broad sense, state management of religion is the process of using state power (in three aspects: legislative, executive, and judicial) of state organs prescribed by law to influence, regulate and direct the religious processes and behavior of the organization's religious activities, religious individuals take place by the law, achieving the specific objectives of the management.

In a narrow sense, state management of religion is the activity of agencies in the executive system (Government and People's Committees at all levels) that participate in the law enforcement process and organize implementation according to law, to regulate religious activities and all religious activities of organizations, religious individuals take place by the law.

In the thesis, the issue of state management of religion is explained in a narrow sense, i.e. on two sides: *Firstly*, study the issue of State management of religion from the side of observance activities, the process of exercising state power by state agencies and individuals assigned by the state. *Secondly*, the State management of religion is also the regulation of religious activities and other activities related to the religion of a religious organization, and individuals related to religion on the principle of ensuring compliance with the constitution and laws, for the common benefit of the social community. This is the basic difference of the thesis compared to other documents when researching in this field. Because most of the works that the thesis researches only stop or focus on the second aspect, ie managing the activities of religious organizations, legal entities and individuals.

2.1.1.2. State management features on the religion of the Socialist rule of law State of Vietnam

Firstly, the state management of religion is inseparable from the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam to comply with the Constitution and laws of the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Secondly, the state management of religion by the Socialist rule of law State of Vietnam for the goal of a rich people, a strong country, democracy, justice, and civilization, and building a great national unity block.

Thirdly, state management on the religion of the Socialist rule of law State of Vietnam ensures equality, freedom of belief, religion and non-belief, and everyone's religion, in which advocacy, education, and persuasion are the core.

2.1.2. State management of religion - subject, content, and method

2.1.2.1. Subjects of state management of religion

The subject of State management over religion is understood in two senses: *In a broad sense*, the subject of State management of religion is the state organs of the legislative system (the National Assembly), organs of the executive system (such as the Government and People's Committees at all levels) and agencies of the judicial system (the People's Procuracy and the People's Court). *In a narrow sense*, the subject of State management on religion includes state agencies under the executive system that is the Government and People's Committees at all levels.

The thesis mainly studies the state management of religion in a narrow sense. Thus, the subject of State management of religion will be focused in that direction, which is the Government and People's Committees at all levels, this is in line with state management practice on religion and is consistent with the approach of the thesis.

2.1.2.2. Contents of state management of religion

In Article 60 of the 2016 Law on Belief and Religion, the contents of State management of religion are clearly defined, including 07 contents. However, from a philosophical perspective and especially the practice of state management of religion in Nghe An province in recent years, shows that the content of State management of religion can be generalized in 04 contents which are: Formulate policies, promulgate documents, and organize the implementation of State management of religion; Dissemination, policy education, and religious law; Inspect, examine, settle complaints and denunciations and handle violations of the law on religion; International relations in the field of religion. Therefore, the content of State management of religion throughout the thesis that the thesis conducts a survey is essentially only on 04 contents as confirmed in the research scope of the thesis.

2.1.2.3. Methods of state management of religion

State management method on religion is the way to perform the functions and tasks of state agencies in charge of religion management; the mode of influence of the subject of state management about religion on management objects to regulate religion-related acts to ensure common interests.

Approach a philosophical point of view, we believe that there are two basic methods of state management of religion: methods of propaganda, education, persuasion, and methods of handling by law when there is a violation of the law on belief and religion.

Firstly, about methods of propaganda, education, and persuasion. The essence of the method is the movement, propagating and educating cadres, party members, dignitaries, followers of religions, and the public on the Party's undertakings and policies, the State's laws on religion, and the State management of religion. From there, persuading them to voluntarily comply with the guidelines, relevant guidelines, policies, and legal regulations.

Secondly, on the method of handling by law when there is a violation of the law on belief and religion. The purpose of this method is to prevent and prevent and take a form of timely deterrence against law violations in the whole process and activities related to religion.

2.2. FACTORS AFFECTING STATE MANAGEMENT ABOUT RELIGION IN NGHE AN PROVINCE

2.2.1. The Party's viewpoints and policies, State policies and laws related to religion

The basic contents of views and policies related to religion can be mentioned as follows: The state respects and guarantees freedom of belief and religion and non-belief and religion; ensuring that religious activities take place normally within the framework of the Constitution and laws; the Party and State consistently implement the policy of great national unity; the core content of religious work is the work of mass mobilization; religious work is the responsibility of the whole political system, etc., has directly affected the entire objectives, requirements, contents, and methods of State management about religion in Nghe An province in recent years.

However, the Party's policy on religion is clear but the institutionalization into a system of legal documents is revealing some limitations. This has created obstacles and confusion for state management agencies about religion in Nghe An province over the past time when solving local problems such as: settling land disputes related to religion; religious activities with foreign elements; sanctions for dealing with violations in the field of religion, etc. Therefore, it has had a significant effect on the effectiveness, effectiveness of state management of religion in Nghe An province.

2.2.2. Market economy with socialist orientation

In the socialist-oriented market economy, flexible applications, and the fullness of the market mechanism have maximized the efficiency of resources,

serving the purpose of rapid and sustainable economic development of the country. However, it also reveals some limitations and negatives such as the disparity between rich and poor in society deepens social contradictions; social evils arising, especially corruption, bureaucracy, and taking bribes; arising of pragmatism, and individualism; degradation of ideology, politics, morality, lifestyle among officials of state agencies, etc. This situation negatively affects the State's management of religion.

With characteristics located in the center of the North Central region, Nghe An has made great strides in economic, political, cultural, and social development in recent years. People's awareness, intellectual level, and sense of law observance of the people in the province are increasingly being improved. From there, to limit the negative effects of propaganda activities of hostile forces, some dignitaries and religious followers are radical to the Party, State, and political system in Nghe An. This is a positive influence on the state management of religion in Nghe An province.

However, besides the positive aspects, the negative side of the market economy also has a significant impact on the state management of religion in Nghe An. The status of cadres and civil servants assigned to perform their responsibilities and tasks related to State management regarding religion is not wholehearted, wholeheartedly for the assigned work, still affected by material benefits. Besides, the influence of changes in social issues, internal problems of some religions in Nghe An, etc. All of the above problems come to an end is the negative effect of the market economy on the state management of religion in Nghe An province.

2.2.3. International integration of Vietnam and of religions

In the common trend of other countries, Vietnam is increasingly integrating deeply into all fields of the world. This has created positive effects on all aspects of economic life, Vietnam's politics, culture, and society, including the state management of religion. With 2 main religions, Catholicism and Buddhism often have specific professional activities of religion such as studying, visiting, and exchanging with foreign organizations and individuals, etc. It is the above-mentioned international cooperation activities that have directly affected the State management of religion in Nghe An province.

2.2.4. Natural conditions and economic, social and cultural situation of Nghe An province

Nghe An is the province with the largest area in the provinces of Vietnam, in the North Central region. Nghe An has always been considered an economic, cultural and social center of the region and the whole country. On the other hand,

besides favorable conditions in terms of natural conditions and population factors, Nghe An also has disadvantages brought by nature, such as strongly fragmented terrain, frequent natural disasters, storms and floods. These conditions affect in many ways the State management of religion in Nghe An province.

Regarding the economic situation, according to the statistics of Nghe An Provincial Statistics Office in 2021, Nghe An's gross domestic product (GRDP) in 2021 ranks third in the North Central region and the group of localities with positive growth. Besides, Nghe An is a land of talented people, with many famous people in all aspects. The characteristics of the natural, socio-economic and cultural conditions have multi-dimensional impacts on the propaganda policy and develop religions in the province; forming the characteristics of the lifestyle and beliefs of Nghe An people compared to other areas.

2.2.5. Religious situation in Nghe An province

2.2.5.1. Situation of Catholicism in Nghe An province

The Catholic situation in Nghe An is stable, in compliance with the constitution, law, canon law of the Church, and local regulations. However, due to many factors, including history, conflicting issues arose within the people, between the people and the grassroots government on land issues, the impact of hostile forces in and abroad, some Catholic dignitaries and laity have engaged in land encroachment, building illegal worshipping establishments, carrying out extreme actions, causing complications to security and order; there are acts of spreading false propaganda about the lines and policies of the Party and the laws of the State; links, links with hostile objects abroad in activities against Vietnam, etc. The above issues have significantly affected the state management of Catholicism in Nghe An province in recent years.

2.2.5.2. Situation of Buddhism in Nghe An province

Buddhism in Nghe An has a long tradition of existence and development, associated with the process of formation and development of the Vietnamese nation. Experiencing the war of resistance against the French colonialists and the invading US imperialists, located in an important geopolitical position of the country, Buddhism in Nghe An was seriously affected, and most of the pagodas were destroyed. The expansion of Buddhist works in recent times is in the view of the Church on the consolidation of the Buddhist system in Nghe An, the majority are carried out in compliance with the law. However, there is still the phenomenon of illegal construction of Buddhist works, arbitrary transfer of land, lack of internal unity, or management problems for temples that do not have an abbot raised important issues in the state management of Buddhism in Nghe An province.

2.2.5.3. The situation of Protestantism and new religious phenomena in Nghe An province

Regarding Protestantism, In Nghe An province, there is no establishment, no dignitaries, and active positions. Activities related to Protestantism are spontaneous, unorganized, and law-abiding. For new religious phenomena, there are several new religious phenomena in the whole province of Nghe An such as Falun Gong, Church of God the Mother, Giehova Witness, Magical Dharma, and other new religious phenomena. The new religious phenomena mentioned above often conduct activities in their own homes, without registering their activities with the government with a small number of participants (usually in small groups), enticing and disseminating documents related to religious phenomena.

2.2.6. Activities of forces taking advantage of the religious field to destroy the state

With an area with a vibrant religious life like Nghe An, in recent years, enemy forces always seek to use and take advantage of religion to implement the strategy of “Peaceful evolution”, conspiracy to take advantage of religious forces to conduct activities against the State. Domestic enemies always take advantage of issues such as resolving land disputes related to religion; the reclaiming of a place of worship that has been donated, donated, or recovered by the state government in history; errors, shortcomings of individual party members, cadres and civil servants in the grassroots political system, etc. to falsify and defame. Some foreign countries, organizations, and individuals also have negative views of Vietnam in the field of religion.

Activities of hostile forces taking advantage of religion in Nghe An in recent years have affected state management about religion in Nghe An to ensure the orientation of religious activities and the religious process by the Constitution and laws of Vietnam, but also meet the necessary conditions for religion to operate smoothly in the direction of compliance with international law, avoid letting hostile forces take advantage of the freedom of belief and religion to distort and oppose the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Chapter 3

THE STATE MANAGEMENT OF RELIGION IN NGHE AN PROVINCE - THE CURRENT SITUATION AND ISSUES INVENTED

3.1. THE CURRENT STATUS OF STATE MANAGEMENT OF RELIGION IN NGHE AN PROVINCE

3.1.1. Subjects of state management of religion

Regarding the consolidation of the system and organization of the state management apparatus of religion to strengthen the apparatus system, and organization of state management of religion, with the function of participating in the tasks of the state, Nghe An province has adhered to the principle of ensuring under the leadership of the Party, State management, the Front and people's organizations mobilize.

However, when studying the reality of the subject of state management of religion in Nghe An in terms of the organizational system, the State management apparatus on religion also revealed some limitations:

Firstly, qualifications, role awareness, and the importance of state management on the religion of officials are still uneven.

Secondly, functional awareness, the task of the subject of religious management is sometimes incomplete.

Thirdly, the overall number of officials and state management agencies in charge of religion has been guaranteed. However, the allocation and structure arrangement into specialized departments and agencies is not scientific, meeting practical requirements.

On training and fostering state management officials on religion

The training, and fostering of the contingent of cadres and civil servants in the state management of religion at all levels is an important requirement and task. In addition to consolidating the organizational structure of religious affairs at all levels, branches, and localities, the People's Committee of Nghe An province also focuses on public service ethics, work responsibilities, qualifications, and the working capacity of officials in charge of state management of religion.

Besides the achieved aspects, in terms of training, to train cadres doing state management work regarding religion in Nghe An in recent years, there are some points to pay attention to:

Firstly, on the issue of professional training in state management of religion, at present, new state agencies mainly stop at training, and instruction in professional skills on state management of religion, but lacking in doctrinal orientations, the canon law of the religions they govern.

Secondly, training content and programs for staff, Public servants participating in the State management of religion still have the phenomenon of spreading, not the right subjects of training.

Thirdly, regimes and policies for training, the training of cadres and civil servants in State management of religion have not been satisfactory.

Fourthly, the quality assessment, and the process of training and fostering state management officials on religion still has some limitations.

3.1.2. Contents of state management of religion

Policy development, issuing documents, organizing the implementation of state management of religion

The specialized agencies tasked with state management of religion in Nghe An have strictly mastered the Law on Beliefs, religion, and Decree 162/2017/ND-CP of the Prime Minister detailing and guiding the implementation of the Law on Belief and Religion. To create consistency and synchronization in the implementation of the above Law and Decree, the Nghe An Religious Affairs Committee advised the Provincial People's Committee to issue plan No. 275/KH-UBND dated May 20, 2017, on the implementation of the Law on Belief and Religion in Nghe An province. In addition, the People's Committee of Nghe An province has requested specialized agencies in State management of religion to carefully study relevant laws. The Provincial People's Committee has issued many documents, plans, and regulations to solve several issues related to religion in the province, in which the standing department is the Religious Affairs Committee of Nghe An province, Nghe An Provincial Police, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment has well promoted its role in solving complicated religious cases in the province.

In addition to the achieved aspects, the actual situation in the development and issuance of documents, and policies related to state management Regarding religion, it can be seen that there are certain limitations:

Firstly, the issuance of several documents, plans, directing, especially, plans on several frequently disputed areas such as land, construction is still slow, not ahead, not predictive ahead of reality

Secondly, the development and implementation of legal documents on state management of religion in Nghe An universalized the fields of management, however, there is still a lack of documents regulating handling measures, and sanctions applied when there are violations of the law related to beliefs and religions.

Thirdly, the promulgation of documents sometimes overlaps and does not ensure consistency; the same content but regulations for many management agencies; lack of several documents stipulating new content arising in the field of religion.

Dissemination, education, policy, the law on religion

Every year, the Religious Affairs Committee of Nghe An province regularly organizes training conferences, fostering knowledge, professional skills, the law of belief, religion for officials and civil servants doing religious work, beliefs at district and commune levels and the core of religion. In addition, with the functions and duties prescribed by law, the Religious Affairs Committee advises

the People's Committee of Nghe An province to organize propaganda conferences, disseminating laws for religious dignitaries and positions.

However, there are still some points to note in this content, such as: Regarding propaganda and dissemination to cadres and civil servants, the contents of propaganda for cadres, and civil servants have not yet been classified; there is no fixed and methodical propaganda, and education content; The new focus is on the number of officials, the number of organizations that have not yet assessed the quality and applied them to practice, etc. On the side of dignitaries, believers, and the masses, the new propaganda method emphasizes listing the contents opinions, and provisions of the law without paying much attention to the classification of contents, opinions, and provisions of the law according to groups of issues directly related to specific interests.

Inspection, testing, resolving complaints, denouncing and handling violations of the law on religion

To ensure that the State management of religion takes place by the provisions of law, at all stages of the management process, the People's Committee of Nghe An province, in which the Department of Religion is the core, attaches great importance to inspection work, inspection to promptly correct inadequacies and promote positive, creative, effective in state management of religion. Every year, the People's Committee of Nghe An province periodically and irregularly issues plans and decisions to establish inspection teams and inspect the situation of law enforcement and implementation of the law on belief and religion.

In addition to the achieved aspects, this work also reveals some limitations such as:

Firstly, the inspection and examination of the contents of the State management of religion for the subject and subjects of State management of religion, although it has been conducted, the number is still small compared with the excitement in religious life in Nghe An province.

Secondly, the district and commune governments (especially the commune authorities) are still loose in state management, failure to conduct inspection or inspection infrequently and promptly, leads to a complicated situation in dealing with consequences, setting a very bad precedent for the effectiveness and efficiency of the exercise of state power.

Thirdly, the sanctions to deal with violations in Nghe An are still not strict and drastic.

International relations in the field of religion

In the general trend of the world, religions in Nghe An also have cooperation and coordination activities with foreign religious individuals and organizations. Catholicism itself and Buddhism in Nghe An due to objective factors and subjective have had many professional relations activities, studies,

and exchanges with foreign individuals and organizations. This has created many problems in state management regarding religion in Nghe An recently.

In addition to the aspects that have been achieved in State management on international relations of religions in Nghe An, some remaining issues emerged such as:

Firstly, the state management agencies in charge of religion in Nghe An have not managed activities related to charity, fundraisers with foreign elements of Catholicism, or Buddhist-related charity groups there are activities to help disadvantaged people in society, natural disasters, storms, floods, and epidemics.

Secondly, the mode of international relations of religions is very different from the past because the complicated situation of the Covid-19 epidemic has led religions to seek non-traditional ways, no longer meeting face to face but through means in cyberspace, with high security. Therefore, it is posing a difficult situation and the effectiveness of State management international relations of religions when they have activities of exchange, contact, meeting, teaching, learning, etc. with foreign organizations and individuals.

3.1.3. Methods of state management of religion

Propaganda, education, persuasion

In recent times, state management agencies about religion in Nghe An province, but specifically here, leaders of Nghe An province, departments and agencies such as the President, Vice Chairman of the Provincial People's Committee, Leader of the Religious Affairs Committee, Leader of the Provincial Police, leaders of several districts, cities, and towns directly met the bishop, the ranks of priests, Catholic ministry to patiently explain, encourage dialogue and advocate for them to understand and abide by the regulations on state management of religion.

For key areas, there are complex security issues related to religion, party committees, authorities, socio-political organizations have taken many forms of mobilizing religious compatriots to understand and comply with religious laws and policies, see the wrong activities of some dignitaries and positions, voice criticism, do not believe in numbers, oppose extremists, and support the government to solve religious problems by legal policies.

Handling violations by law Advocacy and persuasion are key in the state management of religion. However, for extremist and extremist activities of the number of dignitaries, extremist followers in some religions in Nghe An force state management agencies to about religion must carry out legal action to deter and prevent extremist activities, and violate the law to ensure the observance of the law. Besides the positive effects of the state management method on religion in recent years, according to our research, Nghe An still reveals some limitations:

Firstly, the object of propaganda, education, most persuasion stops at the object of being religious dignitaries, reputable people in religion, and reputable

people in the residential area, but for the masses of believers, most of them use loudspeakers, radio to propagate through the news.

Secondly, propaganda content and persuasive education are still scattered, not focused, focusing on matters of concern such as land issues, worship facilities, education, religious training, religious development, construction and repair of worship facilities, etc.

Thirdly, information and propaganda work, especially external propaganda about the situation, the religious policy has not been actively implemented, in the right dose (when there is a complicated case, the propaganda dose is dense), and there is no mechanism to ensure the requirements, propaganda tasks and especially there is no funding to meet the requirements for propaganda, education, and persuasion.

Fourthly, the work of grasping the situation and preventing from afar the violations related to religion is still limited and has not yet promoted the important role of propaganda, educating, and persuading dignitaries and believers to comply with the law.

Fifthly, at present, there is no specific law on sanctioning violations related to religion by individuals. Organizations should mostly when dealing with state management agencies in charge of religion in Nghe An refer to relevant legal regulations.

3.2. ISSUES INVENTED IN THE STATE MANAGEMENT ABOUT RELIGION IN NGHE AN PROVINCE IN THE CURRENT

3.2.1. Problems for state management subjects about religion in Nghe An province

The subject's awareness of the role of state management of religion has not met the requirements set out

In addition to the relatively comprehensive and correct awareness of the central and provincial state management agencies in Nghe An, there is a large number of cadres, party members, and people who are not yet aware of the role, importance, subject, object, contents, and methods of State management of religion, especially the number of cadres and party members at district and commune levels.

State management staff about religion is lacking in quantity and unsatisfactory in terms of quality

With an area with the largest area in Vietnam, the religious and religious life is relatively vibrant, etc. the problem related to human resources for State management of religion in Nghe An is revealing several problems.

Firstly, the number of state management staff on religion in Nghe An at some levels, some units are lacking, and not guaranteed.

Secondly, the quality of State management staff in Nghe An at some levels and fields is still limited.

3.2.2. Policy system, the law on state management of religion is lacking, not synchronized, there are many overlapping elements

Besides the positive aspects brought by legal instruments, however, the legal system regulating the field of religion still reveals some limitations, such as:

Firstly, Law on Belief and Religion 2016 - Specialized law governing state management of religion and Decree No. 162/2017/ND-CP dated December 30, 2017, the Government's Decree detailing several articles and measures to implement the Law on Beliefs and Religions has many shortcomings and limitations.

Secondly, some contents of the laws are related to the State management of religion, namely, the Law on Beliefs, religion in 2016 still overlaps and is not synchronized, consistent with several contents related to other laws such as the Land Law, Law on Cultural Heritage, Law on Construction, Law on Environmental Protection, etc.

Thirdly, there is a lack of legal regulations governing some contents related to the contents of State management of religion. Some state management content related to religion may have existed for a long time, but has not yet been supplemented with adjusting legal regulations or new issues may arise or change.

3.2.3. The method of state management of religion has been slow to innovate and has not yet responded to the new situation

Party committees, party organizations, authorities, and authorities in Nghe An province have always realized that mobilizing, propaganda, education, and persuasion are the focus of the state management method on religion.

In addition to the achievements, the State management method regarding religion in Nghe An recently, several issues have also emerged, specifically as follows:

Firstly, the level and effectiveness of advocacy, propaganda, dissemination and legal education on religion at the district and commune levels are still low and have not met the set requirements

Secondly, the handling by law when there is a violation is not definitive, drastic, and thorough; when there is a decision on handling of violations, they have not yet fully implemented them, and still, disregard the implementation of the decision on handling of violations.

Thirdly, the content of advocacy, propaganda, dissemination, education, policy, and law on religion is still stereotyped to apply the same content to different audiences; the form of advocacy and propaganda has little innovation and creativity, so the effectiveness of State management of religion is still limited.

Fourthly, coordination and information regimes among agencies and departments related to State management of religion are still slow and not smooth.

Fifthly, individual advocacy methods are rarely used in the grassroots political system.

Chapter 4

FORECAST OF RELIGIOUS SITUATION IN NGHE AN THE NEXT TIME AND SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF STATE MANAGEMENT OF RELIGION IN NGHE AN PROVINCE IN THE CURRENT

4.1. FORECAST OF THE RELIGIOUS SITUATION IN NGHE AN IN THE NEXT TIME

4.1.1. Religion in Nghe An tends to be associated with social security activities and actively participates in socio-political activities to increase the influence

As a social entity, religion was born and associated with the movement, and development of human society, especially the division of material production. The strong development of science and technology in recent times, especially in the period of the Industrial Revolution 4.0 has helped mankind to access, discover and accumulate a huge amount of knowledge. People increasingly understand more deeply about the universe and solve problems that seem to have no answers. It is this that has made the awareness level of the people raised, along with the diversification of forms of information transmission in society, contributing to the fading of religious beliefs.

In the past, Buddhism and Catholicism in Nghe An have actively participated in activities related to social security. On the one hand, those activities show the adaptation to the times, and the responsibility of religion to society. But on the other hand, it is also a condition, an opportunity to develop and expand the influence of religion. For religious organizations that have not been approved for religious activities in the province, there will certainly be specific plans to gradually develop the scale, organization, and followers and actively participate in activities organized by the government to gain credibility, serve the purpose of being approved for registration of religious activities.

4.1.2. Religious activities will have complicated developments

In an area with a large number of religious followers like Nghe An, religious activities take place regularly to serve the needs of religious organizations. With the change in goals and activities of religions in Nghe An, In the coming time, religious activities will certainly continue to take place on a large scale, Nature is much more complicated than before, for several reasons: (1) the awareness of a part of the mass of believers is still limited, it is not clear what activities are legal, any activity that is not lawful, so it is easy to be taken advantage of by an extreme number of dignitaries and hostile forces; (2) activities related to the expansion of worship facilities, development of religious organizations will be conducted regularly shortly so there will be many problems related to many fields; (3) the hostile forces will certainly not give up the conspiracy, the intention to use the religious issue as a guise to serve propaganda, distorting, anti-Party and State activities, etc.

4.1.3. Enemy forces will intensify their exploitation of religious issues and carry out anti-State activities

Until now, to achieve the goal of destroying our Party and State, hostile forces have always conspired to take advantage of the religious issue, conflicts arise in the field of religion to distort the guidelines and policies of the Party, the laws of the State, special emphasis is placed on the religious policy aimed at accusing Vietnam of violating democracy, human rights, and religious freedom.

The hostile forces will continue by inciting the number of dignitaries, and religious followers (with special attention being paid to the number of dignitaries, and Catholics in Nghe An) to propagate, distorting the religious situation and the implementation of the State's policy on freedom of belief and religion; disseminating ideas of separatism, demanding the separation of religion from the management of the State, turning the religious church into a political force, counterbalancing the Party and State; take advantage of historical issues such as the conflict between wages and teachers in history, disputes over land, places of worship to gather, inciting the masses of believers to oppose the government, and undermining the great unity bloc of the whole nation.

Next time, hostile forces will continue to help religions, especially Catholics, Protestantism, and some new religious phenomena expand to remote areas, remote areas of Nghe An to transform ideology, fading trust with the Party, and the state, using religious theocracy to rally opposing forces under the guise of religion, building necessary resources to destabilize the domestic situation, creating a pretext for intervention in Vietnam.

4.1.4. Religions are increasingly expanding their sphere of influence

Catholicism and Buddhism in Nghe An are unevenly distributed across the province, mostly concentrated in Vinh city and some neighboring districts. For Protestantism and some new religious phenomena, due to the level of awareness of people in Vinh city and surrounding districts being relatively high, it will be difficult to penetrate life and attract people to believe.

Therefore, next time, new religions and religious phenomena will pay attention to expanding to remote areas, remote areas, border areas, and mountainous areas where a large number of ethnic minorities live. This is both a long-term strategy to expand the area and influence of religions, but also a problem posed in finding solutions for state management agencies about religion in Nghe An in the coming time to prevent negative effects on the lives of people in remote, isolated, and ethnic minority areas.

4.2. SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF STATE MANAGEMENT OF RELIGION IN NGHE AN PROVINCE IN THE CURRENT

4.2.1. Raising awareness of subjects about religion and state management of religion

To limit and overcome problems related to religious awareness and State management Regarding religion in Nghe An province shortly, it is necessary to pay attention to the following issues:

Firstly, raising awareness and unifying the direction of the Party committees, authorities, committees, branches, Vietnam Fatherland Front at all levels and mass organizations of Nghe An province regarding the nature of religion and the substance of state management of religion.

Secondly, to strengthen and strengthen cadres, party members, and people, especially cadres and civil servants, Officials assigned the task of State management of religion firmly grasp, properly, and clearly understand the contents of State management of religion.

Thirdly, raise awareness for officials and civil servants assigned to state management of religion on subjects, the object of State management of religion.

Fourthly, raise and unify the awareness of the state management of religion.

4.2.2. Building a contingent of state management cadres in charge of religion with sufficient quantity and quality assurance

Firstly, on the issue of ensuring a sufficient number of cadres and civil servants to perform the tasks of State management of religion. Provincial Party Committee and People's Committee of Nghe An province strictly adhere to Decision No. 32/2018/QĐ-TTg dated August 3, 2018, of the Prime Minister on regulations on functions, tasks, powers, and organizational structure of the government religious department under the Ministry of Home Affairs; Decision No. 174/QĐ-TTg dated February 9, 2017, of the Prime Minister approving the project on staff training, civil servants doing religious work; Decision No. 57/2012/QĐ-UBND dated August 10, 2012, of the Chairman of the People's Committee of Nghe An province on promulgating regulations on assignment, hierarchical management organization apparatus, and cadres, civil servants, public employees, etc.

Secondly, on the issue of quality assurance of religious workers in Nghe An province. Provincial Party Committee, People's Committee of Nghe An province continue to implement the spirit of Decision No. 174/QĐ-TTg dated February 9, 2017, of the Prime Minister on the approval of the project on the training of religious cadres and civil servants in the period of 2017 - 2020, before the approval of the new project, for the next term. In particular, the focus is on the development of training plans, recruiting officials to do religious work; renewing and building training and retraining programs; the provincial People's Committee needs to flexibly apply the financial mechanism, and budget to increase income for the State management officials in charge of religion, etc.

4.2.3. Continue to build and perfect the legal system for state management of religion

Firstly, correcting the terms in the law for the convenience of State management agencies on religion across the country in general and in Nghe An, in particular, is easy to understand and apply.

Secondly, delineate in the law issues related to the field of State management on religion with other fields of social life, avoiding the overlapping phenomenon that causes difficulties for management.

Thirdly, amend some laws that are not very reasonable when applied to different religions in Nghe An; at the same time, supplementing legal regulations governing other newly arising contents in the State management of religion.

4.2.4. Renovating the method of state management of religion

Firstly, the Party committees and authorities at all levels of Nghe An province regularly propagate, disseminate and educate the law on religion, and views of the Party and State in solving religious problems for cadres, civil servants, and party members.

Secondly, regularly propagate, popularize and educate the followers of religions and the people about the policy, the Party's lines, and policies, and the State's laws, especially identifying conspiracies, methods, and maneuvers of hostile forces to take advantage of religious issues to destroy Vietnam.

Thirdly, promoting and promote the role of political organizations and socio-political organizations, the Vietnam Fatherland Front in Nghe An province at all levels in propagating and mobilizing the masses of believers, and dignitaries, especially create conditions and encourage followers of religions to participate in socio-political organizations, mass organizations such as the Women's Union, Farmers' Union, Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, etc.

Fourthly, further improve the quality of individual mass mobilization, focusing on dignitaries and reputable people in the religious community.

Fifthly, organize and develop an education, propaganda, and training plan for a team of lecturers, and highly qualified propagandists; Along with that is the innovation of content, methods, and form of propaganda to suit the reality of Nghe An province.

Sixthly, the Provincial Party Committee and People's Committee of Nghe An province build a grassroots political system (especially at the commune and ward level) that is clean and strong; directing the unification of state management agencies on religion in Nghe An province in close coordination with other agencies such as Vietnam Fatherland Front, social organizations, etc.

Seventhly, the People's Committee of Nghe An province renewed and further strengthen religious foreign affairs to bring into full play the effects of the mode of advocacy, and persuasion in the State's management of religion.

Eighthly, innovate the method of inspection, supervision, and handling when there are violations in the field of State management of religion.

CONCLUSION

To clarify the concepts of tools that the thesis uses, in the theoretical and practical basis of state management of religion in Nghe An province, the thesis has been conducted to clarify issues related to religion and state management of religion. On the one hand, the thesis introduces the concept of state management of religion but on the other hand, it also points out the fundamental difference between state management of religion and other types of social management. In parallel, the thesis outlines the characteristics of the state management of religion in the socialist rule of law state in Vietnam, specifically: inseparable from the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam, in compliance with the Constitution and laws of Vietnam; ensure the goal of building a great national unity block, for the goal of a rich people and a strong country, democratic, just and civilized society; guarantee the right to freedom of belief, religion, and non-belief, people's religion, taking advocacy, education, and persuasion as the main methods. This is the most important point in the content of this thesis.

Approach philosophical perspective, as identified at the beginning of the thesis, the issue of state management of religion is to show the relationship between the politics of several religions, between the state and the church in a superstructure of society. In addition, in the study of religion as a form of social consciousness, an entity existing in society, about Nghe An province, the thesis has analyzed and clarified the factors affecting state management, religion, and the religious situation in Nghe An province. It is this that shows us that, due to objective and subjective factors, characteristics of factors belonging to social existence have made the state management of religion in Nghe An, there are fundamental differences compared to other localities. The difference between state management in Nghe An and other localities is due to influencing factors such as natural conditions, economic, social, and cultural conditions; relevant system of policies and laws on religion; the impact of international integration, and anti-destructive activities of hostile forces. Besides that, the religious situation in Nghe An province was mentioned and

analyzed by the PhD candidate contributing together with influencing factors to create the practical basis of state management of religion in Nghe An province. This is an important theoretical basis to help the thesis examine the situation in terms of subjects, objects, contents, methods, and specificity of the locality determined by influencing factors.

Through the survey of the state management of religion in Nghe An province - an area with geopolitical, economic, important culture and society of the region and of the whole country, in terms of subject and content, the State management method on religion has helped the thesis to point out the problems of State management of religion in Nghe An during the period. *Firstly*, in terms of awareness, cadres, party members and some functional agencies (in terms of subjects) have not understood properly and sufficiently the State management of religion. *Secondly*, the current contingent of cadres assigned the task of state management of religion at the provincial level of Nghe An, which is satisfactory in terms of quantity and quality, however, at district and commune levels, officials are often part-time, with limited professional qualifications. *Thirdly*, the current system of policies and laws on state management of religion still has shortcomings. *Fourthly*, the method of State management of religion is still not perfect, although prioritizing methods of education, persuasion, advocacy, and propaganda.

By assessing the general situation and pointing out the problems of State management regarding religion in Nghe An province in recent times, the thesis has made predictions about the religious situation in Nghe An in the coming time and proposes 04 solutions, to which 01 solution belongs to the State management agencies in charge of religion at the central level, which is the amendment and supplement and updates the system of policies and laws related to the State management of religion. In this solution, the new point that the thesis aims at is that the correction of provisions in the Law on Belief and Religion in 2016 is still limited and not very accurate; supplement and update new regulations related to issues in handling violations related to the State management of religion, especially when renewing our Party's awareness during the 13th Party Congress, the promotion of religious resources for the cause of

national development, certainly, religions will participate more in economic, cultural, and social activities, charity, social security, etc., More than ever, there is a need for legislation to regulate these activities. The remaining 03 solutions are directly related to the Provincial Party Committee, the People's Committee of Nghe An province, and the State management agencies in charge of religion in Nghe An which are: Raising awareness of officials, party members, and people about the State management of religion; to develop a contingent of cadres performing the tasks of State management of religion in sufficient quantity and quality; renovating the method of State management of religion. These solutions must be implemented synchronously to bring optimal efficiency. Certainly, with the unity and determination of the entire political system of Nghe An province, State management of religion will continue to promote its role, making an important contribution to political stability, developing the economy, culture, and society of the locality, promoting democracy at the grassroots, and build the great unity block of the whole nation.

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