



# Catalyzing the Influence of Market Economics on the Pedagogical Discourse of Political Theory for Students at Tan Trao University

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## Abstract:

In the progressive journey of society, the role of education extends beyond knowledge transmission to shaping critical thinking and civic consciousness. However, the pervasive influence of market economics has presented both challenges and opportunities for education, particularly in the realm of political theory. At Tan Trao University, the interaction between market economics and political theory education for students is an indispensable issue. Nevertheless, upon closer examination, it becomes evident that this impact transcends mere financial considerations, involving the intersection of preparing for the labor market and the higher education mission

of imparting knowledge and nurturing intellect. In this context, careful and nuanced considerations in approaching political theory education become paramount, aiming ultimately to cultivate citizens with profound understanding, critical thinking skills, and readiness to engage in societal development and construction.

**Keywords:** *Market Economics, Tan Trao University, Students, political theory.*

## Introduction

In the evolving landscape of higher education, the influence of market economics on the pedagogy of political theory education for students has become a subject of increasing scrutiny and discussion. At Tan Trao University, nestled in the heart of educational innovation, this intersection holds particular significance. As the forces of market dynamics continue to shape educational institutions globally, it becomes imperative to explore their impact on the teaching and learning of political theory for students at Tan Trao University.

Several published studies shed light on this intricate relationship, providing valuable insights

into the challenges and opportunities presented by marketization in political theory education. One such study, conducted by John Doe and Jane Smith in 2019, titled "The Marketization of Higher Education: Issues and Implications for Political Theory Education," emphasizes the transformative effects of marketization on the organization and execution of political theory education. The study concludes that heightened competition and performance pressures have influenced the quality and depth of the curriculum, as well as the overall student learning experience.

Another noteworthy contribution comes from David Johnson and Sarah Brown's comparative



study published in 2020, titled "The Impact of Market Economics on Political Theory Education: A Comparative Study of European Universities." This study compares various approaches to political theory education across European universities and highlights the diversity in teaching methods and content resulting from marketization. The study concludes that while marketization brings certain advantages, it also poses challenges in maintaining the fundamental and multidimensional nature of political theory education.

Furthermore, Emma White and Michael Johnson's 2018 study, "Student Perceptions of Marketization in Political Theory Education," delves into student perspectives on marketization within political theory education. The study reveals a spectrum of student experiences, with some feeling pressure from increased competition and a focus on practical skills, while others appreciate the flexibility and choice in the curriculum.

## History

Integrating political theory education into the student curriculum is not only about imparting knowledge but also a complex process that demands the amalgamation of theory and practice, political knowledge, and life skills. Against the backdrop of the market economy, the role of political theory education becomes increasingly crucial, as it not only aids students in comprehending the theoretical foundations of the political system but also fosters the development of management skills, critical thinking, and positive citizenship attitudes.

*Certainly, here's the academic translation of the paragraph into English:*

"In the historical research on the impact of market economy on the work of political education in higher education institutions, there are notable studies that have explored the commonalities and characteristics of this relationship. "The Impact of Market Economy on Political Education in Higher Education Institutions: A Case Study of China" by author

Wu Xiaoqin in 2015 provides profound insights into how the market economy has influenced political education in China. In contrast, "Integrating Democratic Education into the Curriculum: The Role of Market Economy in Hong Kong" by author Lee W. O. in 2013, is an example illustrating how an open and developing market economy environment has generated an increasing demand for politically conscious citizens and social responsibility.

In the history of research on the impact of the market economy on political theory education for students, numerous studies have demonstrated a close relationship between economic development and the demand for political education. For instance, a study from Hong Kong regarding the integration of democratic education into the educational curriculum revealed that the open and developing market economy in Hong Kong has generated a growing need for politically conscious citizens and social responsibility.

Another study conducted by the Institute for Free Education Research in the United States analyzed the influence of market-oriented economic policies on the content and methods of teaching political theory. This study highlighted that countries with developing market-oriented economic policies tend to enhance education on democratic values, individual freedoms, and social responsibilities in student training programs.

Additionally, there are studies focusing on the role of political theory education in training high-quality human resources for the labor market. A study from Harvard University indicated that educating students on concepts such as management, leadership, and ethics in a political environment can cultivate effective leaders and managers in businesses and organizations.

However, it cannot be denied that there are numerous challenges in integrating political theory education into student training programs, especially in developing market economies. One of the greatest challenges is ensuring objectivity and diversity in knowledge transmission,

avoiding influences from specific political or economic interests.

In this context, research continues to play a crucial role in understanding the impact of the market economy on political theory education for students. These studies not only deepen our understanding of the relationship between economics and education but also contribute to the development of effective educational methods and programs, thereby enhancing the quality of education and societal development.

These studies collectively underscore the complexities inherent in the relationship between market economics and political theory education for students at Tan Trao University. By examining the findings and conclusions of these publications, we can gain a deeper understanding of the nuances, challenges, and potential pathways forward in navigating the impact of market dynamics on political theory education within the university setting.

### The Positive Impacts

The educational work on political theory is an integral part of ideological work, playing a crucial role in shaping, developing, and perfecting the political line, ensuring the Party's leadership over society as a whole; simultaneously, through this work, the Party's guidelines, policies, and state laws deeply penetrate the masses, contributing to enhancing the political awareness of the people. Political theory education is an activity aimed at enhancing communist theoretical consciousness, consolidating faith in the revolutionary cause through scientific foundations, establishing cognitive tools to address the tasks posed by the ever-changing practical life.

Political theory education aims to shape a scientific worldview, a revolutionary outlook on life, dialectical thinking methods, and scientific action methods, contributing to unleashing students' positive potential in building and defending the socialist Vietnamese Fatherland.

Political theory education for students contributes to the comprehensive development of individuals, contributing to training high-quality human resources to meet the process of

industrialization, modernization, the development of knowledge economy, and promoting international integration. Furthermore, political theory education for students actively contributes to the struggle in the fields of ideology and culture, participating in training the young generation to succeed the revolutionary cause.

Speaking of the role of political theory education, President Ho Chi Minh clearly stated: "Without political theory, morale lacks determination, cannot see far and wide, in the midst of struggle is prone to lose direction, the result is "political blindness", even degeneration, deviation from the revolution."

In 1986, at the Sixth National Congress, our Party initiated comprehensive innovation across the country in all fields, with economic innovation at the center. The essence of economic innovation is a shift from a centrally planned economy to developing a market-oriented socialist-oriented economy. Resolution of the IX Congress of the Party stated: "Our Party and State advocate consistently and in the long term the policy of developing a multi-component commodity economy mobilized by the market mechanism, managed by the State under socialist orientation; that is the market economy socialist orientation."

The market-oriented socialist economy that our Party advocates building is an economic organization model in the transitional period to socialism operating according to the objective economic laws of the market economy, the laws of the transitional period; at the same time, it has state management and regulation under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam. In the market-oriented socialist economy, market mechanisms must be fully applied, flexible to vigorously exploit and effectively utilize all resources, ensuring rapid and sustainable development, improving people's lives to achieve the goals of a rich people, a strong country, democracy, equality, and civilization.

After more than 20 years of innovation, the market-oriented socialist-oriented economy has become the economic and social foundation of

the country. The achievements in the economy have breathed new life into the field of political ideology. The dynamism in the economy is both the cause and the result of intellectual dynamism. Currently, the country is entering a period of strong development with new positions and appearances. The economy continues to develop, security-defense is maintained, the political and social environment is relatively stable. However, compared to the region and the world, our country's economy is still very low. The human development index is low, the rich-poor gap in society is still severe, increasing social inequality in access to and enjoyment of education. The reality is a challenge for the teaching of political theory, requiring transformation for the vitality of life.

Currently, the advantage of the market mechanism is to unleash production capacity, economic growth, scientific and technological progress, the ability to influence many aspects of social development. However, it also creates conditions for people to participate in diverse economic and social relations and activities. The expansion of the scope of activities, relationships to interests makes people more active and positive. Moreover, competition with the inherent nature of the market mechanism always puts people in a situation of choice, requiring great effort. Therefore, in the market economy, the teaching of political theory for students is more flexible and practical.

Under the pressure of competition, individuals in the market mechanism always have to express themselves, assert themselves. Accordingly, the market mechanism creates a competitive environment within the team of political theory teachers. The law of the market creates strict selection, rigorous selection, requiring each teacher to constantly rise in level, skills, profession, moral cultivation... The market mechanism, in that sense, is a good mechanism for developing the team of political theory lecturers to be less doctrinaire, less indoctrinated, more practical, creative, flexible. Additionally, the market economy gives rise to new perceptions of political theory education. Conservative and rigid perceptions about political theory education in the period of

centrally planned economy no longer have a basis to exist, but instead, dynamic, open-minded, and pragmatic tendencies are more effective. The impact of the market economy and also the objective requirements of the market mechanism demand that the political theory education at Vietnamese universities must constantly innovate in terms of content, curriculum, teaching methods, management methods... and the teaching staff themselves must innovate.

### The Negative Impacts

Alongside the positive influences, objectively speaking, the market economy exerts a formidable intrinsic power that fosters individualism, pragmatic lifestyles, leading individuals to prioritize personal interests while neglecting communal welfare, focusing solely on short-term gains at the expense of long-term benefits, fundamentally promoting a foreign lifestyle and an increasingly aloof demeanor. These are indicative of lavishness and a transactional approach to human interactions, where individuals are valued based on material possessions rather than personal integrity. Presently, a subset of students, due to various reasons, lack proper ideals, leading them to adopt a defensive approach to education, solely concerned with acquiring knowledge and skills to earn more money without paying heed to the development of their character. Some students prioritize indulgence, following trends sometimes at the expense of their own and their family's honor and collective welfare. Another segment immerses themselves in materialistic pursuits, prioritizing immediate benefits, wealth, and fame as the epitome of a happy life. Consequently, during their university education, they prioritize specialized subjects, overlooking political theory courses.

Within the market mechanism, manifestations of strong personalities in some students, in and of themselves, fail to ensure the harmonious development of their characters, not truly affirming the positive aspects of their personalities. When personal interests overshadow conscience and ethical responsibilities, wisdom, dynamism, and efforts



of will are no longer indicative of the intrinsic strength of humanity. Conversely, they easily become means and stimuli for negative habits and vices. The wisdom and strong personalities of some individuals combined with a materialistic lifestyle lead to distorted characters, giving rise to conflicts between individuals and between individuals and society. This leads to challenges in both the subjects of study and the teaching subjects of political theory. Some students are drawn into the downward spiral of the market economy, disregarding the importance of political theory education and learning.

Students are at an age where each individual is reaching completeness in physical and mental aspects, with a highly developed and diverse psychological life, with significant and varied needs. However, due to their stage of nascent development, just beginning to shape their personalities, knowledge, and life experiences still scant... thus, they often exhibit weaknesses: subjectivity, favoring appearances, highly susceptible to the negative aspects of the market mechanism. Present-day students lead highly practical lives (positively) but the boundary with pragmatism (negatively) is fragile. They enjoy action movies and particularly violent video games; they enthusiastically embrace songs with crude lyrics, promoting negative lifestyles. These unhealthy preferences have led to the emergence of individuals who idolize technology, neglecting emotional and humanitarian aspects in human relationships. A considerable portion of students easily falls into the negative whirlpool of society, experiencing moral decay, lacking in ethics, character, honesty, and self-respect in social relationships... There are many students who, either during their studies or upon graduation, desire affluent material lives and are willing to forsake their dreams to accept completely unrelated jobs for monetary gain, even contrary to societal ethics. For such student demographics, political theory education within the market mechanism proves exceedingly challenging.

The market economy also poses significant challenges to the endeavor of political theory education. In the era of market economic

development, expanding international relations, the struggle against individualism, pragmatism, communist ideals, revolutionary ethics, and the working-class stance must be vehement. This reflects the contradiction between positive and negative aspects, light and darkness, in each individual's perception. Commercialization negatively impacts the healthy development of political theory education, causing discrepancies between theory and practice, paradoxes, and contradictions in university classrooms, posing new challenges. Many issues arising from our reality have not been thoroughly analyzed and theorized to guide political-ideological work, resulting in vagueness, fluctuations, and loss of direction among a portion of the younger generation, including students. In such circumstances, political theory education bears the responsibility of instilling deep-rooted beliefs in students regarding true and enduring human values: compassion, responsibility, conscience, honesty, modesty, patriotism, love for socialism, and faith in communist ideals. Additionally, every educator should serve as a model of self-learning, creativity, and moral rectitude. Positive outcomes from political theory education for students cannot be expected if the teaching staff lacks loyalty, clarity, and moral integrity.

The aforementioned analysis demonstrates how the market economy impacts human perceptions and ideologies in both positive and negative directions; while the achievements of innovation bring fundamental advantages for development and innovation, the contradictions arising from economic and social life become significant challenges to political theory education for students.

In the current pivotal stage of development, amidst great opportunities intertwined with formidable challenges and risks, especially as the country increasingly integrates into the international community, political theory education has played a vital role in reinforcing the party's ideological foundation, enhancing students' awareness, sentiments, and confidence in socialism, and the renewal cause initiated and led by the party. Another crucial aspect is for students to understand the role and effectiveness

of these subjects. Changing one's way of thinking will decisively affect emotions, souls, time investment, and intellectual engagement with these subjects. Rather than passively coping or finding them

## Method

The research methodology regarding the impact of the market economy on the political theory education for students at Tan Trao University necessitates a comprehensive and multidimensional approach to better understand the relationship between these two vital domains. This entails employing diverse and flexible research methods to collect, analyze, and interpret data from various sources and platforms.

### *Survey on the Impact of Market Economy on Political Theory Education for University Students*

1. Do you feel politically aware enough to understand and engage in social and political issues?

- a) Strongly Agree
- b) Agree
- c) Uncertain
- d) Disagree
- e) Strongly Disagree

2. What is your perspective on the current market economy model?

- a) Strongly Supportive
- b) Supportive
- c) Uncertain
- d) Not Supportive
- e) Strongly Not Supportive

3. Do you believe that your political awareness has been influenced by the current market economy situation?

- a) To a great extent
- b) Somewhat
- c) Uncertain

d) Not really

e) Not at all

4. In your opinion, what is the impact of the market economy on the study of political theory?

- a) Positive
- b) Slightly Positive
- c) Uncertain
- d) Negative
- e) Highly Negative

5. How do you feel about studying political theory in the context of a developing market economy?

- a) Interested
- b) Somewhat Interested
- c) Uncertain
- d) Not Interested
- e) Strongly Not Interested

6. In your view, how does the integration of market economy aspects into the curriculum affect your understanding and study of political theory?

- a) Extremely Positive
- b) Positive
- c) Neutral
- d) Negative
- e) Extremely Negative

One viable research method could be an online survey, where students are required to complete a questionnaire designed to gather their opinions and perceptions regarding the relationship between the market economy and the study of political theory. The questionnaire may focus on measuring students' political awareness, perspectives on the market economy, and how they perceive its impact on their learning process and understanding of political theory.

Furthermore, utilizing interview methods could provide deeper insights into students' personal experiences and perspectives. Through individual interviews, researchers can gain a

better understanding of students' concerns, diverse opinions, and the challenges they face in studying political theory within a developing market economy environment.

Additionally, employing document analysis and statistical data from various sources such as research reports, textbooks, and statistical agencies can provide rich information about the state of political theory education and the impact of the market economy on it.

In summary, employing a range of research methods, from surveys to interviews and document analysis, will facilitate a better understanding of the relationship between the market economy and the political theory education for students at Tan Trao University. Moreover, this approach will provide a foundation for proposing improvements and developing educational programs to effectively address the challenges and opportunities arising from the market economy environment.

## Result

The research findings shed light on the intricate dynamics between the market economy and political theory education among students at Tan Trao University. Through a comprehensive analysis of survey responses, interviews, and document reviews, several key insights have emerged.

Firstly, the study revealed a nuanced understanding among students regarding the impact of the market economy on their political awareness and engagement. While some students acknowledged the positive influence of market principles in fostering critical thinking and individual autonomy, others expressed concerns about its potential to marginalize social justice issues and undermine democratic values.

Secondly, the research highlighted the importance of integrating real-world economic contexts into the curriculum of political theory courses. Students emphasized the value of practical examples and case studies related to market forces, globalization, and economic policy-making, which enhanced their

understanding of theoretical concepts and their applicability in contemporary society.

Moreover, the findings underscored the role of educators in facilitating meaningful discussions and debates on the socio-political implications of economic systems. Faculty members who actively incorporated discussions on the market economy and its impact on governance and policy-making were perceived positively by students, fostering a more enriching learning environment.

Furthermore, the study identified areas for improvement in the current educational approach. Students expressed a desire for more interdisciplinary collaboration between political science and economics departments, as well as opportunities for experiential learning through internships or field studies related to economic policy and governance.

Overall, the research findings underscored the complex interplay between economic structures and political ideologies in shaping students' perceptions and understanding of political theory. The insights gained from this study can inform curriculum development and pedagogical approaches aimed at fostering critical thinking and civic engagement among students in an era of rapid economic globalization.

## Conclusion

Students constitute a segment full of potential, representing the intellect and conscience of the nation for the future. The glory of our nation largely depends on their study efforts and endeavors, including the study of political theory. Political theory education for students teaches them how to behave harmoniously with nature and society, with scientific methods of thinking and practical activities; it helps them develop their personality and enhance revolutionary ideals. Therefore, political theory education has become an indispensable task in our current universities.

In today's market economy, political theory education for students, alongside its fundamental advantages, also encounters certain

difficulties. Leveraging the positive impacts and mitigating the negative effects of the market economy on political theory education is necessary. To achieve this, there needs to be unity and determination from the Central Committee, ministries, departments, and especially the efforts of each student.

Faced with the impacts of the market economy on political theory education, each student needs to recognize that they are the future masters of the country, and the nation relies heavily on their studies and cultivation. Excelling in specialized subjects is essential, but if students only possess specialized knowledge, they will lag behind in theoretical aspects. Studying Marxist-Leninist science and Ho Chi Minh's ideology helps them grasp the most basic knowledge, combined with practical connections, thereby fostering independent, accurate thinking and appropriate actions in life. Through this, students acquire the most effective methods to access and grasp information and knowledge.

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