[Template:Pp-semi-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-semi-indef" \o "Template:Pp-semi-indef) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country) **Vietnam** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en), [Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en);[[1]](#cite_note-1) [Template:Lang-vi](/wiki/Template:Lang-vi) [Template:IPA-vi](/wiki/Template:IPA-vi)), officially the **Socialist Republic of Vietnam** (**SRV**; [Template:Lang-vi](/wiki/Template:Lang-vi) ([Template:Audio](/wiki/Template:Audio))), is the easternmost country on the [Indochina Peninsula](/wiki/Indochina) in [Southeast Asia](/wiki/Southeast_Asia). With an estimated 90.5 million inhabitants [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), it is the world's [14th-most-populous country](/wiki/List_of_countries_and_dependencies_by_population), and the [eighth-most-populous Asian country](/wiki/List_of_Asian_countries_by_population). Vietnam is bordered by [China](/wiki/China) to the north, [Laos](/wiki/Laos) to the northwest, [Cambodia](/wiki/Cambodia) to the southwest, and [Malaysia](/wiki/Malaysia) across the [South China Sea](/wiki/South_China_Sea) to the southeast.[Template:Efn](/wiki/Template:Efn) Its capital city has been [Hanoi](/wiki/Hanoi) since the reunification of [North](/wiki/North_Vietnam) and [South Vietnam](/wiki/South_Vietnam) in 1975.

Vietnam was part of [Imperial China](/wiki/Imperial_China) for over a millennium, from 111 BC to AD 939. An independent Vietnamese state was formed in 939, following a Vietnamese victory in the [Battle of Bạch Đằng River](/wiki/Battle_of_Bạch_Đằng_River_(938)). Successive [Vietnamese royal dynasties](/wiki/List_of_Vietnamese_monarchs) flourished as the nation expanded geographically and politically into Southeast Asia, until the Indochina Peninsula was [colonized by the French](/wiki/French_Indochina) in the mid-19th century. Following a [Japanese occupation](/wiki/Japanese_invasion_of_French_Indochina) in the 1940s, the Vietnamese fought French rule in the [First Indochina War](/wiki/First_Indochina_War), eventually expelling the French in 1954. Thereafter, Vietnam was divided politically into two rival states, North and South Vietnam. Conflict between the two sides intensified in what is known as the [Vietnam War](/wiki/Vietnam_War). The war ended with a North Vietnamese victory in 1975.

Vietnam was then unified under a [communist](/wiki/Communism) government but remained impoverished and politically isolated. In 1986, the government initiated a series of [economic and political reforms](/wiki/Doi_Moi) which began Vietnam's path towards integration into the world economy.[[2]](#cite_note-2) By 2000, it had established diplomatic relations with all nations. Since 2000, Vietnam's economic growth rate has been among the highest in the world,[[2]](#cite_note-2) and, in 2011, it had the highest [Global Growth Generators Index](/wiki/3G_(countries)) among 11 major economies.[[3]](#cite_note-3) Its successful economic reforms resulted in its joining the [World Trade Organization](/wiki/World_Trade_Organization) in 2007. It is also an historical member of the [Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie](/wiki/Organisation_Internationale_de_la_Francophonie). Vietnam remains one of the world's four remaining [one-party](/wiki/One-party_state) [socialist states officially espousing communism](/wiki/Socialist_state).

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## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) The name *Việt Nam* ([Template:IPA-vi](/wiki/Template:IPA-vi)) is a variation of [*Nam Việt*](/wiki/Nanyue) ([Template:Zh](/wiki/Template:Zh); literally *Southern Việt*), a name that can be traced back to the [Triệu Dynasty](/wiki/Triệu_Dynasty) of the 2nd century BC.[[4]](#cite_note-4) The word *Việt* originated as a shortened form of [Bách Việt](/wiki/Baiyue) ([Template:Zh](/wiki/Template:Zh)), a word applied to a group of peoples then living in southern China and Vietnam.<ref name=Yue-Hashimoto>[Template:Harvnb](/wiki/Template:Harvnb)</ref> The form "Vietnam" ([Template:Linktext](/wiki/Template:Linktext)) is first recorded in the 16th-century oracular poem [*Sấm Trạng Trình*](/wiki/Sấm_Trạng_Trình). The name has also been found on 12 [steles](/wiki/Stele) carved in the 16th and 17th centuries, including one at Bao Lam Pagoda in [Haiphong](/wiki/Haiphong) that dates to 1558.[[5]](#cite_note-5) Between 1804 and 1813, the name was used officially by Emperor [Gia Long](/wiki/Gia_Long).[Template:Efn](/wiki/Template:Efn) It was revived in the early 20th century by [Phan Bội Châu's](/wiki/Phan_Bội_Châu) [*History of the Loss of Vietnam*](/wiki/History_of_the_Loss_of_Vietnam), and later by the [Vietnamese Nationalist Party](/wiki/Việt_Nam_Quốc_Dân_Đảng).[[6]](#cite_note-6) The country was usually called Annam until 1945, when both the [imperial government](/wiki/Empire_of_Vietnam) in [Huế](/wiki/Huế) and the [Viet Minh](/wiki/Viet_Minh) government in Hanoi adopted *Việt Nam*.[[7]](#cite_note-7)

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

### Prehistory and ancient history[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|left|A](/wiki/File:Trong_dong_Dong_Son_Guimet.jpg) [Đông Sơn](/wiki/Đông_Sơn_drums) bronze drum, circa 800 BC Archaeological excavations have revealed the existence of humans in what is now Vietnam as early as the [Paleolithic](/wiki/Paleolithic) age. [*Homo erectus*](/wiki/Homo_erectus) fossils dating to around 500,000 BC have been found in caves in [Lạng Sơn](/wiki/Lạng_Sơn_Province) and [Nghệ An](/wiki/Nghệ_An_Province) provinces in northern Vietnam.[[8]](#cite_note-8) The oldest [*Homo sapiens*](/wiki/Homo_sapiens) fossils from mainland Southeast Asia are of [Middle Pleistocene](/wiki/Middle_Pleistocene) provenance, and include isolated tooth fragments from Tham Om and Hang Hum.[[9]](#cite_note-9) Teeth attributed to *Homo sapiens* from the [Late Pleistocene](/wiki/Late_Pleistocene) have also been found at Dong Can,<ref name=Cuong1986>Cuong, 1986.</ref> and from the Early [Holocene](/wiki/Holocene) at Mai Da Dieu,<ref name=Cuong1986/> Lang Gao[[10]](#cite_note-10) and Lang Cuom.[[11]](#cite_note-11) By about 1000 BC, the development of wet-[rice](/wiki/Rice) cultivation and [bronze](/wiki/Bronze) casting in the [Ma River](/wiki/Ma_River) and [Red River](/wiki/Red_River_(Vietnam)) floodplains led to the flourishing of the Đông Sơn culture, notable for its elaborate [bronze drums](/wiki/Đông_Sơn_drums). At this time, the early Vietnamese kingdoms of [Văn Lang](/wiki/Văn_Lang) and [Âu Lạc](/wiki/Âu_Lạc) appeared, and the culture's influence spread to other parts of [Southeast Asia](/wiki/Southeast_Asia), including [Maritime Southeast Asia](/wiki/Maritime_Southeast_Asia), throughout the first millennium BC.[[12]](#cite_note-12)[[13]](#cite_note-13)[[14]](#cite_note-14)

### Dynastic Vietnam[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

The [Hồng Bàng dynasty](/wiki/Hồng_Bàng_dynasty) of the [Hùng kings](/wiki/Hùng_kings) is considered the first Vietnamese state, known in Vietnamese as Văn Lang. In 257 BC, the last Hùng king was defeated by Thục Phán, who consolidated the [Lạc Việt](/wiki/Lạc_Việt) and [Âu Việt](/wiki/Âu_Việt) tribes to form the [Âu Lạc](/wiki/Âu_Lạc), proclaiming himself [An Dương Vương](/wiki/An_Dương_Vương). In 207 BC, a Chinese general named [Zhao Tuo](/wiki/Zhao_Tuo) defeated An Dương Vương and consolidated Âu Lạc into [Nanyue](/wiki/Nanyue). However, Nanyue was itself [incorporated into the empire](/wiki/Southward_expansion_of_the_Han_dynasty) of the Chinese [Han dynasty](/wiki/Han_dynasty) in 111 BC after the [Han–Nanyue War](/wiki/Han–Nanyue_War).

[thumb|190px|Map of Vietnam showing the conquest of the south (the *Nam tiến*), 1069–1757](/wiki/File:Vietnam_Expand1.gif) [Template:Legend](/wiki/Template:Legend) [Template:Legend](/wiki/Template:Legend) [Template:Legend](/wiki/Template:Legend) [Template:Legend](/wiki/Template:Legend) [Template:Legend](/wiki/Template:Legend)

For the next thousand years, what is now northern Vietnam remained mostly under [Chinese rule](/wiki/Chinese_domination_of_Vietnam).[[15]](#cite_note-15) Early independence movements, such as those of the [Trưng Sisters](/wiki/Trưng_Sisters) and [Lady Triệu](/wiki/Lady_Triệu), were only temporarily successful, though the region gained a longer period of independence as Vạn Xuân under the [Anterior Lý dynasty](/wiki/Anterior_Lý_dynasty) between AD 544 and 602.[[16]](#cite_note-16) By the early 10th century, Vietnam had gained autonomy, but not sovereignty, under the [Khúc family](/wiki/Khúc_family).

In AD 938, the Vietnamese lord [Ngô Quyền](/wiki/Ngô_Quyền) defeated the forces of the Chinese [Southern Han](/wiki/Southern_Han) state at [Bạch Đằng River](/wiki/Battle_of_Bạch_Đằng_(938)) and achieved full independence for Vietnam after a millennium of Chinese domination.[[17]](#cite_note-17) Renamed as Đại Việt (*Great Viet*), the nation enjoyed a golden era under the Lý and [Trần](/wiki/Trần_dynasty) dynasties. During the rule of the Trần Dynasty, Đại Việt repelled three [Mongol invasions](/wiki/Mongol_invasions_of_Vietnam).[[18]](#cite_note-18) Meanwhile, [Buddhism](/wiki/Buddhism_in_Vietnam) flourished and became the state religion.

Following the 1406–7 [Ming–Hồ War](/wiki/Ming–Hồ_War) which overthrew the [Hồ dynasty](/wiki/Hồ_dynasty), Vietnamese independence was [briefly interrupted](/wiki/Fourth_Chinese_domination_of_Vietnam) by the Chinese [Ming dynasty](/wiki/Ming_dynasty), but was restored by [Lê Lợi](/wiki/Lê_Lợi), the founder of the [Lê dynasty](/wiki/Lê_dynasty). The Vietnamese dynasties reached their zenith in the Lê dynasty of the 15th century, especially during the reign of Emperor [Lê Thánh Tông](/wiki/Lê_Thánh_Tông) (1460–1497). Between the 11th and 18th centuries, Vietnam expanded southward in a process known as [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang) ("[southward expansion](/wiki/History_of_Vietnam#Champa)"),[[19]](#cite_note-19) eventually conquering the kingdom of [Champa](/wiki/Champa) and part of the [Khmer Empire](/wiki/Khmer_Empire).[[20]](#cite_note-20)[[21]](#cite_note-21) From the 16th century onwards, civil strife and frequent political infighting engulfed much of Vietnam. First, the Chinese-supported [Mạc dynasty](/wiki/Mạc_dynasty) challenged the Lê dynasty's power. After the Mạc dynasty was defeated, the Lê dynasty was nominally reinstalled, but actual power was divided between the northern [Trịnh lords](/wiki/Trịnh_lords) and the southern [Nguyễn lords](/wiki/Nguyễn_lords), who engaged in a [civil war](/wiki/Trịnh–Nguyễn_War) for more than four decades before a truce was called in the 1670s. During this time, the Nguyễn expanded southern Vietnam into the [Mekong Delta](/wiki/Mekong_Delta), annexing the [Central Highlands](/wiki/Central_Highlands_(Vietnam)) and the Khmer lands in the Mekong Delta.

The division of the country ended a century later when the [Tây Sơn](/wiki/Tây_Sơn) brothers established a new dynasty. However, their rule did not last long, and they were defeated by the remnants of the Nguyễn lords, led by [Nguyễn Ánh](/wiki/Gia_Long) and aided by the French.[[22]](#cite_note-22) Nguyễn Ánh unified Vietnam, and established the [Nguyễn dynasty](/wiki/Nguyễn_dynasty), ruling under the name Gia Long.

### 1862–1945: French Indochina[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[thumb|French Indochina in 1913](/wiki/File:Indochine_française_(1913).jpg) [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Vietnam's independence was gradually [eroded by France](/wiki/French_colonial_empire) – aided by large Catholic militias – in a series of military conquests between 1859 and 1885. In 1862, the southern third of the country became the French colony of [Cochinchina](/wiki/Cochinchina). By 1884, the entire country had come under French rule and was formally integrated into the union of French Indochina in 1887. The French administration imposed significant political and cultural changes on Vietnamese society. A Western-style system of modern education was developed, and [Roman Catholicism](/wiki/Roman_Catholicism) was propagated widely. Most French settlers in Indochina were concentrated in Cochinchina, particularly in the region of [Saigon](/wiki/Saigon).[[23]](#cite_note-23) The royalist [Cần Vương movement](/wiki/Cần_Vương_movement) rebelled against French rule and was defeated in the 1890s after a decade of resistance. Guerrillas of the [Cần Vương movement](/wiki/Cần_Vương_movement) murdered around a third of Vietnam's Christian population during this period.[[24]](#cite_note-24) Developing a [plantation economy](/wiki/Plantation_economy) to promote the export of [tobacco](/wiki/Tobacco), [indigo](/wiki/Indigo_dye), [tea](/wiki/Tea) and [coffee](/wiki/Coffee), the French largely ignored increasing calls for Vietnamese self-government and civil rights. A nationalist political movement soon emerged, with leaders such as [Phan Bội Châu](/wiki/Phan_Bội_Châu), [Phan Chu Trinh](/wiki/Phan_Chu_Trinh), [Phan Đình Phùng](/wiki/Phan_Đình_Phùng), Emperor [Hàm Nghi](/wiki/Hàm_Nghi) and [Ho Chi Minh](/wiki/Ho_Chi_Minh) fighting or calling for independence. However, the 1930 [Yên Bái mutiny](/wiki/Yên_Bái_mutiny) of the [Việt Nam Quốc Dân Đảng](/wiki/Việt_Nam_Quốc_Dân_Đảng) was suppressed easily.[[25]](#cite_note-25) The French maintained full control of their colonies until World War II, when the [war in the Pacific](/wiki/Pacific_War) led to the [Japanese invasion of French Indochina](/wiki/Japanese_invasion_of_French_Indochina) in 1940. Afterwards, the Japanese Empire was allowed to station its troops in Vietnam while permitting the pro-[Vichy French](/wiki/Vichy_France) colonial administration to continue. Japan exploited Vietnam's natural resources to support its military campaigns, culminating in a [full-scale takeover of the country](/wiki/Japanese_coup_d'état_in_French_Indochina) in March 1945 and the [Vietnamese Famine of 1945](/wiki/Vietnamese_Famine_of_1945), which caused up to two million deaths.[[26]](#cite_note-26)

### 1946–54: First Indochina War[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) In 1941, the [Viet Minh](/wiki/Viet_Minh) – a [communist](/wiki/Communist) and nationalist liberation movement – emerged under the [Marxist–Leninist](/wiki/Marxist–Leninist) revolutionary [Ho Chi Minh](/wiki/Ho_Chi_Minh), who sought independence for Vietnam from France and the end of the Japanese occupation. Following the military defeat of Japan and the fall of its puppet Empire of Vietnam in August 1945, the Viet Minh occupied [Hanoi](/wiki/Hanoi) and proclaimed a provisional government, which asserted national independence on 2 September. In the same year, the [Provisional Government of the French Republic](/wiki/Provisional_Government_of_the_French_Republic) sent the [French Far East Expeditionary Corps](/wiki/French_Far_East_Expeditionary_Corps) to restore colonial rule, and the Viet Minh began a guerrilla campaign against the French in late 1946.[[27]](#cite_note-27) The resulting First Indochina War lasted until July 1954.[[28]](#cite_note-28) The defeat of French and [Vietnamese loyalists](/wiki/Vietnamese_National_Army) in the 1954 [Battle of Dien Bien Phu](/wiki/Battle_of_Dien_Bien_Phu) allowed Ho Chi Minh to negotiate a ceasefire from a favorable position at the subsequent [Geneva Conference](/wiki/Geneva_Conference_(1954)). The colonial administration was ended and French Indochina was dissolved under the Geneva Accords of 1954, which separated the loyalist forces from the communists at the [17th parallel north](/wiki/17th_parallel_north) with the [Vietnamese Demilitarized Zone](/wiki/Vietnamese_Demilitarized_Zone).[Template:Efn](/wiki/Template:Efn) Two states formed after the partition – Ho Chi Minh's Democratic Republic of Vietnam in [the north](/wiki/North_Vietnam) and Emperor [Bảo Đại's](/wiki/Bảo_Đại) [State of Vietnam](/wiki/State_of_Vietnam) in [the south](/wiki/South_Vietnam). A [300-day period of free movement](/wiki/Operation_Passage_to_Freedom) was permitted, during which almost a million northerners, mainly Catholics, moved south, fearing persecution by the communists.[[29]](#cite_note-29) The [partition of Vietnam](/wiki/Partition_of_Vietnam) was not intended to be permanent by the Geneva Accords, which stipulated that Vietnam would be reunited after elections in 1956.[[30]](#cite_note-30) However, in 1955, the State of Vietnam's Prime Minister, [Ngô Đình Diệm](/wiki/Ngô_Đình_Diệm), toppled Bảo Đại in a fraudulent referendum organised by his brother [Ngô Đình Nhu](/wiki/Ngô_Đình_Nhu), and proclaimed himself president of the [Republic of Vietnam](/wiki/Republic_of_Vietnam).[[31]](#cite_note-31)

### 1954–1975: Vietnam War[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|U.S. helicopter spraying chemical](/wiki/File:Defoliation_agent_spraying.jpg) [defoliants](/wiki/Defoliant) (probably [Agent Orange](/wiki/Agent_Orange)) over the [Mekong Delta](/wiki/Mekong_Delta), 1969 The pro-Hanoi [Viet Cong](/wiki/Viet_Cong) began a guerrilla campaign in the late 1950s to overthrow Diệm's government.[[32]](#cite_note-32) In the North, the communist government launched [a land reform](/wiki/Land_reform_in_North_Vietnam) program,[[33]](#cite_note-33) and executed between 50,000[[34]](#cite_note-34) and 172,000[[33]](#cite_note-33) people in campaigns against wealthy farmers and landowners, amid broader purges.[[33]](#cite_note-33)[[35]](#cite_note-35)[[36]](#cite_note-36)[[37]](#cite_note-37) In 1960 and 1962, the Soviet Union and North Vietnam signed treaties providing for further Soviet military support. In the South, Diệm went about crushing political and religious opposition, imprisoning or executing tens of thousands.[[38]](#cite_note-38)[[39]](#cite_note-39) In 1963, Buddhist discontent with Diệm's regime erupted into [mass demonstrations](/wiki/Buddhist_crisis), leading to a violent government crackdown.[[40]](#cite_note-40) This led to the [collapse of Diệm's relationship with the United States](/wiki/Cable_243), and ultimately to the [1963 coup](/wiki/1963_South_Vietnamese_coup) in which [Diệm and Nhu were assassinated](/wiki/Arrest_and_assassination_of_Ngô_Đình_Diệm).[[41]](#cite_note-41) The Diệm era was followed by more than a dozen successive military governments, before the pairing of Air Marshal [Nguyễn Cao Kỳ](/wiki/Nguyễn_Cao_Kỳ) and General [Nguyễn Văn Thiệu](/wiki/Nguyễn_Văn_Thiệu) took control in mid-1965. Thieu gradually outmaneuvered Ky and cemented his grip on power in fraudulent elections in 1967 and 1971.[[42]](#cite_note-42) Under this political instability, the communists began to gain ground.

To support South Vietnam's struggle against the communist insurgency, the United States began increasing its contribution of military advisers, using the 1964 [Tonkin Gulf incident](/wiki/Tonkin_Gulf_incident) as a pretext for such intervention. US forces became involved in ground combat operations in 1965, and at their peak they numbered more than 500,000.[[43]](#cite_note-43)[[44]](#cite_note-44) The US also engaged in [a sustained aerial bombing campaign](/wiki/Operation_Rolling_Thunder). Meanwhile, China and the Soviet Union provided North Vietnam with significant material aid and 15,000 combat advisers.[[45]](#cite_note-45)[[46]](#cite_note-46) Communist forces supplying the Viet Cong carried supplies along the [Ho Chi Minh trail](/wiki/Ho_Chi_Minh_trail), which passed through [Laos](/wiki/Laos).[[47]](#cite_note-47) The communists attacked South Vietnamese targets during the 1968 [Tet Offensive](/wiki/Tet_Offensive). Although the campaign failed militarily, it shocked the American establishment, and turned US public opinion against the war.[[48]](#cite_note-48)[[49]](#cite_note-49) Facing an increasing casualty count, rising domestic opposition to the war, and growing international condemnation, the US began [withdrawing from ground combat roles](/wiki/Nixon_Doctrine) in the early 1970s. This process also entailed an unsuccessful effort to [strengthen and stabilize South Vietnam](/wiki/Vietnamization).[[50]](#cite_note-50) Following the [Paris Peace Accords](/wiki/Paris_Peace_Accords) of 27 January 1973, all American combat troops were withdrawn by 29 March 1973. In December 1974, North Vietnam [captured the province of Phước Long](/wiki/Battle_of_Phước_Long) and started a [full-scale offensive](/wiki/1975_Spring_Offensive), culminating in the [Fall of Saigon](/wiki/Fall_of_Saigon) on 30 April 1975.[[51]](#cite_note-51) South Vietnam was briefly ruled by a [provisional government](/wiki/Provisional_Revolutionary_Government_of_the_Republic_of_South_Vietnam) while under military occupation by North Vietnam. On 2 July 1976, North and South Vietnam were merged to form the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.[[52]](#cite_note-52) The war left Vietnam devastated, with the total death toll standing at between 800,000 and 3.1 million.[[26]](#cite_note-26)[[53]](#cite_note-53)[[54]](#cite_note-54)

### 1976–present: reunification and reforms[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Saigon_Trade_Center_21112013.JPG)[Saigon Trade Center](/wiki/Saigon_Trade_Center), one of the first skyscrapers to be built in [Ho Chi Minh City](/wiki/Ho_Chi_Minh_City) after the [*Doi Moi*](/wiki/Doi_Moi) reforms In the aftermath of the war, under [Lê Duẩn's](/wiki/Lê_Duẩn) administration, the government embarked on a mass campaign of collectivization of farms and factories.[[55]](#cite_note-55) This caused economic chaos and resulted in triple-digit inflation, while national reconstruction efforts progressed slowly. At least one million South Vietnamese were sent to [reeducation camps](/wiki/Reeducation_camp), with an estimated 165,000 prisoners dying.[[56]](#cite_note-56)[[57]](#cite_note-57) Between 100,000[[56]](#cite_note-56)[[58]](#cite_note-58)[[59]](#cite_note-59) and 200,000[[60]](#cite_note-60) South Vietnamese were executed in extrajudicial killings;[[61]](#cite_note-61) another 50,000 died performing hard labor in "New Economic Zones".[[56]](#cite_note-56)[[62]](#cite_note-62) In the late 1970s and early 1980s, millions of people [fled the country](/wiki/Vietnamese_boat_people) in crudely built boats, creating an [international humanitarian crisis](/wiki/Indochina_refugee_crisis);[[63]](#cite_note-63)[[64]](#cite_note-64) hundreds of thousands died at sea.[[65]](#cite_note-65) In 1978, the Vietnamese military [invaded Cambodia](/wiki/Cambodian–Vietnamese_War) to remove from power the [Khmer Rouge](/wiki/Khmer_Rouge), who had been attacking Vietnamese border villages.[[66]](#cite_note-66) Vietnam was victorious, installing a government in Cambodia which ruled until 1989.[[67]](#cite_note-67) This action worsened relations with the Chinese, who launched a [brief incursion into northern Vietnam](/wiki/Sino-Vietnamese_War) in 1979.[[68]](#cite_note-68) This conflict caused Vietnam to rely even more heavily on Soviet economic and military aid.

At the [Sixth National Congress](/wiki/6th_National_Congress_of_the_Communist_Party_of_Vietnam) of the Communist Party of Vietnam in December 1986, reformist politicians replaced the "old guard" government with new leadership.[[69]](#cite_note-69)[[70]](#cite_note-70) The reformers were led by 71-year-old [Nguyễn Văn Linh](/wiki/Nguyễn_Văn_Linh), who became the party's new general secretary.[[69]](#cite_note-69)[[70]](#cite_note-70) Linh and the reformers implemented a series of [free-market](/wiki/Free-market) reforms – known as [*Template:Lang*](/wiki/Template:Lang) ("Renovation") – which carefully managed the transition from a [planned economy](/wiki/Planned_economy) to a "[socialist-oriented market economy](/wiki/Socialist-oriented_market_economy)".[[71]](#cite_note-71)[[72]](#cite_note-72) Though the authority of the state remained unchallenged under *Đổi Mới*, the government encouraged private ownership of farms and factories, economic deregulation and foreign investment, while maintaining control over strategic industries.[[72]](#cite_note-72) The Vietnamese economy subsequently achieved strong growth in agricultural and industrial production, construction, exports and foreign investment. However, these reforms have also caused a rise in income inequality and gender disparities.[[73]](#cite_note-73)[[74]](#cite_note-74)[[75]](#cite_note-75)

## Government and politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

[thumb|The](/wiki/File:Presidential_Palace_Hanoi_388606781_40a24f0ceb.jpg) [Presidential Palace](/wiki/Presidential_Palace,_Hanoi) in [Hanoi](/wiki/Hanoi), formerly the Palace of The Governor-General of [French Indochina](/wiki/French_Indochina). [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Ho_Chi_Minh_Mausoleum_2006.jpg) [Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum](/wiki/Ho_Chi_Minh_Mausoleum) in [Hanoi](/wiki/Hanoi). The Socialist Republic of Vietnam, along with [China](/wiki/China), [Cuba](/wiki/Cuba), and [Laos](/wiki/Laos), is one of the world's four remaining [one-party](/wiki/One-party_state) [socialist states officially espousing communism](/wiki/Socialist_state). Its current [state constitution](/wiki/Constitution_of_Vietnam), 2013 Constitution, asserts the central role of the [Communist Party of Vietnam](/wiki/Communist_Party_of_Vietnam) in all organs of government, politics and society. The [General Secretary](/wiki/General_Secretary_of_the_Communist_Party_of_Vietnam) of the Communist Party performs numerous key administrative and executive functions, controlling the party's national organization and state appointments, as well as setting policy. Only political organizations affiliated with or endorsed by the Communist Party are permitted to contest elections in Vietnam. These include the [Vietnamese Fatherland Front](/wiki/Vietnamese_Fatherland_Front) and worker and [trade unionist](/wiki/Trade_union) parties. Although the state remains officially committed to [socialism](/wiki/Socialism) as its defining creed, its economic policies have grown increasingly capitalist,[[76]](#cite_note-76) with [*The Economist*](/wiki/The_Economist) characterizing its leadership as "ardently capitalist communists".[[77]](#cite_note-77)

### Legislature[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

The [National Assembly of Vietnam](/wiki/National_Assembly_of_Vietnam) is the [unicameral](/wiki/Unicameral) [legislature](/wiki/Legislature) of the state, composed of 498 members. Headed by a [Chairman](/wiki/List_of_Chairmen_of_the_Standing_Committee_of_the_National_Assembly_of_Vietnam), it is superior to both the executive and judicial branches, with all government ministers being appointed from members of the National Assembly.

### Executive[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[thumb|Vietnamese President](/wiki/File:Парад_в_честь_70-летия_Великой_Победы_-_18.jpg) [Trương Tấn Sang](/wiki/Trương_Tấn_Sang) with his first lady during the [Moscow Victory Day Parade](/wiki/2015_Moscow_Victory_Day_Parade), 9 May 2015 The [President of Vietnam](/wiki/President_of_Vietnam) is the titular [head of state](/wiki/Head_of_state) and the nominal [commander-in-chief](/wiki/Commander-in-chief) of the military, serving as the Chairman of the Council of Supreme Defense and Security. The [Prime Minister of Vietnam](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Vietnam) is the [head of government](/wiki/Head_of_government), presiding over a council of ministers composed of three deputy prime ministers and the heads of 26 ministries and commissions.

### Judiciary[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

The [Supreme People's Court of Vietnam](/wiki/Supreme_People's_Court_of_Vietnam), headed by a Chief Justice, is the country's highest [court of appeal](/wiki/Court_of_appeal), though it is also answerable to the National Assembly. Beneath the Supreme People's Court stand the [provincial municipal courts](/wiki/Provincial_Municipal_Courts_of_Vietnam) and numerous [local courts](/wiki/Local_Courts_of_Vietnam). [Military courts](/wiki/Military_Courts_of_Vietnam) possess special jurisdiction in matters of national security. Vietnam [maintains the death penalty](/wiki/Capital_punishment_in_Vietnam) for numerous offences; as of February 2014, there are around 700 inmates on [death row](/wiki/Death_row) in Vietnam.[[78]](#cite_note-78)

### Military[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

The [Vietnam People's Armed Forces](/wiki/Vietnam_People's_Armed_Forces) consists of the [Vietnam People's Army](/wiki/Vietnam_People's_Army), the [Vietnam People's Public Security](/wiki/People's_Police_of_Vietnam) and the [Vietnam Civil Defense Force](/wiki/Vietnam_Civil_Defense_Force). The Vietnam People's Army (VPA) is the official name for the active military services of Vietnam, and is subdivided into the [Vietnam People's Ground Forces](/wiki/Vietnam_People's_Ground_Forces), the [Vietnam People's Navy](/wiki/Vietnam_People's_Navy), the [Vietnam People's Air Force](/wiki/Vietnam_People's_Air_Force), the [Vietnam Border Defense Force](/wiki/Vietnam_Border_Defense_Force) and the [Vietnam Coast Guard](/wiki/Vietnam_Coast_Guard). The VPA has an active manpower of around 450,000, but its total strength, including paramilitary forces, may be as high as 5,000,000.[[79]](#cite_note-79) In 2011, Vietnam's [military expenditure](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_military_expenditures) totalled approximately US$2.48 billion, equivalent to around 2.5% of its 2010 GDP.[[80]](#cite_note-80)

### International relations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|Vietnamese troops on one of the disputed](/wiki/File:Quân_đội_duyệt_binh_ở_Trường_Sa.JPG) [Spratly Islands](/wiki/Spratly_Islands) in 2009.

Throughout its history, Vietnam's key foreign relationship has been with its largest neighbour and one-time imperial master, China. Vietnam's sovereign principles and insistence on cultural independence have been laid down in numerous documents over the centuries, such as the 11th-century patriotic poem [*Nam quốc sơn hà*](/wiki/Nam_quốc_sơn_hà) and the 1428 [proclamation of independence](/wiki/Declaration_of_independence) [*Bình Ngô đại cáo*](/wiki/Bình_Ngô_đại_cáo). Though [China](/wiki/China) and Vietnam are now formally at peace, [significant territorial tensions](/wiki/Spratly_Islands#Military_conflict_and_diplomatic_dialogues) remain between the two countries.[[81]](#cite_note-81) Currently, the formal mission statement of Vietnamese foreign policy is to: "Implement consistently the foreign policy line of independence, self-reliance, peace, cooperation and development; the foreign policy of openness and diversification and multi-lateralization of international relations. Proactively and actively engage in international economic integration while expanding international cooperation in other fields."<ref name=HereWe/> Vietnam furthermore declares itself to be "a friend and reliable partner of all countries in the international community, actively taking part in international and regional cooperation processes."<ref name=HereWe>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

By December 2007, Vietnam had established diplomatic relations with 172 countries, including the United States, which normalized relations in 1995.[[82]](#cite_note-82)[[83]](#cite_note-83) Vietnam holds membership of 63 international organizations, including the [United Nations](/wiki/United_Nations), [ASEAN](/wiki/ASEAN), [NAM](/wiki/Non-Aligned_Movement), [Francophonie](/wiki/La_Francophonie) and [WTO](/wiki/WTO). It also maintains relations with over 650 non-government organizations.[[84]](#cite_note-84) In May 2016, [President Obama](/wiki/President_Obama) further normalized relations with Vietnam after he announced the lifting of an arms embargo on sales of lethal arms to Vietnam.[[85]](#cite_note-85)

### Administrative subdivisions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Vietnam is divided into 58 [provinces](/wiki/Province) (Vietnamese: *tỉnh*, from the Chinese [省](/wiki/Wikt:省), *shěng*). There are also five [municipalities](/wiki/Municipality) (*thành phố trực thuộc trung ương*), which are administratively on the same level as provinces. [Template:Vietnam Provinces Image Map](/wiki/Template:Vietnam_Provinces_Image_Map)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [**Red River Delta**](/wiki/Red_River_Delta)  [Bắc Ninh](/wiki/Bắc_Ninh_Province) [Hà Nam](/wiki/Hà_Nam_Province) [Hải Dương](/wiki/Hải_Dương_Province) [Hưng Yên](/wiki/Hưng_Yên_Province) [Nam Định](/wiki/Nam_Định_Province) [Ninh Bình](/wiki/Ninh_Bình_Province) [Thái Bình](/wiki/Thái_Bình_Province) [Vĩnh Phúc](/wiki/Vĩnh_Phúc_Province) [Hanoi](/wiki/Hanoi) (municipality) [Hai Phong](/wiki/Hai_Phong) (municipality) | [**Northeast**](/wiki/Northeast_(Vietnam))  [Bắc Giang](/wiki/Bắc_Giang_Province) [Bắc Kạn](/wiki/Bắc_Kạn_Province) [Cao Bằng](/wiki/Cao_Bằng_Province) [Hà Giang](/wiki/Hà_Giang_Province) [Lạng Sơn](/wiki/Lạng_Sơn_Province) [Lào Cai](/wiki/Lào_Cai_Province) [Phú Thọ](/wiki/Phú_Thọ_Province) [Quảng Ninh](/wiki/Quảng_Ninh_Province) [Thái Nguyên](/wiki/Thái_Nguyên_Province) [Tuyên Quang](/wiki/Tuyên_Quang_Province) [Yên Bái](/wiki/Yên_Bái_Province) | [**Northwest**](/wiki/Northwest_(Vietnam))  [Điện Biên](/wiki/Điện_Biên_Province) [Hòa Bình](/wiki/Hòa_Bình_Province) [Lai Châu](/wiki/Lai_Châu_Province) [Sơn La](/wiki/Sơn_La_Province) | [**North Central Coast**](/wiki/North_Central_Coast)  [Hà Tĩnh](/wiki/Hà_Tĩnh_Province) [Nghệ An](/wiki/Nghệ_An_Province) [Quảng Bình](/wiki/Quảng_Bình_Province) [Quảng Trị](/wiki/Quảng_Trị_Province) [Thanh Hóa](/wiki/Thanh_Hóa_Province) [Thừa Thiên–Huế](/wiki/Thừa_Thiên–Huế_Province) |
| [**Central Highlands**](/wiki/Central_Highlands_(Vietnam))  [Đắk Lắk](/wiki/Đắk_Lắk_Province) [Đắk Nông](/wiki/Đắk_Nông_Province) [Gia Lai](/wiki/Gia_Lai_Province) [Kon Tum](/wiki/Kon_Tum_Province) [Lâm Đồng](/wiki/Lâm_Đồng_Province) | [**South Central Coast**](/wiki/South_Central_Coast)  [Bình Định](/wiki/Bình_Định_Province) [Bình Thuận](/wiki/Bình_Thuận_Province) [Khánh Hòa](/wiki/Khánh_Hòa_Province) [Ninh Thuận](/wiki/Ninh_Thuận_Province) [Phú Yên](/wiki/Phú_Yên_Province) [Quảng Nam](/wiki/Quảng_Nam_Province) [Quảng Ngãi](/wiki/Quảng_Ngãi_Province) [Da Nang](/wiki/Da_Nang) (municipality) | [**Southeast**](/wiki/Southeast_(Vietnam))  [Bà Rịa–Vũng Tàu](/wiki/Bà_Rịa–Vũng_Tàu_Province) [Bình Dương](/wiki/Bình_Dương_Province) [Bình Phước](/wiki/Bình_Phước_Province) [Đồng Nai](/wiki/Đồng_Nai_Province) [Tây Ninh](/wiki/Tây_Ninh_Province) [Ho Chi Minh City](/wiki/Ho_Chi_Minh_City) (municipality) | [**Mekong Delta**](/wiki/Mekong_Delta)  [An Giang](/wiki/An_Giang_Province) [Bạc Liêu](/wiki/Bạc_Liêu_Province) [Bến Tre](/wiki/Bến_Tre_Province) [Cà Mau](/wiki/Cà_Mau_Province) [Đồng Tháp](/wiki/Đồng_Tháp_Province) [Hậu Giang](/wiki/Hậu_Giang_Province) [Kiên Giang](/wiki/Kiên_Giang_Province) [Long An](/wiki/Long_An_Province) [Sóc Trăng](/wiki/Sóc_Trăng_Province) [Tiền Giang](/wiki/Tiền_Giang_Province) [Trà Vinh](/wiki/Trà_Vinh_Province) [Vĩnh Long](/wiki/Vĩnh_Long_Province) [Cần Thơ](/wiki/Cần_Thơ) (municipality) |

The provinces are subdivided into [provincial municipalities](/wiki/Provincial_city_(Vietnam)) (*thành phố trực thuộc tỉnh*), [townships](/wiki/Township) (*thị xã*) and [counties](/wiki/County) (*huyện*), which are in turn subdivided into towns (*thị trấn*) or [communes](/wiki/Commune-level_subdivisions_(Vietnam)) (*xã*). The centrally controlled municipalities are subdivided into [districts](/wiki/District) (*quận*) and counties, which are further subdivided into [wards](/wiki/Ward_(country_subdivision)) (*phường*).

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumbnail|right|Topographic map of Vietnam.](/wiki/File:Vietnam_Topography.png) [thumb|Vietnam map of Köppen climate classification.](/wiki/File:Vietnam_map_of_Köppen_climate_classification.svg) Vietnam is located on the eastern Indochina Peninsula between the latitudes [8°](/wiki/8th_parallel_north) and [24°N](/wiki/24th_parallel_north), and the longitudes [102°](/wiki/102nd_meridian_east) and [110°E](/wiki/110th_meridian_east). It covers a total area of approximately [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert),<ref name=IndexMundi2011/> making it almost the size of [Germany](/wiki/Germany). The combined length of the country's land boundaries is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), and its coastline is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) long.<ref name=IndexMundi2011/> At its narrowest point in the central [Quảng Bình Province](/wiki/Quảng_Bình_Province), the country is as little as [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) across, though it widens to around [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in the north. Vietnam's land is mostly hilly and densely forested, with level land covering no more than 20%. Mountains account for 40% of the country's land area, and tropical forests cover around 42%.

The northern part of the country consists mostly of highlands and the [Red River Delta](/wiki/Red_River_Delta). [Phan Xi Păng](/wiki/Fan_Si_Pan), located in [Lào Cai Province](/wiki/Lào_Cai_Province), is the highest mountain in Vietnam, standing [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) high. Southern Vietnam is divided into coastal lowlands, the mountains of the [Annamite Range](/wiki/Annamite_Range), and extensive forests. Comprising five relatively flat plateaus of basalt soil, the highlands account for 16% of the country's arable land and 22% of its total forested land. The soil in much of southern Vietnam is relatively poor in nutrients.

The Red River Delta, a flat, roughly triangular region covering [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert),[[86]](#cite_note-86) is smaller but more intensely developed and more densely populated than the [Mekong River Delta](/wiki/Mekong_River_Delta). Once an inlet of the [Gulf of Tonkin](/wiki/Gulf_of_Tonkin), it has been filled in over the millennia by riverine [alluvial deposits](/wiki/Alluvial_deposits). The delta, covering about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), is a low-level plain no more than [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) [above sea level](/wiki/Above_mean_sea_level) at any point. It is criss-crossed by a maze of rivers and canals, which carry so much sediment that the delta advances [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) into the sea every year.

[thumb|centre|750px|A panorama of Vietnam's](/wiki/File:HaLongBayBIG.jpg) [Hạ Long Bay](/wiki/Hạ_Long_Bay), a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](/wiki/UNESCO_World_Heritage_Site).

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Mai_Chau_-_Haus_im_Reisfeld,_Palmen.jpg)[Mai Châu](/wiki/Mai_Châu_District) village Because of differences in latitude and the marked variety in topographical relief, the climate tends to vary considerably from place to place. During the winter or dry season, extending roughly from November to April, the [monsoon](/wiki/Monsoon) winds usually blow from the northeast along the Chinese coast and across the [Gulf of Tonkin](/wiki/Gulf_of_Tonkin), picking up considerable moisture. Consequently, the winter season in most parts of the country is dry only by comparison with the rainy or summer season. The average annual temperature is generally higher in the plains than in the mountains, and higher in the south than in the north. Temperatures vary less in the southern plains around Ho Chi Minh City and the Mekong Delta, ranging between [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) over the course of the year. Seasonal variations in the mountains and plateaus and in the north are much more dramatic, with temperatures varying from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in December and January to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in July and August.

### Ecology and biodiversity[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) Vietnam has two [World Natural Heritage Sites](/wiki/World_Natural_Heritage_Site) – [Hạ Long Bay](/wiki/Hạ_Long_Bay) and [Phong Nha-Kẻ Bàng National Park](/wiki/Phong_Nha-Kẻ_Bàng_National_Park) – and six [biosphere reserves](/wiki/World_Network_of_Biosphere_Reserves), including [Cần Giờ Mangrove Forest](/wiki/Cần_Giờ_Mangrove_Forest), [Cát Tiên](/wiki/Cát_Tiên_National_Park), [Cát Bà](/wiki/Cát_Bà_National_Park), [Kiên Giang](/wiki/U_Minh_Thượng_National_Park), the [Red River Delta](/wiki/Red_River_Delta), and [Western Nghệ An](/wiki/Western_Nghệ_An).

[thumb|The](/wiki/File:Pseudoryx_nghetinhensis.PNG) [saola](/wiki/Saola), one of the world's rarest mammals, is native to Vietnam. Vietnam lies in the [Indomalaya ecozone](/wiki/Indomalaya_ecozone). According to the 2005 National Environmental Present Condition Report.<ref name=Repeated>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Vietnam is one of twenty-five countries considered to possess a uniquely high level of [biodiversity](/wiki/Biodiversity). It is ranked 16th worldwide in biological diversity, being home to approximately 16% of the world's species. 15,986 species of [flora](/wiki/Flora) have been identified in the country, of which 10% are endemic, while Vietnam's [fauna](/wiki/Fauna) include 307 [nematode](/wiki/Nematode) species, 200 [oligochaeta](/wiki/Oligochaeta), 145 [acarina](/wiki/Acarina), 113 [springtails](/wiki/Springtail), 7,750 insects, 260 reptiles, 120 amphibians, 840 birds and 310 mammals, of which 100 birds and 78 mammals are endemic.<ref name=Repeated/>

Vietnam is furthermore home to 1,438 species of freshwater [microalgae](/wiki/Microalgae), constituting 9.6% of all microalgae species, as well as 794 aquatic [invertebrates](/wiki/Invertebrate) and 2,458 species of sea fish.<ref name=Repeated/> In recent years, 13 [genera](/wiki/Genera), 222 species, and 30 [taxa](/wiki/Taxa) of flora have been newly described in Vietnam.<ref name=Repeated/> Six new mammal species, including the [saola](/wiki/Saola), [giant muntjac](/wiki/Giant_muntjac) and [Tonkin snub-nosed monkey](/wiki/Tonkin_snub-nosed_monkey) have also been discovered, along with one new bird species, the endangered [Edwards's pheasant](/wiki/Edwards's_pheasant).[[87]](#cite_note-87) In the late 1980s, a small population of [Javan rhinoceros](/wiki/Javan_rhinoceros) was found in Cát Tiên National Park. However, the last individual of the species in Vietnam was reportedly shot in 2010.[[88]](#cite_note-88) In agricultural [genetic diversity](/wiki/Genetic_diversity), Vietnam is one of the world's twelve original [cultivar](/wiki/Cultivar) centers. The Vietnam National Cultivar Gene Bank preserves 12,300 cultivars of 115 species.<ref name=Repeated/> The Vietnamese government spent US$49.07 million on the preservation of biodiversity in 2004 alone, and has established 126 conservation areas, including 28 [national parks](/wiki/List_of_national_parks_of_Vietnam).<ref name=Repeated/> [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|350px|A proportional representation of Vietnamese exports.](/wiki/File:Viet_Nam_Export_Treemap.png) [thumb|Paddy fields in](/wiki/File:Rice_fields_near_Sapa,_Viêt_Nam.jpg) [Sa Pa](/wiki/Sa_Pa). [thumb|Hanoi's](/wiki/File:LANDMARK72.jpg) [Keangnam Hanoi Landmark Tower](/wiki/Keangnam_Hanoi_Landmark_Tower), the tallest building in Vietnam. In 2012, Vietnam's [nominal GDP](/wiki/Nominal_GDP) reached US$138 billion, with a nominal [GDP per capita](/wiki/GDP_per_capita) of $1,527.<ref name=imf2/> According to a December 2005 forecast by [Goldman Sachs](/wiki/Goldman_Sachs), the Vietnamese economy will become the [world's 21st-largest by 2025](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_past_and_future_GDP_(nominal)), with an estimated nominal GDP of $436 billion and a nominal GDP per capita of $4,357.[[89]](#cite_note-89)According to a 2008 forecast by [PricewaterhouseCoopers](/wiki/PricewaterhouseCoopers), Vietnam may be the fastest-growing of the world's emerging economies by 2025, with a potential growth rate of almost 10% per annum in real dollar terms.[[90]](#cite_note-90) In 2012, [HSBC](/wiki/HSBC) predicted that Vietnam's total GDP would surpass those of Norway, [Singapore](/wiki/Singapore) and Portugal by 2050.[[91]](#cite_note-91) Vietnam has been for much of its history a predominantly agricultural civilization based on [wet rice](/wiki/Wet_rice) cultivation. There is also an industry for [bauxite mining in Vietnam](/wiki/Bauxite_mining_in_Vietnam), an important material for the production of [aluminum](/wiki/Aluminum). The [Vietnamese economy](/wiki/Economy_of_Vietnam) is shaped primarily by the [Vietnamese Communist Party](/wiki/Vietnamese_Communist_Party) in [Five Year Plans](/wiki/Five-Year_Plans_of_Vietnam) made through the plenary sessions of the Central Committee and national congresses.

The [collectivization](/wiki/Collectivization) of farms, factories and economic capital is a part of this central planning, with millions of people working in government programs. Vietnam's economy has been plagued with inefficiency [and corruption in state programs](/wiki/Corruption_in_Vietnam), poor quality and underproduction, and restrictions on economic activity. It also suffered from the post-war trade [embargo](/wiki/Embargo) instituted by the United States and most of Europe. These problems were compounded by the erosion of the [Soviet bloc](/wiki/Soviet_bloc), which included Vietnam's main trading partners, in the late 1980s.

In 1986, the [Sixth National Congress](/wiki/6th_National_Congress_of_the_Communist_Party_of_Vietnam) of the Communist Party introduced [socialist-oriented market](/wiki/Socialist-oriented_market_economy) economic reforms as part of the [*Đổi Mới*](/wiki/Đổi_Mới) reform program. Private ownership was encouraged in industries, commerce and agriculture.[[92]](#cite_note-92)Thanks largely to these reforms, Vietnam achieved around 8% annual [GDP](/wiki/Gross_domestic_product) growth between 1990 and 1997, and the economy continued to grow at an annual rate of around 7% from 2000 to 2005, making Vietnam one of the world's fastest growing economies. Growth remained strong even in the face of the [late-2000s global recession](/wiki/Late-2000s_global_recession), holding at 6.8% in 2010, but Vietnam's year-on-year inflation rate hit 11.8% in December 2010, according to a GSO estimate. The [Vietnamese dong](/wiki/Vietnamese_dong) was devalued three times in 2010 alone.[[93]](#cite_note-93) Manufacturing, [information technology](/wiki/Information_technology) and high-tech industries now form a large and fast-growing part of the national economy. Though Vietnam is a relative newcomer to the [oil industry](/wiki/Oil_industry), it is currently the third-largest oil producer in Southeast Asia, with a total 2011 output of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[94]](#cite_note-94) In 2010, Vietnam was ranked as the 8th largest crude [petroleum](/wiki/Petroleum) producers in the Asia and Pacific region.[[95]](#cite_note-95) [Like its Chinese neighbours](/wiki/Five-year_plans_of_China), Vietnam continues to make use of centrally planned economic five-year plans.

Deep poverty, defined as the percentage of the population living on less than $1 per day, has declined significantly in Vietnam, and the relative poverty rate is now less than that of China, India, and the [Philippines](/wiki/Philippines).[[96]](#cite_note-96) This decline in the poverty rate can be attributed to [equitable economic policies](/wiki/Equity_(economics)) aimed at improving [living standards](/wiki/Living_standards) and preventing the rise of [inequality](/wiki/Economic_inequality); these policies have included egalitarian land distribution during the initial stages of the *Đổi Mới* program, investment in poorer remote areas, and subsidising of education and healthcare.<ref name=ODI1/> According to the IMF, the unemployment rate in Vietnam stood at 4.46% in 2012.<ref name=imf2/>

### Trade[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

Since the early 2000s, Vietnam has applied sequenced trade liberalisation, a two-track approach opening some sectors of the economy to international markets while protecting others.<ref name=ODI1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=ODI3>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> In July 2006, Vietnam updated its [intellectual property](/wiki/Intellectual_property) legislation to comply with [TRIPS](/wiki/TRIPS), and it became a member of the [WTO](/wiki/World_Trade_Organization) on 11 January 2007. Vietnam is now one of Asia's most open economies: two-way trade was valued at around 160% of GDP in 2006, more than twice the contemporary ratio for China and over four times the ratio for India.[[97]](#cite_note-97) Vietnam's chief trading partners include China, Japan, Australia, the [ASEAN](/wiki/Association_of_Southeast_Asian_Nations) countries, the United States and Western Europe.

Vietnam's Customs office reported in July 2013 that the total value of international merchandise trade for the first half of 2013 was US$124 billion, which was 15.7% higher than the same period in 2012. Mobile phones and their parts were both imported and exported in large numbers, while in the natural resources market, crude oil was a top-ranking export and high levels of iron and steel were imported during this period. The U.S. was the country that purchased the highest amount of Vietnam's exports, while Chinese goods were the most popular Vietnamese import.[[98]](#cite_note-98) As a result of several [land reform](/wiki/Land_reform) measures, Vietnam has become a major exporter of agricultural products. It is now the world's largest producer of [cashew](/wiki/Cashew) nuts, with a one-third global share; the largest producer of [black pepper](/wiki/Black_pepper), accounting for one-third of the world's market; and the second-largest [rice](/wiki/Rice) exporter in the world, after [Thailand](/wiki/Thailand). Vietnam is the world's second largest exporter of coffee.[[99]](#cite_note-99)Vietnam has the highest proportion of land use for [permanent crops](/wiki/Permanent_crop) – 6.93% – of any nation in the [Greater Mekong Subregion](/wiki/Greater_Mekong_Subregion). Other primary exports include [tea](/wiki/Tea), [rubber](/wiki/Rubber), and fishery products. However, agriculture's share of Vietnam's GDP has fallen in recent decades, declining from 42% in 1989 to 20% in 2006, as production in other sectors of the economy has risen.

In 2014 Vietnam negotiated a free trade agreement with the [European Union](/wiki/European_Union), giving the country access to the EU's [Generalized System of Preferences](/wiki/Generalized_System_of_Preferences). This provides preferential access to European markets for developing countries through reduced tariffs.[[100]](#cite_note-100)

### Science and technology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[thumb|The](/wiki/File:TOPIO_3.jpg) [TOPIO 3.0](/wiki/TOPIO) humanoid robot. Vietnamese scholars developed many academic fields during the dynastic era, most notably [social sciences](/wiki/Social_science) and the humanities. Vietnam has a millennium-deep legacy of analytical histories, such as the [*Đại Việt sử ký toàn thư*](/wiki/Đại_Việt_sử_ký_toàn_thư) of Ngô Sĩ Liên. Vietnamese monks led by the abdicated Emperor [Trần Nhân Tông](/wiki/Trần_Nhân_Tông) developed the Trúc Lâm Zen branch of philosophy in the 13th century. [Arithmetics](/wiki/Arithmetic) and [geometry](/wiki/Geometry) have been widely taught in Vietnam since the 15th century, using the textbook *Đại thành toán pháp* by Lương Thế Vinh as a basis. Lương Thế Vinh introduced Vietnam to the notion of [zero](/wiki/0_(number)), while Mạc Hiển Tích used the term *số ẩn* (en: "unknown/secret/hidden number") to refer to [negative numbers](/wiki/Negative_number). Vietnamese scholars furthermore produced numerous [encyclopedias](/wiki/Encyclopedia), such as [Lê Quý Đôn's](/wiki/Lê_Quý_Đôn) *Vân đài loại ngữ*.

In recent times, Vietnamese scientists have made many significant contributions in various fields of study, most notably in [mathematics](/wiki/Mathematics). [Hoàng Tụy](/wiki/Hoang_Tuy) pioneered the [applied mathematics](/wiki/Applied_mathematics) field of [global optimization](/wiki/Global_optimization) in the 20th century, while [Ngô Bảo Châu](/wiki/Ngô_Bảo_Châu) won the 2010 [Fields Medal](/wiki/Fields_Medal) for his proof of [fundamental lemma in the theory of automorphic forms](/wiki/Fundamental_lemma_(Langlands_program)). Vietnam is currently working to develop an indigenous [space program](/wiki/Space_program), and plans to construct the US$600 million Vietnam Space Center by 2018.[[101]](#cite_note-101) Vietnam has also made significant advances in the development of [robots](/wiki/Robot), such as the [TOPIO](/wiki/TOPIO) humanoid model.[[102]](#cite_note-102) In 2010, Vietnam's total state spending on science and technology equalled around 0.45% of its GDP.[[103]](#cite_note-103)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### Transport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Much of Vietnam's modern transport network was originally developed under French rule to facilitate the transportation of raw materials, and was reconstructed and extensively modernized following the Vietnam War.

#### Air[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|A](/wiki/File:Vietnam_Airlines_Boeing_777-200ER_VN-A141_SGN_2008-4-6.png) [Vietnam Airlines](/wiki/Vietnam_Airlines) [Boeing 777](/wiki/Boeing_777) at [Tan Son Nhat International Airport](/wiki/Tan_Son_Nhat_International_Airport) Vietnam operates 21 major civil airports, including three international gateways: [Noi Bai](/wiki/Noi_Bai) in [Hanoi](/wiki/Hanoi), [Da Nang International Airport](/wiki/Da_Nang_International_Airport) in [Da Nang](/wiki/Da_Nang), and [Tan Son Nhat](/wiki/Tan_Son_Nhat) in [Ho Chi Minh City](/wiki/Ho_Chi_Minh_City). Tan Son Nhat is the nation's largest airport, handling 75% of international passenger traffic. According to a state-approved plan, Vietnam will have 10 international airports by 2015 – besides the aforementioned three, these include [Lien Khuong International Airport](/wiki/Lien_Khuong_International_Airport), [Phu Bai International Airport](/wiki/Phu_Bai_International_Airport), [Cam Ranh International Airport](/wiki/Cam_Ranh_International_Airport), [Phu Quoc International Airport](/wiki/Phu_Quoc_International_Airport), [Cat Bi International Airport](/wiki/Cat_Bi_International_Airport), [Cần Thơ International Airport](/wiki/Cần_Thơ_International_Airport) and [Long Thanh International Airport](/wiki/Long_Thanh_International_Airport). The planned Long Thanh International Airport will have an annual service capacity of 100 million passengers once it becomes fully operational in 2020.

[Vietnam Airlines](/wiki/Vietnam_Airlines), the state-owned national airline, maintains a fleet of 69 passenger aircraft,[[104]](#cite_note-104)[[105]](#cite_note-105) and aims to operate 150 by 2020. Several private airlines are also in operation in Vietnam, including [Air Mekong](/wiki/Air_Mekong), [Jetstar Pacific Airlines](/wiki/Jetstar_Pacific_Airlines), [VASCO](/wiki/Vietnam_Air_Service_Company) and [VietJet Air](/wiki/VietJet_Air).

#### Road[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[thumb|A section of the](/wiki/File:Cao_toc_Cau_Gie_Ninh_Binh.JPG) [North–South Expressway](/wiki/North–South_Expressway_(Vietnam)) linking Cầu Giẽ and [Ninh Bình](/wiki/Ninh_Bình). Vietnam's road system includes national roads administered at the central level, provincial roads managed at the provincial level, district roads managed at the district level, urban roads managed by cities and towns, and commune roads managed at the commune level. Bicycles, motor scooters and motorcycles remain the most popular forms of road transport in Vietnam's urban areas, although the number of privately owned automobiles is also on the rise, especially in the larger cities. Public buses operated by private companies are the main mode of long-distance travel for much of the population.

Road safety is a serious issue in Vietnam – on average, 30 people are killed in traffic accidents every day.[[106]](#cite_note-106) Traffic congestion is a growing problem in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, as the cities' roads struggle to cope with the boom in automobile use.

#### Rail[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Vietnam's primary cross-country rail service is the [Reunification Express](/wiki/North–South_Railway_(Vietnam)), which runs from Ho Chi Minh City to Hanoi, covering a distance of nearly 2,000 kilometres. From Hanoi, railway lines branch out to the northeast, north and west; the eastbound line runs from Hanoi to Hạ Long Bay, the northbound line from Hanoi to [Thái Nguyên](/wiki/Thái_Nguyên), and the northeast line from Hanoi to Lào Cai.

In 2009, Vietnam and [Japan](/wiki/Japan) signed a deal to build a [high-speed railway](/wiki/North–South_Express_Railway_(Vietnam)) using Japanese technology; numerous Vietnamese engineers were later sent to Japan to receive training in the operation and maintenance of high-speed trains. The railway will be a 1,630-km-long[[107]](#cite_note-107) express route, serving a total of 26 stations, including Hanoi and the [Thu Thiem](/wiki/Thu_Thiem) terminus in Ho Chi Minh City.[[108]](#cite_note-108) Using Japan's [*Shinkansen*](/wiki/Shinkansen) technology,[[109]](#cite_note-109) the line will support trains travelling at a maximum speed of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) per hour. The high-speed lines linking Hanoi to [Vinh](/wiki/Vinh), [Nha Trang](/wiki/Nha_Trang) and Ho Chi Minh City will be laid by 2015. From 2015 to 2020, construction will begin on the routes between Vinh and Nha Trang and between Hanoi and the northern provinces of [Lào Cai](/wiki/Lào_Cai) and [Lạng Sơn](/wiki/Lạng_Sơn).

#### Water[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

As a coastal country, Vietnam has many major sea ports, including [Cam Ranh](/wiki/Cam_Ranh), [Da Nang](/wiki/Da_Nang), [Hai Phong](/wiki/Hai_Phong), [Ho Chi Minh City](/wiki/Ho_Chi_Minh_City), [Hong Gai](/wiki/Hong_Gai), [Qui Nhơn](/wiki/Qui_Nhơn), [Vũng Tàu](/wiki/Vũng_Tàu) and Nha Trang. Further inland, the country's extensive network of rivers play a key role in rural transportation, with over [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of navigable [waterways](/wiki/Waterway) carrying ferries, barges and [water taxis](/wiki/Water_taxi).[[110]](#cite_note-110)[[111]](#cite_note-111) In addition, the [Mekong Delta](/wiki/Mekong_Delta) and [Red River Delta](/wiki/Red_River_Delta) are vital to Vietnam's social and economic welfare – most of the country's population lives along or near these river deltas, and the major cities of [Ho Chi Minh City](/wiki/Ho_Chi_Minh_City) and [Hanoi](/wiki/Hanoi) are situated near the Mekong and Red River deltas, respectively. Further out in the [South China Sea](/wiki/South_China_Sea), Vietnam currently controls the majority of the disputed [Spratly Islands](/wiki/Spratly_Islands), which are the source of longstanding disagreements with China and other nearby nations.[[112]](#cite_note-112)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### Water supply and sanitation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Water supply and sanitation in Vietnam is characterized by challenges and achievements. Among the achievements is a substantial increase in access to water supply and sanitation between 1990 and 2010, nearly universal metering, and increased investment in wastewater treatment since 2007. Among the challenges are continued widespread water pollution, poor service quality, low access to improved sanitation in rural areas, poor sustainability of rural water systems, insufficient cost recovery for urban sanitation, and the declining availability of foreign grant and soft loan funding as the Vietnamese economy grows and donors shift to loan financing. The government also promotes increased cost recovery through tariff revenues and has created autonomous water utilities at the provincial level, but the policy has had mixed success as tariff levels remain low and some utilities have engaged in activities outside their mandate.

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[upright|thumb|](/wiki/File:Hmong_women_at_Coc_Ly_market,_Sapa,_Vietnam.jpg)[Hmong](/wiki/Hmong_people) women in traditional dress in [Sa Pa](/wiki/Sa_Pa), northern Vietnam. [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), the population of Vietnam as standing at approximately 90.7 million people. The population had grown significantly from the 1979 census, which showed the total population of reunified Vietnam to be 52.7 million.[[113]](#cite_note-113) In 2012, the country's population was estimated at approximately 90.3 million.<ref name=imf2/> Currently, the [total fertility rate](/wiki/Total_fertility_rate) of Vietnam is 1.8 (births per woman),[[114]](#cite_note-114) which is largely due to the government's [family planning](/wiki/Family_planning) policy, the [two-child policy](/wiki/Two-child_policy).

### Ethnicity[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) According to the 2009 census, the dominant [Viet](/wiki/Viet_people) or Kinh ethnic group constituted nearly 73.6 million people, or 85.8% of the population. The Kinh population is concentrated mainly in the [alluvial deltas](/wiki/Alluvial_fans) and coastal plains of the country. A largely homogeneous social and ethnic group, the Kinh possess significant political and economic influence over the country. However, Vietnam is also home to 54 ethnic minority groups, including the [Hmong](/wiki/Hmong_people), [Dao](/wiki/Yao_people), [Tay](/wiki/Tay_people), [Thai](/wiki/Thai_people), and [Nùng](/wiki/Nùng_people). Many ethnic minorities – such as the [Muong](/wiki/Muong_people), who are closely related to the Kinh – dwell in the highlands, which cover two-thirds of Vietnam's territory. Before the Vietnam War, the population of the [Central Highlands](/wiki/Central_Highlands_(Vietnam)) was almost exclusively [Degar](/wiki/Degar) (including over 40 tribal groups); however, [Ngô Đình Diệm's](/wiki/Ngô_Đình_Diệm) South Vietnamese government enacted a program of resettling Kinh in indigenous areas.[[115]](#cite_note-115) The [Hoa](/wiki/Hoa_people) (ethnic Chinese)[[116]](#cite_note-116) and [Khmer Krom](/wiki/Khmer_Krom) people are mainly lowlanders. As [Sino-Vietnamese relations](/wiki/Sino-Vietnamese_relations) soured in 1978 and 1979, some 450,000 Hoa left Vietnam.[[117]](#cite_note-117)[Template:Largest cities of Vietnam](/wiki/Template:Largest_cities_of_Vietnam)

### Languages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) The official national language of Vietnam is Vietnamese (*Tiếng Việt*), a tonal [Mon–Khmer language](/wiki/Mon–Khmer_languages) which is spoken by the majority of the population. In its early history, Vietnamese writing used [Chinese characters](/wiki/Chinese_character). In the 13th century, the Vietnamese developed their own set of characters, referred to as [*Chữ nôm*](/wiki/Chữ_nôm). The folk epic [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang) ("[Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)", originally known as [*Template:Lang*](/wiki/Template:Lang)) by [Nguyễn Du](/wiki/Nguyễn_Du) was written in *Chữ nôm*. [*Quốc ngữ*](/wiki/Quốc_ngữ), the romanized Vietnamese alphabet used for spoken Vietnamese, was developed in the 17th century by the [Jesuit](/wiki/Jesuit) [Alexandre de Rhodes](/wiki/Alexandre_de_Rhodes) and several other [Catholic](/wiki/Roman_Catholic) [missionaries](/wiki/Missionary).<ref name=Omniglot/> *Quốc ngữ* became widely popular and brought literacy to the Vietnamese masses during the French colonial period.<ref name=Omniglot>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

Vietnam's minority groups speak a variety of languages, including [Tày](/wiki/Tày_language), [Mường](/wiki/Muong_language), [Cham](/wiki/Cham_language), [Khmer](/wiki/Khmer_language), Chinese, [Nùng](/wiki/Nung_language_(Tai)), and [H'Mông](/wiki/Hmong_language). The [Montagnard](/wiki/Montagnard_(Vietnam)) peoples of the [Central Highlands](/wiki/Central_Highlands_(Vietnam)) also speak a number of distinct languages.[[118]](#cite_note-118)A number of [sign languages](/wiki/Vietnamese_sign_languages) have developed in the cities.

The [French language](/wiki/French_language), a legacy of colonial rule, is spoken by many educated Vietnamese as a second language, especially among the older generation and those educated in the former South Vietnam, where it was a principal language in administration, education and commerce; Vietnam remains a full member of the [Francophonie](/wiki/Francophonie), and education has revived some interest in the language.[[119]](#cite_note-119)[[120]](#cite_note-120) Russian – and to a much lesser extent German, [Czech](/wiki/Czech_language) and Polish – are known among some Vietnamese whose families had ties with the [Soviet bloc](/wiki/Soviet_bloc) during the [Cold War](/wiki/Cold_War).<ref name=29PDF>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> In recent years, as Vietnam's contacts with Western nations have increased, English has become more popular as a second language. The study of English is now obligatory in most schools, either alongside or in many cases, replacing French.<ref name=29PDF/>[[121]](#cite_note-121) Japanese and Korean have also grown in popularity as Vietnam's links with other East Asian nations have strengthened.

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|Second courtyard of](/wiki/File:Hanoi_Temple_of_Litterature.jpeg) [Temple of Literature](/wiki/Temple_of_Literature,_Hanoi) in [Hanoi](/wiki/Hanoi) According to an analysis by the [Pew Research Center](/wiki/Pew_Research_Center), in 2010 about 45.3% of the Vietnamese adhere to [indigenous religions](/wiki/Vietnamese_folk_religion), 16.4% to [Buddhism](/wiki/Buddhism), 8.2% to [Christianity](/wiki/Christianity), 0.4% to other faiths, and 29.6% of the population isn't religious.[[122]](#cite_note-122) According to the General Statistics Office of Vietnam's report for 1 April 2009, 6.8 million (or 7.9% of the total population) are practicing Buddhists, 5.7 million (6.6%) are Catholics, 1.4 million (1.7%) are adherents of [Hòa Hảo](/wiki/Hòa_Hảo), 0.8 million (0.9%) practise [Caodaism](/wiki/Caodaism), and 0.7 million (0.9%) are Protestants. In total, 15,651,467 Vietnamese (18.2%) are formally registered in a religion.[[123]](#cite_note-123) According to the 2009 census, while over 10 million people have taken [refuge](/wiki/Refuge_(Buddhism)) in the [Three Jewels](/wiki/Three_Jewels) of Buddhism,[[124]](#cite_note-124)[[125]](#cite_note-125) the vast majority of Vietnamese people practice [ancestor worship](/wiki/Ancestor_worship) in some form. According to a 2007 report, 81% of the Vietnamese people [do not believe in God](/wiki/Atheism).[[126]](#cite_note-126) About 8% of the population are [Christians](/wiki/Christianity_in_Vietnam), totalling around six million [Roman Catholics](/wiki/Roman_Catholic) and fewer than one million [Protestants](/wiki/Protestant). Christianity was first introduced to Vietnam by Portuguese and Dutch traders in the 16th and 17th centuries, and was further propagated by French missionaries in the 19th and 20th centuries, and to a lesser extent, by American Protestant missionaries during the Vietnam War, largely among the Montagnards of South Vietnam.

The largest Protestant churches are the Evangelical Church of Vietnam and the Montagnard Evangelical Church. Two-thirds of Vietnam's Protestants are reportedly members of ethnic minorities.[[127]](#cite_note-127) Although a small religious minority, Protestantism is claimed to be the country's [fastest-growing religion](/wiki/Fastest-growing_religion), expanding at a rate of 600% in the previous decade.[[128]](#cite_note-128) [thumb|The main](/wiki/File:CaoDaiMain.jpg) [Cao Đài](/wiki/Cao_Đài) temple in the city of [Tây Ninh](/wiki/Tây_Ninh) The Vietnamese government is widely seen as suspicious of [Roman Catholicism](/wiki/Roman_Catholicism_in_Vietnam). This mistrust originated during the 19th century, when some Catholics collaborated with the [French colonists](/wiki/French_Indochina) in conquering and ruling the country[Template:Cn](/wiki/Template:Cn) and in helping French attempts to install Catholic emperors,[Template:Cn](/wiki/Template:Cn) such as in the [Lê Văn Khôi revolt](/wiki/Lê_Văn_Khôi_revolt) of 1833. Furthermore, the Catholic Church's strongly anti-communist stance has made it an enemy of the Vietnamese state. The [Vatican](/wiki/Holy_See) Church is officially banned,[Template:Cn](/wiki/Template:Cn) and only government-controlled Catholic organisations are permitted. However, the Vatican has attempted to negotiate the opening of diplomatic relations with Vietnam in recent years.[[129]](#cite_note-129) Several other minority faiths exist in Vietnam. A significant number of people are adherents of [Caodaism](/wiki/Caodaism), an indigenous folk religion which has structured itself on the model of the Catholic Church. [Sunni](/wiki/Sunni_Islam) and Cham Bani Islam is primarily practiced by the ethnic [Cham](/wiki/Cham_people) minority, though there are also a few ethnic Vietnamese adherents in the southwest. In total, there are approximately 70,000 [Muslims in Vietnam](/wiki/Islam_in_Vietnam),[[130]](#cite_note-130) while around 50,000 [Hindus](/wiki/Hinduism_in_Southeast_Asia) and a small number of [Baha'is](/wiki/Baha'i) are also in evidence.

The Vietnamese government rejects allegations that it does not allow [religious freedom](/wiki/Freedom_of_religion). The state's official position on religion is that all citizens are free to their belief, and that all religions are equal before the law.[[131]](#cite_note-131) Nevertheless, only government-approved religious organisations are allowed; for example, the South Vietnam-founded Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam is banned in favour of a communist-approved body.[[132]](#cite_note-132)

### Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|Vietnam National University in](/wiki/File:Nhà_điều_hành_Đại_học_Quốc_Gia_TPHCM.jpg) [Ho Chi Minh City](/wiki/Ho_Chi_Minh_City). [thumb|Gia Dinh High School in](/wiki/File:Khối_A,_Trường_THPT_Gia_Định,_TPHCM.jpg) [Ho Chi Minh City](/wiki/Ho_Chi_Minh_City). Vietnam has an extensive state-controlled network of schools, colleges and universities, and a growing number of privately run and partially privatised institutions. General education in Vietnam is divided into five categories: [kindergarten](/wiki/Kindergarten), [elementary schools](/wiki/Elementary_school), [middle schools](/wiki/Middle_school), [high schools](/wiki/High_school), and [universities](/wiki/Universities). A large number of public schools have been constructed across the country to raise the national [literacy rate](/wiki/Literacy_rate), which stood at 90.3% in 2008.[[133]](#cite_note-133) A large number of Vietnam's most acclaimed universities are based in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. Facing serious crises, Vietnam's education system is under a [holistic](/wiki/Holistic) program of reform launched by the government. Education is not free; therefore, some poor families may have trouble paying tuition for their children without some form of public or private assistance. Regardless, school enrollment is among the highest in the world,[[134]](#cite_note-134)[[135]](#cite_note-135) and the number of colleges and universities increased dramatically in the 2000s, from 178 in 2000 to 299 in 2005.

### Health[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) In 2009, Vietnam's national [life expectancy](/wiki/Life_expectancy) stood at 76 years for women and 72 for men,[[136]](#cite_note-136) and the [infant mortality](/wiki/Infant_mortality) rate was 12 per 1,000 live births.[[137]](#cite_note-137) By 2009, 85% of the population had access to improved water sources.[[136]](#cite_note-136) However, [malnutrition](/wiki/Malnutrition) is still common in the rural provinces.[[138]](#cite_note-138) In 2001, government spending on health care corresponded to just 0.9% of Vietnam's [gross domestic product](/wiki/Gross_domestic_product) (GDP), with state subsidies covering only about 20% of health care expenses.<ref name=cp>[Vietnam country profile (PDF)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/profiles/Vietnam.pdf). [Library of Congress](/wiki/Library_of_Congress) [Federal Research Division](/wiki/Federal_Research_Division). December 2005. Retrieved 9 July 2013. *This article incorporates text from this source, which is in the* [*public domain*](/wiki/Public_domain)*.*</ref>

In 1954, [North Vietnam](/wiki/North_Vietnam) established a public health system that reached down to the [hamlet](/wiki/Hamlet_(place)) level.[[139]](#cite_note-139) After the national reunification in 1975, a nationwide health service was established. In the late 1980s, the quality of healthcare declined to some degree as a result of budgetary constraints, a shift of responsibility to the provinces, and the introduction of charges. Inadequate funding has also contributed to a shortage of [nurses](/wiki/Nurses), [midwives](/wiki/Midwives), and hospital beds; in 2000, Vietnam had only 250,000 hospital beds, or 14.8 beds per 10,000 people, according to the [World Bank](/wiki/World_Bank).<ref name=cp/>

Since the early 2000s, Vietnam has made significant progress in combating [malaria](/wiki/Malaria), with the malaria mortality rate falling to about 5% of its 1990s equivalent by 2005, after the country introduced improved antimalarial drugs and treatment. However, [tuberculosis](/wiki/Tuberculosis) cases are on the rise, with 57 deaths per day reported in May 2004. With an intensified vaccination program, better hygiene, and foreign assistance, Vietnam hopes to reduce sharply the number of TB cases and annual new TB infections.<ref name=cp/>

As of September 2005, Vietnam had diagnosed 101,291 [HIV](/wiki/HIV) cases, of which 16,528 progressed to [AIDS](/wiki/AIDS), and 9,554 died. However, the actual number of HIV-positive individuals is estimated to be much higher. On average, 40–50 new infections are reported every day in Vietnam. [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), 0.5% of the population is estimated to be infected with HIV, and this figure has remained stable since 2005.[[140]](#cite_note-140) In June 2004, the United States announced that Vietnam would be one of 15 nations to receive funding as part of a US$15 billion global AIDS relief plan.<ref name=cp/>

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Ópera,_Ciudad_Ho_Chi_Minh,_Vietnam,_2013-08-14,_DD_02.JPG) [Municipal Theatre](/wiki/Municipal_Theatre,_Ho_Chi_Minh_City) in Ho Chi Minh City Vietnam's culture has developed over the centuries from indigenous ancient [Đông Sơn culture](/wiki/Đông_Sơn_culture) with [wet rice](/wiki/Wet_rice) agriculture as its economic base. Some elements of the national culture have Chinese origins, drawing on elements of [Confucianism](/wiki/Confucianism) and [Taoism](/wiki/Taoism) in its traditional political system and philosophy. Vietnamese society is structured around *làng* (ancestral villages); all Vietnamese mark a [common ancestral anniversary](/wiki/Giỗ_Tổ_Hùng_Vương) on the tenth day of the third [lunar month](/wiki/Lunar_calendar).[[141]](#cite_note-141) The influences of immigrant peoples – such as the [Cantonese](/wiki/Cantonese), [Hakka](/wiki/Hakka), [Hokkien](/wiki/Hokkien) and [Hainan](/wiki/Hainan) cultures – can also be seen, while the national religion of [Buddhism](/wiki/Buddhism) is strongly entwined with popular culture. In recent centuries, the influences of Western cultures, most notably France and the United States, have become evident in Vietnam.

The traditional focuses of Vietnamese culture are humanity (*nhân nghĩa*) and harmony (*hòa*); family and community values are highly regarded. Vietnam reveres a number of key cultural symbols, such as the [Vietnamese dragon](/wiki/Vietnamese_dragon), which is derived from [crocodile](/wiki/Crocodile) and [snake](/wiki/Snake) imagery; Vietnam's National Father, [Lạc Long Quân](/wiki/Lạc_Long_Quân), is depicted as a holy dragon. The *lạc* – a holy bird representing Vietnam's National Mother, [Âu Cơ](/wiki/Âu_Cơ) – is another prominent symbol, while [turtle](/wiki/Turtle) and [horse](/wiki/Horse) images are also revered.[[142]](#cite_note-142) In the modern era, the cultural life of Vietnam has been deeply influenced by government-controlled media and cultural programs. For many decades, foreign cultural influences – especially those of Western origin – were shunned. However, since the 1990s, Vietnam has seen a greater exposure to Southeast Asian, European and American culture and media.[[143]](#cite_note-143)

### Media[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Vietnam's media sector is regulated by the government in accordance with the 2004 Law on Publication.[[144]](#cite_note-144) It is generally perceived that Vietnam's media sector is controlled by the government to follow the official Communist Party line, though some newspapers are relatively outspoken.[[145]](#cite_note-145) The [Voice of Vietnam](/wiki/Voice_of_Vietnam) is the official state-run national radio broadcasting service, broadcasting internationally via shortwave using rented transmitters in other countries, and providing broadcasts from its website. [Vietnam Television](/wiki/Vietnam_Television) is the national television broadcasting company.

Since 1997, Vietnam has extensively regulated public [Internet](/wiki/Internet) access, using both legal and technical means. The resulting lockdown is widely referred to as the "[Bamboo Firewall](/wiki/Internet_censorship_in_Vietnam)".[[146]](#cite_note-146) The collaborative project [OpenNet Initiative](/wiki/OpenNet_Initiative) classifies Vietnam's level of online political censorship to be "pervasive",[[147]](#cite_note-147) while [Reporters Without Borders](/wiki/Reporters_Without_Borders) considers Vietnam to be one of 15 global "internet enemies".[[148]](#cite_note-148) Though the government of Vietnam claims to safeguard the country against obscene or sexually explicit content through its blocking efforts, many politically and religiously sensitive websites are also banned.[[149]](#cite_note-149)

### Music[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]

[thumb|right|200px|The Vietnamese](/wiki/File:Vietnamese_musical_instrument_Dan_bau_2.jpg) [dan bau](/wiki/Dan_bau) a monochord zither instrument Traditional [Vietnamese music](/wiki/Vietnamese_music) varies between the country's northern and southern regions. Northern classical music is Vietnam's oldest musical form, and is traditionally more formal. The origins of Vietnamese classical music can be traced to the Mongol invasions of the 13th century, when the Vietnamese captured a [Chinese opera](/wiki/Chinese_opera) troupe.[[150]](#cite_note-150) Throughout its history, Vietnamese has been most heavily impacted by the [Chinese musical tradition](/wiki/Music_of_China), as an integral part, along with [Korea](/wiki/Korea), [Mongolia](/wiki/Mongolia) and [Japan](/wiki/Japan).[[151]](#cite_note-151)[*Nhã nhạc*](/wiki/Nhã_nhạc) is the most popular form of imperial court music. [*Chèo*](/wiki/Chèo) is a form of generally satirical [musical theatre](/wiki/Musical_theatre). [*Xẩm*](/wiki/Xẩm) or *Hát xẩm* (Xẩm singing) is a type of Vietnamese [folk music](/wiki/Folk_music). [*Quan họ*](/wiki/Quan_họ) (*alternate singing*) is popular in [Hà Bắc](/wiki/Hà_Bắc) (divided into [Bắc Ninh](/wiki/Bắc_Ninh) and [Bắc Giang](/wiki/Bac_Giang) Provinces) and across Vietnam. [*Hát chầu văn*](/wiki/Hat_chau_van) or *hát văn* is a spiritual form of music used to invoke spirits during ceremonies. [*Nhạc dân tộc cải biên*](/wiki/Nhạc_dân_tộc_cải_biên) is a modern form of Vietnamese [folk music](/wiki/Folk_music) which arose in the 1950s. [Ca trù](/wiki/Ca_trù) (also *hát ả đào*) is a popular folk music. "Hò" can not be thought of as the southern style of Quan họ. There are a range of traditional instruments, including the [Đàn bầu](/wiki/Đàn_bầu) (a monochord zither), the [Đàn gáo](/wiki/Đàn_gáo) (a two-stringed fiddle with coconut body), and the [Đàn nguyệt](/wiki/Đàn_nguyệt) (a two-stringed fretted moon lute).

### Literature[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]

[thumb|The](/wiki/File:Hanoi_Temple_of_Litterature.jpeg) [Temple of Literature](/wiki/Temple_of_Literature,_Hanoi) in Hanoi. [Vietnamese literature](/wiki/Vietnamese_literature) has a centuries-deep history. The country has a rich tradition of folk literature, based on the typical 6–to-8-verse poetic form named *ca dao*, which usually focuses on village ancestors and heroes.[[152]](#cite_note-152) Written literature has been found dating back to the 10th-century [Ngô dynasty](/wiki/Ngô_dynasty), with notable ancient authors including [Nguyễn Trãi](/wiki/Nguyễn_Trãi), [Trần Hưng Đạo](/wiki/Trần_Hưng_Đạo), [Nguyễn Du](/wiki/Nguyễn_Du) and [Nguyễn Đình Chiểu](/wiki/Nguyễn_Đình_Chiểu). Some literary genres play an important role in theatrical performance, such as *hát nói* in [*ca trù*](/wiki/Ca_trù).[[153]](#cite_note-153) Some poetic unions have also been formed in Vietnam, such as the Tao Đàn. Vietnamese literature has in recent times been influenced by Western styles, with the first literary transformation movement – Thơ Mới – emerging in 1932.[[154]](#cite_note-154)

### Festivals[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [right|thumb|A traditional](/wiki/File:Hoa_mai.jpg) [Tết](/wiki/Tết) (Lunar New Year) tree. Vietnam has a plethora of festivals based on the [lunar calendar](/wiki/Lunar_calendar), the most important being the [Tết](/wiki/Tết) New Year celebration. [Traditional Vietnamese weddings](/wiki/Traditional_Vietnamese_wedding) remain widely popular, and are often celebrated by expatriate Vietnamese in Western countries.

### Tourism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=39)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [|thumb|left|](/wiki/File:PhoCoHoiAn.jpg)[Hội An's](/wiki/Hội_An) Ancient Town, a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](/wiki/UNESCO_World_Heritage_Site). Vietnam has become a major tourist destination since the 1990s, assisted by significant state and private investment, particularly in coastal regions.[[155]](#cite_note-155) About 3.77 million international tourists visited Vietnam in 2009 alone.[[156]](#cite_note-156) Popular tourist destinations include the former imperial capital of Hué, the [World Heritage Sites](/wiki/World_Heritage_Site) of [Phong Nha-Kẻ Bàng National Park](/wiki/Phong_Nha-Kẻ_Bàng_National_Park), [Hội An](/wiki/Hội_An) and [Mỹ Sơn](/wiki/Mỹ_Sơn), coastal regions such as [Nha Trang](/wiki/Nha_Trang), the caves of [Hạ Long Bay](/wiki/Hạ_Long_Bay) and the [Marble Mountains](/wiki/Marble_Mountains_(Vietnam)). Numerous tourist projects are under construction, such as the [Bình Dương](/wiki/Bình_Dương) tourist complex, which possesses the largest artificial sea in Southeast Asia.[[157]](#cite_note-157) On 14 February 2011, [Joe Jackson](/wiki/Joe_Jackson_(manager)), the father of American pop star [Michael Jackson](/wiki/Michael_Jackson), attended a ground breaking ceremony for what will be Southeast Asia's largest entertainment complex, a five-star hotel and amusement park called Happyland. The US$2 billion project, which has been designed to accommodate 14 million tourists annually, is located in southern [Long An Province](/wiki/Long_An_Province), near [Ho Chi Minh City](/wiki/Ho_Chi_Minh_City). It is expected that the complex will be completed in 2014.[[158]](#cite_note-158)

### Clothing[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=40)]

The [*áo dài*](/wiki/Áo_dài), a formal girl's dress, is worn for special occasions such as weddings and religious festivals. White *áo dài* is the required uniform for girls in many high schools across Vietnam. *Áo dài* was once worn by both genders, but today it is mostly the preserve of women, although men do wear it to some occasions, such as traditional weddings.[[159]](#cite_note-159) Other examples of traditional Vietnamese clothing include the [*áo tứ thân*](/wiki/Áo_tứ_thân), a four-piece woman's dress; the *áo ngũ*, a form of the *thân* in 5-piece form, mostly worn in the north of the country; the [*yếm*](/wiki/Yếm), a woman's undergarment; the [*áo bà ba*](/wiki/Áo_bà_ba), rural working "[pyjamas](/wiki/Pyjamas)" for men and women;[[160]](#cite_note-160) the [*áo gấm*](/wiki/Áo_gấm), a formal brocade tunic for government receptions; and the *áo the*, a variant of the *áo gấm* worn by grooms at weddings. Traditional headwear includes the standard conical [*nón lá*](/wiki/Nón_lá) and the "lampshade-like" [*nón quai thao*](/wiki/Nón_quai_thao).

### Sport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=41)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) The [Vovinam](/wiki/Vovinam) and Bình Định [martial arts](/wiki/Martial_arts) are widespread in Vietnam,[[161]](#cite_note-161) while [soccer](/wiki/Football_(soccer)) is the country's most popular team sport.[[162]](#cite_note-162) Its [national team](/wiki/Vietnam_national_football_team) won the [ASEAN](/wiki/ASEAN) [Football Championship](/wiki/ASEAN_Football_Championship) in [2008](/wiki/2008_AFF_Suzuki_Cup). Other Western sports, such as [badminton](/wiki/Badminton), [tennis](/wiki/Tennis), [volleyball](/wiki/Volleyball), [ping-pong](/wiki/Ping-pong) and [chess](/wiki/Chess), are also widely popular.

Vietnam has participated in the [Summer Olympic Games](/wiki/Summer_Olympic_Games) since [1952](/wiki/Vietnam_at_the_1952_Summer_Olympics), when it competed as the State of Vietnam. After the partition of the country in 1954, only South Vietnam competed in the Games, sending athletes to the 1956 and 1972 Olympics. Since the reunification of Vietnam in 1976, it has competed as the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, attending every Summer Olympics from 1988 onwards. The present Vietnam Olympic Committee was formed in 1976 and recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 1979.[[163]](#cite_note-163) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), Vietnam has never participated in the [Winter Olympics](/wiki/Winter_Olympics).

### Cuisine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=42)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Pho_in_Ho_Chi_Minh_City_by_joshua.jpg)[Pho](/wiki/Pho), one of the most popular Vietnamese dishes. Vietnamese cuisine traditionally features a combination of five fundamental taste "elements" ([Vietnamese](/wiki/Vietnamese_language): *ngũ vị*): spicy (metal), sour (wood), bitter (fire), salty (water) and sweet (earth).[[164]](#cite_note-164) Common ingredients include [fish sauce](/wiki/Fish_sauce), [shrimp paste](/wiki/Shrimp_paste), [soy sauce](/wiki/Soy_sauce), rice, fresh herbs, fruits and vegetables. Vietnamese recipes use [lemongrass](/wiki/Cymbopogon), [ginger](/wiki/Ginger), [mint](/wiki/Mentha), [Vietnamese mint](/wiki/Vietnamese_mint), [long coriander](/wiki/Eryngium_foetidum), [Saigon cinnamon](/wiki/Saigon_cinnamon), [bird's eye chili](/wiki/Bird's_eye_chili), [lime](/wiki/Lime_(fruit)) and [basil](/wiki/Basil) leaves.[[165]](#cite_note-165) Traditional Vietnamese cooking is known for its fresh ingredients, minimal use of oil, and reliance on herbs and vegetables, and is considered one of the healthiest cuisines worldwide.[[166]](#cite_note-166) In northern Vietnam, local foods are often less spicy than southern dishes, as the colder northern climate limits the production and availability of spices. [Black pepper](/wiki/Black_pepper) is used in place of [chilis](/wiki/Chili_pepper) to produce spicy flavors. The use of such meats as pork, beef, and chicken was relatively limited in the past, and as a result freshwater fish, [crustaceans](/wiki/Crustacean) – particularly [crabs](/wiki/Crab) – and [mollusks](/wiki/Mollusk) became widely used. Fish sauce, soy sauce, prawn sauce, and limes are among the main flavoring ingredients. Many signature Vietnamese dishes, such as [*bún riêu*](/wiki/Bún_riêu) and [*bánh cuốn*](/wiki/Bánh_cuốn), originated in the north and were carried to central and southern Vietnam by migrants.[[167]](#cite_note-167)

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=43)]

[Template:Portal](/wiki/Template:Portal)[Template:Wikipedia books](/wiki/Template:Wikipedia_books)

* [Corruption in Vietnam](/wiki/Corruption_in_Vietnam)
* [Effects of Agent Orange on the Vietnamese people](/wiki/Effects_of_Agent_Orange_on_the_Vietnamese_people)
* [Index of Vietnam-related articles](/wiki/Index_of_Vietnam-related_articles)
* [Outline of Vietnam](/wiki/Outline_of_Vietnam)
* [Vietnam Coast Guard](/wiki/Vietnam_Coast_Guard)
* [Vietnam People's Public Security](/wiki/Vietnam_People's_Public_Security)

[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## Notes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=44)]

[Template:Notelist](/wiki/Template:Notelist)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=45)]

Footnotes

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Sources

* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)

## Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=46)]

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[Template:Refend](/wiki/Template:Refend)

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=47)]

[Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links)

* [Vietnam profile](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/country_profiles/1243338.stm) from [BBC News](/wiki/BBC_News)
* [Template:CIA World Factbook link](/wiki/Template:CIA_World_Factbook_link) (CIA)
* [Vietnam](http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/govpubs/for/vietnam.htm) from *UCB Libraries GovPubs*
* [Template:Dmoz](/wiki/Template:Dmoz)
* [Vietnam](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/628349/Vietnam) at [*Encyclopædia Britannica*](/wiki/Encyclopædia_Britannica)
* [Template:Wikiatlas](/wiki/Template:Wikiatlas)
* [Key Development Forecasts for Vietnam](http://www.ifs.du.edu/ifs/frm_CountryProfile.aspx?Country=VN) from [International Futures](/wiki/International_Futures)

Government

* [Portal of the Government of Vietnam](http://www.vietnam.gov.vn/portal/page/portal/English)
* [Communist Party of Vietnam](http://www.cpv.org.vn/cpv/) – official website (in Vietnamese)
* [National Assembly](http://quochoi.vn/en-US/Pages/default.aspx) – the Vietnamese legislative body
* [General Statistics Office](http://www.gso.gov.vn/default_en.aspx?tabid=491)
* [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](http://www.mofa.gov.vn/en/)
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* [Template:Wikivoyage-inline](/wiki/Template:Wikivoyage-inline)
* [Official tourism website](http://www.vietnamtourism.com/e_pages/news/index.asp)

[Template:Geographic location](/wiki/Template:Geographic_location)

[Template:Vietnam topics](/wiki/Template:Vietnam_topics) [Template:Navboxes](/wiki/Template:Navboxes)

[Template:Authority control](/wiki/Template:Authority_control)

[Category:Vietnam](/wiki/Category:Vietnam) [Category:Communist states](/wiki/Category:Communist_states) [Category:One-party states](/wiki/Category:One-party_states) [Category:Socialist states](/wiki/Category:Socialist_states) [Category:Southeast Asian countries](/wiki/Category:Southeast_Asian_countries) [Category:Member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations](/wiki/Category:Member_states_of_the_Association_of_Southeast_Asian_Nations) [Category:Member states of the United Nations](/wiki/Category:Member_states_of_the_United_Nations) [Category:States and territories established in 1976](/wiki/Category:States_and_territories_established_in_1976) [Category:1976 establishments in Vietnam](/wiki/Category:1976_establishments_in_Vietnam) [Category:Vietnamese-speaking countries and territories](/wiki/Category:Vietnamese-speaking_countries_and_territories)