



Vietnam



Background Vietnam's early history included periods of occupation by outside forces and eventual power consolidation under Vietnamese dynastic families. A succession of Han Chinese emperors ruled the area, which was centered on the Red River Valley, until approximately the 10th century. The Ly Dynasty (11th-13th century) created the first independent Vietnamese state, which was known as Dai Viet, and established their capital at Thang Long (Hanoi). Under the Tran Dynasty (13th-15th century), TRAN Hung Dao, one of Vietnam's national heroes, led Dai Viet forces to fight off Mongol invaders in 1279. After a brief Chinese occupation in the early 1400s, Vietnamese resistance leader LE Thai To made himself emperor and established the Le Dynasty, which lasted until the late 18th century despite decades of political turmoil, civil war, and division. During this period, Dai Viet expanded southward to the Central Highlands and Mekong Delta, reaching the approximate boundaries of modern-day Vietnam by the 1750s. Dai Viet suffered additional civil war and division in the latter half of the 18th century, but it was reunited and renamed Vietnam under Emperor NGUYEN Phuc Anh (aka Gia Long) in 1802.

France began its conquest of Vietnam in 1858 and made Vietnam part of French Indochina in 1887. Vietnam declared independence after World War II, but the French continued to rule until communist forces under Ho Chi MINH defeated them in 1954. Under the Geneva Accords of 1954, Vietnam was divided into the communist North and anti-communist South. Fighting erupted between the two governments shortly afterwards with the North supporting communist rebels in the South and eventually committing thousands of combat troops. The US provided to the South significant economic and military assistance, including large numbers of US military forces, which reached a peak strength of over 500,000 troops in 1968. US combat forces were withdrawn following a cease-fire agreement in 1973. Two years later, North Vietnamese forces overran the South, reuniting the country under communist rule. The conflict, known as the Second Indochina War (1955-1975), devastated Vietnam, spilled over into the neighboring countries of Cambodia and Laos, and is estimated to have resulted in the deaths of up to 3 million Vietnamese civilians and soldiers. It also caused more than 58,000 US combat and non-combat deaths and created deep domestic divisions in the US.

Despite the return of peace, the country experienced little economic growth for over a decade because of its diplomatic isolation, leadership policies, and the persecution and mass exodus of citizens, many of them successful South Vietnamese merchants. However, since the enactment of Vietnam's "doi moi" (renovation) policy in 1986, the economy has seen strong growth, particularly in agricultural and industrial production, construction, exports, foreign investment, and tourism. Nevertheless, the Communist Party maintains tight political and social control of the country, and Vietnam faces many related challenges, such as rising income inequality and corruption.

Capital	name: Hanoi (Ha Noi)
Government type	communist party-led state
Area	total : 331,210 sq km land: 310,070 sq km water: 21,140 sq km
Climate	tropical in south; monsoonal in north with hot, rainy season (May to September) and warm, dry season (October to March)
Natural resources	antimony, phosphates, coal, manganese, rare earth elements, bauxite, chromate, offshore oil and gas deposits, timber, hydropower, arable land
Population	total: 105,758,975 (2024 est.)
Population growth rate	0.89% (2024 est.)
Ethnic groups	Kinh (Viet) 85.3%, Tay 1.9%, Thai 1.9%, Muong 1.5%, Khmer 1.4%, Mong 1.4%, Nung 1.1%, other 5.5% (2019 est.)
Religions	Catholic 6.1%, Buddhist 5.8%, Protestant 1%, other 0.8%, none 86.3% (2019 est.)
Languages	Vietnamese (official); English (often as a second language); some French, Chinese, and Khmer; mountain-area languages (including Mon-Khmer and Malayo-Polynesian)
Executive branch	chief of state: President Luong CUONG (since 21 Oct 2024) head of government: Prime Minister Pham Minh CHINH (since 26 July 2021)
Legislative branch	legislature name: National Assembly (Quoc-Hoi)
Diplomatic representation in the US	chief of mission: Ambassador Nguyen Quoc DZUNG (since 19 April 2022)
Diplomatic representation from the US	chief of mission: Ambassador Marc KNAPPER (since 11 February 2022)
Economic overview	lower middle-income socialist East Asian economy; rapid economic growth since Đổi Mới reforms; strong investment and productivity growth; tourism and manufacturing hub; TPP signatory; declining poverty aside from ethnic minorities; systemic corruption
Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$1.456 trillion (2024 est.) \$1.359 trillion (2023 est.) \$1.294 trillion (2022 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$14,400 (2024 est.) \$13,500 (2023 est.) \$13,000 (2022 est.)

Exports	\$429.383 billion (2024 est.) \$374.986 billion (2023 est.) \$385.241 billion (2022 est.)
Exports - partners	USA 28%, China 20%, Japan 6%, Hong Kong 4%, Germany 3% (2023)
Exports - commodities	broadcasting equipment, garments, integrated circuits, machine parts, footwear (2023)
Imports	\$398.672 billion (2024 est.) \$339.785 billion (2023 est.) \$369.746 billion (2022 est.)
Imports - partners	China 49%, Singapore 6%, Japan 6%, Hong Kong 5%, Taiwan 4% (2023)
Imports - commodities	integrated circuits, broadcasting equipment, fabric, plastics, telephones (2023)

Population Pyramid

