



VIETNAM



INTRODUCTION

The conquest of Vietnam by France began in 1858 and was completed by 1884. It became part of French Indochina in 1887. France continued to rule until its 1954 defeat, when the country was divided into North and South halves. Communist North Vietnam eventually conquered the anti-communist South in 1975 but then stagnated economically until 1986 before introducing a more market-based economy.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Nguyen Xuan PHUC

Head of Government

Prime Minister Pham Minh CHINH

Government Type

communist state

Capital

Hanoi

Legislature

unicameral National Assembly or Quoc Hoi (500 seats; 5-year terms)

GEOGRAPHY

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

ECONOMY

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

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$798.2 billion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$8,200 (2020 est.)

Industries - food processing, garments, shoes, machine-building, mining, coal, steel, cement, chemical fertilizer, glass, tires, oil, mobile phones

Agricultural products - rice, vegetables, sugarcane, cassava, maize, pork, fruit, bananas, coffee, coconuts

Exports \$249 billion (2019 est.)

broadcasting equipment, telephones, integrated circuits, footwear, furniture (2019)

partners: US 23%, China 14%, Japan 8%, South Korea 7% (2019)

Imports \$266.1 billion (2019 est.)

integrated circuits, telephones, refined petroleum, textiles, semiconductors (2019)

partners: China 35%, South Korea 18%, Japan 6% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

102.8 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

1.0% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

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.)

Language

Vietnamese (official), some English, French, Chinese, Khmer, mountain area languages

Religion

Catholic 6.1%, Buddhist 5.8%, Protestant 1%, other 0.8%, none 86.3% (2009 est.)

