

Vietnam



For over a thousand years of Vietnam's history, the country had been divided into a north and a south. The north belonged to China, until 939 when Vietnam broke away from China and formed its own country. For over 900 years Vietnam ruled itself, until the mid-19th century when the French colonized the country. During World War II, Imperial Japan invaded and occupied Vietnam. After the conclusion of the war in the Pacific, the French sent an expeditionary force to reclaim Vietnam. Following a war to expunge the French from the country in 1954, the country again split into two countries divided by north and south. North Vietnam and South Vietnam then fought the Vietnam War, which saw the North win in 1975, and reunify the country under a communist government. A decade later in 1986, the country underwent political and economic reforms to move it forward. Since, the country's economy has grown massively and is one of Southeast Asia's fastest-growing economies, and has set its sights on becoming a developed nation by 2020.

Geography

Official Name: Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Conventional Short Form: Vietnam

Region: Southeast Asia

Area: 332,698 square kilometers

Bordering Countries: Cambodia, China, Laos

Climate: A tropical and temperate climate, consisting of a lot of rain, high humidity, and a lot of sunlight.

Physical Features/Terrain: The majority of the country is made up of hills, forests, and tropical lowlands.

Natural Hazards: The most common natural hazards in Vietnam are floods and typhoons.

People and Society

Population: 95,261,021 (15th in the world)

Ethnic Groups: Kinh/Viet (85.7%), Tay (1.9%), Thai (1.8%), Khmer (1.5%), and others

Official Language: Vietnamese

Other Languages Spoken: English, French, Chinese, Khmer

Religions: None (81.8%), Buddhist (7.9%), Catholic (6.6%)

Capital City: Hanoi

Other Major Cities: Ho Chi Minh City, Hai Phong, Can Tho

Median Age (*half the people are younger than this age and half are older*)

Male: 28.9

Female: 31.2

Total Population: 30.1

Literacy Rate (*percentage of the population 15 and older who can read and write*)

Male: 96.3

Female: 92.8

Total Population: 94.5

Life Expectancy at Birth (*average number of years to be lived by those born in the same year*)

Male: 70.9

Female: 76.2

Total Population: 93.4

Government

Country Founded: September 2nd, 1945

Type of Government: Marxist-Leninist one-party socialist republic

Country Leaders

President: Tran Dai Quang

Prime Minister: Ngyuen Xuan Phuc

Allies: Philippines

Enemies: China

Economy

Currency: Vietnamese Dong

GDP: \$215.829 billion

Natural Resources: Coal, phosphates, copper, gold, silver, zinc

Unemployment Rate: 6%

Population Below Poverty Line: 8.4%

Major export and imports

Exports: Clothes, shoes, marine products, crude oil, electronics

Imports: Machinery and equipment, petroleum products, steel products, electronics, plastics

Biggest trading partners

Exports: United States, China, Japan, South Korea, Germany

Imports: China, South Korea, Singapore, Japan, Taiwan

More information can be found at:

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/vm.html>