



# 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. After a stagnant economy until 1986, a more market-based economy was introduced.

## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

President Vo Van THUONG

### Head of Government

Prime Minister Pham Minh CHINH

### Government Type

communist state

### Capital

Hanoi

### Legislature

unicameral National Assembly or Quoc Hoi (500 seats)

### Ambassador to US

Ambassador Nguyen Quoc DUNG

### US Ambassador

Ambassador Marc E. KNAPPER

## 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)** \$1.04 trillion (2021 est.)

**GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$10,600 (2021 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** \$340 billion (2021 est.)

broadcasting equipment, telephones, integrated circuits, office machinery, footwear, furniture (2021)

**partners:** US 28%, China 17%, South Korea 6%, Japan 6%, Hong Kong 4% (2021)

**Imports** \$338 billion (2021 est.)

integrated circuits, telephones, clothing and apparel, broadcasting accessories, refined petroleum, iron sheeting (2021)

**partners:** China 39%, South Korea 17%, Japan 5%, Taiwan 4%, Thailand 4% (2021)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

104.8 million (July 2023 est.)

### Population Growth

0.93% (2023 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), English, some French, Chinese, Khmer, mountain area languages (Mon-Khmer and Malayo-Polynesian)

### Religion

Catholic 6.1%, Buddhist 5.8%, Protestant 1%, other 0.8%, none 86.3% (2019 est.)