



Vietnam: From War To An Emerging Tiger.

Current Events Wednesday
March 13, 2019




Today

- Historical overview.
- The Vietnam War (the "American War").
- The *Doi Moi* reforms.
- Vietnam in the world today.





Vietnam and Germany: Comparison

• Population: 96.2 million.	• Population: 80.5 million.
• Area: 331,210 km ²	• Area: 357,022 km ²
• Life expectancy: 73.7	• Life expectancy: 80.8
• Infant mortality: 17.3/1000	• Infant mortality: 3.4/1000
• Literacy rate: 95%	• Literacy rate: 100%
• Age <24: 40%	• Age <24: 23%
• High school: 94%	• High school: 100%
• GDP PC: \$6,900	• GDP PC: \$50,200



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Historical Overview

- 2000 years: control by various foreign powers with periods of independence.
- Unification: 1802 under Nguyen dynasty.




Hue Citadel




Historical Overview

- French colonization: 1860s to 1954.




French Indochina



Historical Overview

- Declaration of Independence (from France and Japan): 1945.
- War with France: 1945-54.
- Battle of Dien Bien Phu: March to May 1954.



Ho Chi Minh



Historical Overview

- Divided country: 1954-1975.
- North: communist.
- South: capitalist dictatorship.
- Reunification: 1975.




The War

- 1954: Battle of Dien Bien Phu.
 - Defeat of the French.
 - France recognizes Vietnamese independence.
 - North and south split.



Vietnamese defeat of French forces at Dien Bien Phu







The War


- 1955-1975.
- Between south and north.
- US filled vacuum left by the French.
- Escalation under Kennedy (early 1960s).
- American pullout: 1973.
- Defeat of south and reunification: 1975.

Domino Theory: communism's spread.

Costs of the War: US

- Official: \$110,715,000,000.
- 56,818 dead, 303,704 wounded.
- 591 prisoners of war (POWs), 1334 missing in action (MIA).
- First war the US lost.




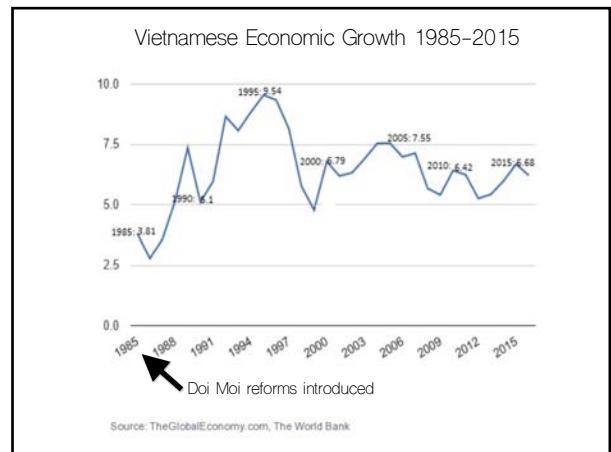

Costs of the War: Vietnam

- North Vietnamese deaths: aprpx. one million.
- South Vietnamese deaths: 200,000.
- Economic and environmental devastation.




1986 *Doi Moi* Reforms

- ****Doi Moi**: "renovation".
- Economic reforms: decentralization, private enterprise, foreign investment.
- Political reforms: none (remained communist).
- Similar to Chinese model introduced by Deng Xiaoping.






Vietnam Today

- Fear of China, closer alliance with US.



US Aircraft Carrier Carl Vinson arrived in Da Nang last year (March 5).




Vietnam Today

- Corruption: 107 out of 180 countries.*



* Transparency International 2017



Vietnam Today

- Human rights violations.



Anti-corruption blogger "Mother Mushroom" sentenced to 10 years in prison, June 2017 (now living in exile in the US).



Vietnam Today

- 2015 ranking in math and science performance among 15 yr olds: 12th.
 - US: 28th.
 - Most of Europe was lower ranked.
- Sixth largest source of international students in US higher education (22,500).




High school students attend a US higher education fair in 2017.

 Vietnam Today

- Strong proponent of trade agreements, including TPP (Trans Pacific Partnership).
 - US pulled out of agreement in first week of Trump presidency.




 Vietnam Today

- Climate change risk:
 - Rank in Climate Risk Index*: 5th.
 - Effects: rising sea levels,




* Germanwatch.org


Mekong River Delta: 13% of world rice production.



Salinization moving inland.

 Conclusion

- Rapid economic growth.
- Young, entrepreneurial population.
- Ossified and corrupt political system.
- High level of climate change awareness.



Winning debate team,
American Foreign Policy
class, December 2016