

## Key Events

- 1955** - Start of Vietnam War
- 1973** - United States withdraws forces and a ceasefire is created
- 1975** - Country united under Communism after Communist troops from the North overrun and take control of anti-communist South
- 1975** - End of Vietnam War
- 1976** - Vietnam named the Socialist Republic of Vietnam
- Saigon becomes Ho Chi Minh City
- Thousands flee from the country
- 1979**- Chinese troops invade Vietnam's northern border but are pushed back by Vietnamese forces
- 1986** - New party leader, Nguyen Van Linh, introduces a more liberal economic policy
- 1994** - The 30 year trade embargo on Vietnam is lifted by the U.S.
- 1995** - Vietnam joins the Association of Southeast Asian Nations
- 2000** - Due to 40,000 people being killed by unexploded munitions, The President Bill Clinton offers to help clear the landmines leftover from the Vietnam War.
- 2001** - Nong Duc Manh is selected as the new leader of the Communist Party
- 2007** - The World Trade Organization adopts Vietnam as its 150th member
- 2008** - First satellite communications are launched by Vietnam in French Guiana
- 2008** - Vietnam puts a two-child policy in place
- 2011** - An agreement is signed between China and Vietnam to settle the South China Sea dispute
- 2014** - The U.S.'s embargo on arms sales to Vietnam is partially lifted
- 2016** - U.S. completely lifts its embargo on arms sales to Vietnam

## Physical Structure

### Size:

Vietnam is around 128,455 square miles, a little smaller than California.

### Current Population: 95 million

- Population has more than doubled since 1970

### Terrain:

$\frac{3}{4}$  of the country is mountains and hills but also contains coastal plains and several mountain ranges.



# Vietnam

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## Economy

Vietnam's economy involves 18% agriculture, 38% industry, and 40% of GDP comes from state-owned enterprises. Their main agricultural products include rice, coffee, rubber, and tea. Their main industries include food processing, garments, shoes, machine-building, mining, and coal. Vietnam plans to create a more open and modern economy. Vietnam has been promoting more export driven industries since they joined the WTO in 2007. Although their currency, the dong, depreciated by 5% in 2015, they have managed to decrease poverty significantly.

GDP Official Exchange Rate - \$200.5 Billion (2015)

Unemployment Rate - 3.7% (2016)

Public Debt - 54.9% of GDP (2016)

Exports - \$169.2 Billion (2016)

Imports - \$161 Billion (2016)

Export Partners: US [21.2%] China [13.3%] Japan [8.4%] South Korea [5.5%] Germany [4.1%] (2016)

Import Partners: China [34.1%] South Korea [14.3%] Singapore [6.5%] Japan [6.1%] Hong Kong [5.1%]



## Political



**Current Leader:** Trần Đại Quang

Tran Dai Quang was a police chief in Vietnam and was nominated for leader at the Communist Party Conference. Tran Dai Quang won with 90% of the votes from parliament.

**Type of Government:** Communism  
Politics and society are centered around the Communist government of Vietnam.

**Effects of Communism:** Communism benefited some of the poorer lower class people and helped them to a higher status. The opposite effect would happen to the rich higher class society. The Communist government wanted everyone to be equal and share the land.



## Cultural &

The culture of Vietnam is one of the oldest in Southeast Asia. Some characteristics of Vietnamese culture include respect for community and family values, ancestor venerating, and dedication to studies. Because it was formerly ruled by China it was heavily influenced by Chinese culture with regard to politics, government, moral ethics, and art. During the French colonial period, the culture was influenced by Europeans including the spread of Catholicism and the adoption of the Latin alphabet versus using the Chinese characters. In the Socialist era their culture was controlled by the government owned media and social and communist nations programs. However, since the 1990s Vietnamese culture has had more exposure to Asian, European, and American culture.

**Major Religions:** Buddhism, Catholicism, Protestantism, Taoism, and Confucianism.

**Main Foods:** mostly long grain white rice, fish, seafood, tofu, and stir fry vegetables