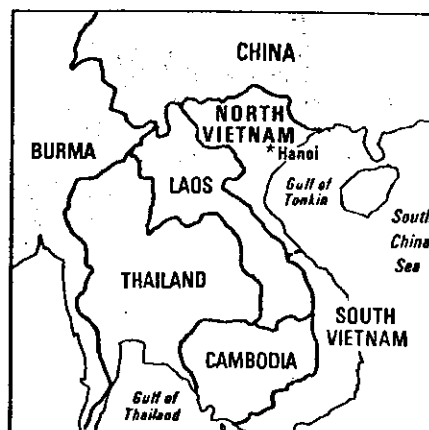


VIETNAM, NORTH



Language: closely corresponds to the breakdown of ethnic groups

Literacy: claimed to be 95% (1964)

Labor force: (1 January 1970) 9.6 million, not including military; about 70% agriculture and 10% industry

GOVERNMENT

Legal name: Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam

Type: Communist state

Capital: Hanoi

Political subdivisions: 2 autonomous regions (of 3 and 5 provinces, respectively), 17 other provinces, 2 centrally governed municipalities, 1 special zone

Legal system: based on Communist legal theory and French civil law system; constitution enacted 1960

Branches: constitution provides for a National Assembly and highly centralized executive nominally subordinate to it

Party and government leaders: Ton Duc Thang, President of DRV; Le Duan, First Secretary; Truong Chinh, Chairman, Standing Committee of National Assembly; Pham Van Dong, Premier; Vo Nguyen Giap, Minister of National Defense

Suffrage: over age 18

Elections: pro forma elections held for national and local assemblies

Political parties: ruled by Lao Dong Party (Communist) with membership of approximately 900,000; minor subordinate parties

Member of: no international bodies

ECONOMY

GNP: \$1.6 billion (1964, in 1964 prices), less than \$100 per capita; pre-1965 growth rate 6%; est. GNP 1974, \$2.0 billion (\$)

Agriculture: mainly subsistence; main crops — rice, corn, sweet potatoes, manioc, sugarcane; food shortages — rice, meat, sugar; caloric intake, 1,700-2,200 calories per day per capita

VIETNAM, NORTH**LAND**

61,300 sq. mi.; 14% cultivated, 50% forested, 36% urban inland water, and other

Land boundaries: 1,850 mi.

WATER

Limits of territorial waters (claimed): 12 n. mi.

Coastline: 490 mi. (excluding islands)

PEOPLE

Population: 24,533,000, average annual growth rate 2.2% (current)

Nationality: noun—North Vietnamese (sing. & pl.); adjective—North Vietnamese

Ethnic divisions: 85%-90% predominantly Vietnamese; ethnic minorities include Muong, Thai, Meo, and Man

Religion: Confucianism, Buddhism, Taoism, Catholicism

January 1976

Major industries: food processing, textiles, machine building, mining, cement, chemical fertilizer

Shortages: petroleum, complex machinery and equipment, fertilizer, foodstuffs

Electric power: 252,000 kw. capacity (1974); 750,000 kw.-hr. produced (1974), 32 kw.-hr. per capita

Exports: \$125 million (f.o.b., 1974); agricultural and handicraft products, coal, minerals and ores (S)

Imports: \$1.1 billion (c.i.f., 1974); petroleum, steel products, railroad equipment, vehicles, machinery and equipment, chemicals, medicines, raw cotton, fertilizer, grain (S)

Major trade partners: 93% foreign trade with Communist countries (primarily U.S.S.R. and China), 7% with non-Communist countries (1974) (S)

Aid: economic—\$3.6 billion delivered 1970-74, of which China, \$960 million, U.S.S.R., \$1,560 million, East European and other Communist countries, \$1,065 million; military—\$2.0 billion delivered 1970-74, of which U.S.S.R., \$1,130 million, China, \$845 million (S)

Monetary conversion rate (nominal): 3.0 dong = US\$1 (1975)

Fiscal year: calendar year

COMMUNICATIONS

Railroads: 833 usable route mi., consists of about 28 mi. of standard gage (4'8½"), 659 mi. of meter gage (3'3¾"), and 146 mi. of dual gage (4'8½" and 3'3¾") all single track, none electrified; all government owned and operated; work is in progress to extend rail service from Vinh south to DMZ (C)

Highways: 13,500 mi., including 900 mi. bituminous surface-treated, 2,100 mi. gravel, 10,000 mi. improved earth, 500 mi. unimproved earth

Inland waterways: 4,200 mi.; 1,800 mi. navigable perennially by craft drawing 6 ft.

Pipelines: refined products 1,500 miles (including 340 in Laos and 280 miles in the RVN) (S)

Ports: 3 major, 3 minor

Merchant marine: 15 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 65,900 GRT, 89,200 DWT; includes 10 cargo, 5 tanker; North Vietnam beneficially owns 3 cargo ships over 1,000 GRT, totaling 17,000 GRT and 22,700 DWT under the Somali and U.K. flags (C)

Civil air: military controlled (C)

Airfields: 16 total; 11 with permanent-surface runways; 2 with runway 8,000-11,999 ft., 12 with runways 4,000-7,999 ft.

Telecommunications: open-wire networks extending from Hanoi to all provinces; radio stations provide alternate circuits communication links; international facilities adequate; radio and wired broadcast most important means of mass communications; more than 15,000 telephones estimated; number of radio sets

unknown, but estimates range upward to 500,000; about 18 shortwave and 5 mediumwave radio transmitters, 1 TV station (C)

DEFENSE FORCES

Military manpower: males 15-49, 5,263,000; 2,975,000 fit for military service; average number currently reaching military age (17) annually about 297,000 (C)

Personnel: army 560,000 to 633,000, navy 3,000, air force 10,000, regional forces 51,000, security forces 16,500 (S)

Major ground units: 25 infantry divisions or division equivalents of which 18 division equivalents are in the South and 1 division equivalent is in Laos, 2 training divisions, 1 artillery command, 1 sapper command, 6 independent infantry regiments, 7 probable armored regiment equivalents, 1 air defense command (consisting of 50 AAA regimental entities in NVN and 44-48 SA-2 battalions and up to 10 SA-3 battalions and some 40 radar sites) and 10 independent combat engineer regiments (S)

Ships: (includes GVN ships not evacuated) 2 principal combatants, 186 patrol craft including 3 guided missile patrol craft, 9 amphibious warfare craft, 45 mine warfare craft, 433 auxiliary and service craft (S)

Aircraft: 1,514, in operational units 1,504, including 460 jet fighters, 6-8 jet light bombers, 48 jet trainers, 4 jet transports, 174 prop transports, 20 turboprop transports, and 510 helicopters (S)

Missiles: SA-2, SA-3, SA-7 (see above)(S)

Supply: dependent chiefly on U.S.S.R. and China for virtually all equipment; smaller amounts from other Communist countries; produces negligible quantities of infantry weapons, ammunition, and explosive devices

Military budget: no recent data available; for fiscal year ending 31 December 1962, estimated defense expenditures 382 million dong; about one-fifth of total budget (estimated value \$103 million); military aid from U.S.S.R. and China now so extensive that actual allocation of North Vietnam's domestic resources to defense would not be indicative of total military effort

NOTE: VN figures preliminary

INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY

Ministry of Public Security (Bo Cong An),¹⁹ domestic/foreign; Research Department (Cuc Nghien

¹⁹Recent information states that the Ministry of Public Security (MPS) and the Ministry of Interior have been merged. MPS Minister Tran Quoc Hoan has been named Minister of Interior. This could mean that the MPS has become a subordinate element of the Ministry of Interior as it was before 1952. The MPS title has been retained for convenience of reference.

VIETNAM, NORTH

January 1978

Cuu) of the Ministry of National Defense General Staff Department, domestic/foreign; Military Security Department (Cuc Bao Ve Quan Doi) of the Ministry of National Defense General Political Department, domestic; Enemy Proselyting Department (Cuc Dich Van) of the Ministry of National Defense General Political Department, domestic (C)