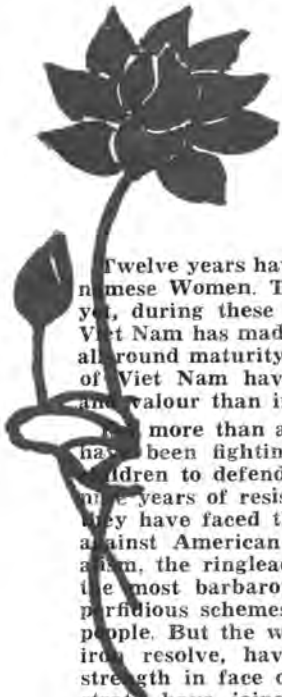


V IET NAM WOMEN'S PROGRESS THROUGH FIGURES

*FROM THE 3rd NATIONAL WOMEN'S CONGRESS,
MARCH 1961
TO THE 4th NATIONAL WOMEN'S CONGRESS,
MARCH 1974*



VIET NAM WOMEN'S PROGRESS
THROUGH FIGURES



Twelve years have passed since the Third Congress of Vietnamese Women. This is but a very short historical period; yet, during these twelve years, the women's movement in Viet Nam has made a new step forward which testifies to its all-round maturity. This is indeed a "period when the women of Viet Nam have stood up and displayed more strength and valour than in any period of our national history."

For more than a quarter-century, the women of Viet Nam have been fighting side by side with their husbands and children to defend the fatherland's independence. Following nine years of resistance war against the French colonialists, they have faced the immense trial of the war of resistance against American imperialist aggression. American imperialism, the ringleader of world imperialism, has resorted to the most barbarous war means and worked out the most perfidious schemes in the hope of subduing the Vietnamese people. But the women of Viet Nam, full of patriotism and iron resolve, have stood up and displayed extraordinary strength in face of its up-to-date weaponry. Women of all strata have joined the movement to shoulder the "three responsibilities" in order to resist American aggression, save the country and build socialism. Many heroic achievements have been recorded by old and young.

Looking back at the difficult road they have travelled over, the women of Viet Nam feel infinite pride: they have overcome immense hardships, endured boundless sacrifices, and contributed a brilliant part to the glorious victory of the Vietnamese people in their effort to resist American aggression, save the country and build socialism.

The American imperialists had wanted to drown the Vietnamese people in a sea of blood. But it was in the blood and fire of the hard struggle against them that the women of Viet Nam have quickly matured. The American imperialists had wanted to push Viet Nam back to the Stone Age. Yet it is in the course of their fight for national independence and freedom that the women of Viet Nam have been making surprising progress and building a worthy life

of equality and happiness for themselves and a brilliant future for their children.

The time is past and gone when the Vietnamese woman was but a slave in family and society, leading an obscure and hard life confined to the kitchen and the darkest corner of the house. Past and gone is the time when, in Vietnamese feudal society, "one was considered childless even if one had ten daughters". The Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, promulgated after the triumph of the August 1945 Revolution, laid down the principle of equality between man and woman. But it is while they are carrying out their duties to their country and families and contributing a worthy part to the common cause that the women have truly realized equality with men.

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The few figures and pictures reproduced in this booklet cannot fully reflect a glorious historical period for the Vietnamese women. These figures will take on much greater meaning if one remembers that these three tasks: to fight the aggressors, to carry out production work, and to bring up and educate their children, have been shouldered by the women simultaneously and in the course of an extremely hard war of resistance.

The most important and precious feature of the rapid maturity of the Vietnamese women during the past twelve years is the high level attained by their revolutionary spirit. Our ancestors have left a tradition of patriotism and resistance to foreign aggression, born of 2,000 years of efforts to build and defend the country. But in no previous national armed struggle have the women been active in such large numbers and in such important fields as during the great war of resistance against American aggression, for national salvation. This testifies to the high level of their political consciousness, for armed struggle is the highest form of struggle and requires a thoroughly revolutionary spirit as well as readiness to face great sacrifices.

The women of Viet Nam love their children even more than their own lives and work hard to bring them up. But when the fatherland requires, they are ready to offer their children for service to the country. They themselves, even when they are getting on in years and of ill health, never hesitate to face hardships and sacrifices to give care and help to the soldiers and participate in all revolutionary work demanded by the people's war. They are the mothers of heroic

fighters, and the Vietnamese Party and nation own them eternal gratitude.

Young wives set aside their personal feelings and their present longing for happiness and undertake all responsibilities in the rear area so that their husbands can go and fight at the front with their minds at peace: they take care of their old parents and young children and remain faithful to their dear husbands. Young school-girls, immediately after their graduation, stand ready to go wherever the country requires and fulfil all tasks. In combat, women fighters display courage, intelligence, ability to learn modern science and technique, competent leadership, organizational capabilities, and have scored brilliant exploits.

The effective mass participation of women in all fields of combat and combat support has strengthened our defence potential and multiplied the means to fight the enemy. Thanks to this, our people's war has known an all-round development and become invincible. Poet To Huu has written these lines about a photo showing a captured US militaryman walking under guard:

The slender woman guerilla holds her gun high,
While the tall American bows his head.

This highlights the revolutionary heroism of the women of Viet Nam, embodied in innumerable courageous deeds performed by them both at the front and in the rear areas. It shows the dauntlessness of the Vietnamese people, who have unflinchingly stood up to the American aggressors and have defeated them.

"Plough or hammer in one hand, rifle in the other", the women of Viet Nam have eagerly participated in the triple revolution: revolution in the relations of production, scientific and technical revolution, and ideological and cultural revolution. Their efforts to promote that triple revolution, to build the new regime and the new life, to form the new man, have rapidly elevated their position in productive labour and created a firm basis for equality between man and woman both in the family and in society. Formerly engaged mostly in individual and simple productive labour within the family, the women of Viet Nam have now formed a powerful force of collective labour holding important positions in many branches of the national economy, in health, education, culture and art... Within a relatively short period of time, large numbers of skilled women workers and scientific and technical women cadres have been trained in almost all branches, including many in which no women


formerly worked. Tens of thousands of outstanding women have been appointed to leading posts in the Party and the administration, in economic management and management of State affairs, thus acceding to effective leadership of society.

Our Party highly values the role played by the women of Viet Nam in the revolutionary cause of the nation. Comrade Le Duan, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, has said: "The pillars of our country are not only our men but also our women" — "The women play an important role in both family and State affairs". This is historically true and has been further borne out by recent happenings.

If asked why such major changes have happened to her life and status, any Vietnamese woman would give something like the following answer: "The Party has given us wings to fly high; it has charted for us the way to happiness". Indeed, every step forward made by the women is linked to the great revolutionary cause of the nation and the working class. Under the clear-sighted leadership of the Party and thanks to the care and education given them by our beloved and venerated President Ho Chi Minh, the women of Viet Nam have seen their fine traditions develop to a high level. These traditions are those of humanity, indomitable struggle, industry, diligence, selflessness, uprightness, optimism and love of life, endurance, and stamina, creative intelligence and a high sense of duty to country and family. Furthermore, the fine socialist regime being built in the North, although still in its beginnings, has created favourable conditions for the emancipation of the women, raising their capabilities, and helping them solve difficulties related to family life and child problems.

On the strength of their own experiences, the women of Viet Nam have realized that only the path of thoroughly revolutionary struggle can lead to genuine independence, freedom and peace for the country and equality and happiness for themselves. That is why for them the revolution is a great festival and their *raison d'être*.


The American imperialists have not given up their aggressive designs against Viet Nam. The struggle to maintain peace, complete the national democratic revolution in the South, build a peaceful, independent, democratic and prosperous Viet Nam and bring about full emancipation for all the women of Viet Nam — this struggle remains a long and hard one. But the women of Viet Nam are confident of final victory and a bright future.



“**O**UR people have a deep gratitude
... towards the mothers from North
to South who have given birth to, and
brought up, the heroic generations of our
Fatherland... »

President HO CHI MINH

*Words on the occasion of the 20th
founding anniversary of the Viet Nam
Women's Union*



“ **N** EVER before has the women's movement in both zones North and South developed so powerfully in all respects as in the present resistance war against U.S. aggression, for national salvation. Women are fighting against the enemy and building the rear area while taking charge of their families. The slogan : « Heroism, dauntlessness, loyalty, dedication » is precisely a sum-up of the Vietnamese women's accomplishments. The Vietnamese women well deserve it... »

LE DUAN

*First Secretary of the Central Committee
of the Viet Nam Worker's Party
Words at the Sum-up Conference on the
Work among Women*

“ **I** N the past resistance war against the French colonialists and in the present struggle against U.S. aggression, the Vietnamese women have recorded extremely brilliant and great exploits. They are also the finest, the most typical image of Vietnamese revolutionary heroism. The achievements of the Vietnamese Women are the pride of our people... »

Premier PHAM VAN DONG

*Words at the Sum-up Conference on the
Work among Women*

**"VIET NAM WOMEN: HEROIC
ALL-CAPABLE IN THE ANTI-US.
STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL SALVATION"**



THESE LETTERS OF GOLD ARE EMBROIDERED ON THE TAPESTRY PRESENTED BY COMRADE TRUONG CHINH, POLITICAL BUREAU MEMBER OF THE VIET NAM WORKERS PARTY, ON BEHALF OF THE PARTY, TO THE VIET NAM WOMEN'S UNION ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 20th FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY.



Women M.P. with President Ho Chi Minh



*Comrade
Nguyen Thi
Thap, Vice-
Chairman of
the National
Assembly
Standing
Committee,
Chairman of
Viet Nam Wo-
men's Union,
talking to the
heroines of
the People's
Army.*



WOMEN M. P.

	1961	1972
	2nd legisla- ture	4th legisla- ture
1. M.P.	53	125
2. Percentage	11,6%	29,7%
3. Vice-Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee	0	1
4. Members of the National As- sembly Standing Committee	0	2
5. Heads of the various commit- tees of the National Assembly	0	1

WOMEN M.P. IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY 4th LEGISLATURE

Workers	33
Peasants	46
Intellectuals	24
Minority nationalities	14
Youth	57
Heroines	7

WOMEN TAKING PART IN STATE MANAGEMENT

	1965	1972
At Central Level		
— Equivalent to ministers and vice-Ministers	5	12
— Heads and Deputy-heads of Departments, Bureaux and Institutes	21	65
— Heads and Deputy-heads of offices	115	1.837
At Provincial Level		
— Percentage of women in People's Councils	22,8%	34,7%
— Vice-Chairmen of Administrative committees	2	10
— Members of Administrative Committees	36	42
— Heads and Deputy-heads of services, branches	—	221

Comrade Vu Thi Va, chairman of the Administrative Committee of Quan Ba district, Ha Giang province, at work in her office.

