

E-10 1st TERM COUNTRY PROFILES

VIETNAM

General Information

<i>Official Name:</i>	Socialist Republic of Vietnam
<i>Capital:</i>	Hanoi
<i>Population:</i>	86,100,000
<i>Major Languages:</i>	Vietnamese, English, French, and Chinese
<i>Major Religions:</i>	Buddhism, Catholic, Cao Dai, and Protestantism
<i>Regional/Economic Organizational Membership:</i>	ADB, APEC, APT, ARF, ASEAN, CP, EAS, FAO, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCs, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, MIGA, NAM, OIF, OPCW, UN, UNSC, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNWTO, UPU, WCL, WCO, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, and the WTO, etc.

Governmental System

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam is a single-party state. A new state constitution was approved in April 1992, replacing the 1975 version. The central role of the Communist Party was reasserted in all organs of government, politics and society. Only political organizations affiliated with or endorsed by the Communist Party are permitted to contest elections. These include the Vietnamese Fatherland Front, worker and trade unionist parties. Although the state remains officially committed to socialism as its defining creed, the ideology's importance has substantially diminished since the 1990s. The President of Vietnam is the titular head of state and the nominal commander in chief of the military of Vietnam, chairing the Council on National Defense and Security. The Prime Minister of Vietnam Nguyen Tan Dung is the head of government, presiding over a council of ministers composed of 3 deputy prime ministers and the heads of 26 ministries and commissions.

The National Assembly of Vietnam is the unicameral legislature of the government, composed of 498 members. It is superior to both the executive and judicial branches. All members of the council of ministers are derived from the National Assembly. The Supreme People's Court of Vietnam, which is the highest court of appeal in the nation, is also answerable to the National Assembly. Beneath the Supreme People's Court stand the provincial municipal courts and the local courts. Military courts are also a powerful branch of the judiciary with special jurisdiction in matters of national security. All organs of Vietnam's government are controlled by the Communist Party. Most government appointees are members of the party. The General Secretary of the Communist Party is perhaps one of the most important political leaders in the nation, controlling the party's national organization and state appointments, as well as setting policy.

Foreign Policy

Vietnam is committed to helping foster peace and economic progress in the world. Vietnam due to its history of foreign control and foreign intervention also believes that in fostering peace that a nation's privacy and rights should be treated with the utmost regard. In recent years, Vietnam has fostered existing international ties as well as pursuing new trade deals and treaties with surrounding nations. This is very apparent when looking at Vietnam's dealings with Laos; the two have undertaken many joint projects for the mutual improvement of their relations and nations. Vietnam has also endeavored to cement ties with its fellow members in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in hopes of building better cooperation regionally.

Economically Vietnam is extremely concerned with drawing foreign investment to the region. Vietnam encourages its businessman to seek joint ventures with foreign companies and investors as well as buying extensively into overseas corporations. Vietnam is however careful to regulate such ventures and keep them firmly under government oversight. Vietnam has also in recent years made strides to establish connection between Vietnamese universities and international research and educational institutions.

Issues Summary

Issue 1: Human Security → Vietnam as part of its 12 step program is working to improve the lives of its citizens and provide them with greater safety and quality of life. The Government of Vietnam has made large steps in providing the basic needs to its people. Vietnam has worked mightily to reduce global tensions and increase globalization for the good of all. Vietnam has formed effective free trade treaties and friendship with nations worldwide allowing the state of peace and rapidly improving quality of life the Vietnam now enjoys.

Issue 2: Terrorism → Vietnam stands against Terrorism along with the rest of the Security Council but does not believe in committing its forces into foreign engagements. Vietnam strongly believes in diplomatic approaches and in the sovereignty of nations. Vietnam condemns the actions of terrorists but simply cannot support wholesale invasion of sovereign states. The peaceful resolution of disputes is always Vietnam's position.

Issue 3: Sustainable Development and Climate Change → Vietnam as a part of the burgeoning Asian economic center is very concerned with protecting its ability to grow in a stable way and still protect its natural resources and beauty. It has made large strides toward achieving its 12 national Millennium goals. In conjunction with Laos and other ASEAN neighbors Vietnam has been working to combat food shortages and to improve the availability of electricity and other modern commodities as per the goals.

Issue 4: Security Council Reform → Vietnam does not actively support any of the movements for broad Security Council reform, but believes that many of the agenda streamlining measures as well as other general reforms that have been visited upon other United Nations bodies should be extended to the Security Council in hopes of improving its ability to react to and solve world security crisis.

Issue 5: Nonproliferation → Vietnam is very committed to not simply a stop to the proliferation of weapons but believes in complete disarmament of the world. Vietnam has been concerned by the recent failure of the 2008 Substantive Session of the Disarmament Commission to reach any new decision on the progress and future of disarmament. Vietnam has further pleaded that nuclear nations continue and accelerate the reduction and destruction of nuclear arms. It has proudly stated that ASEAN is completely free of nuclear weapons and will serve as one of the Presidents of the Conference on Disarmament in 2009. It has stated its hope of bringing the world closer to true disarmament.

Relationship with the United Nations

Vietnam has held relations with the United Nations since becoming an acting non-permanent member over thirty years ago. The country was admitted to the United Nations on September 20, 1977. The current ambassador from Vietnam in the United Nations is H.E Ambassador Le Luong Minh. The United Nations began relations with Vietnam soon after the end of the Vietnam War by providing aid to the country in the form of money and food. Vietnam assumed a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council in January of 2008, strengthening not only ties with the United Nations but the United States as well. Vietnam is included in the Asian Regional Group and usually votes according to the leanings of that majority. They also hold membership in multiple commissions and committees within the U.N. including the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

Relationship with other United Nations Security Council Members

P5 Members and E10 Members: The current Vietnamese foreign policy is: "Implement consistently the foreign policy line of independence, self-reliance, peace, cooperation and development; the foreign policy of openness and diversification and multilateralization of international relations. Proactively and actively engage in international economic integration while expanding international cooperation in other fields. Vietnam is a friend and reliable partner of all countries in the international community, actively taking part in international and regional cooperation processes.