

## **Vietnam**

### **Rice**

Vietnam has been a single-party state since its creation in 1954. At that time, to end the fighting between communist and anticommunist, the Geneva agreement divided Vietnam at the 17<sup>th</sup> parallel. North Vietnam was the communist zone, while South Vietnam was noncommunist. The original intention was for there to be reunification and elections in 1956, but the government of South Vietnam did not accept these terms, and declared itself a republic in 1955 (United States Department of State 2010). Ho Chi Minh, the leader of the Vietnam Worker's Party (DLDV, after 1977 DSCV) assumed the presidency of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

The Vietnam War began in the late 1960s, and continued until 1975. Ho Chi Minh remained in power until his death on September 2, 1969. He was succeeded by Ton Duc Thang, formerly the Vice-President. This is not a SOLS change. Ton Duc Thang held the presidency until reunification in 1975.

Upon the end of the Vietnam War (in which the Democratic Republic was victorious), the reunified country was named the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The constitution, created in 1980, stated that Vietnam was a one-party state, and that the Communist party controlled the country (Corfield, 110). Though there was a national assembly, a President (who continued to be Ton Duc Thang) and a Prime Minister, the true leader of the country was the General Secretary of the DSCV. Le Duan, who had held the title of "First Secretary" from 2 July 1976 became the General Secretary of the DSCV, and the official leader of Vietnam on 20 December 1976. This is not a SOLS change. He held this office until his death in 1986. He was initially succeeded by Truong Chinh, who was seen to be a temporary replacement while the Communist hierarchy found a new leader (Corfield, 111-112). At the Party Congress in December of 1986, they selected Nguyen Van Linh as General Secretary, and he thereby assumed leadership of the country.

In 1991, Nguyen retired and Do Muoi was appointed as the new General Secretary. He remained in office until 1997, when Le Kha Phieu was appointed to replace him. Phieu was in office 2001, when he was replaced by Nông Đức Mạnh. Nông Đức Mạnh remains in office in the present day.

## **References**

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