

## Preface

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam experienced economic stagnation in the incipient days subsequent to the communist taking control of it in 1975 as well as the consequent reunification of the whole of Vietnam under a communist government in the sequel, in 1976. A decade long deprivation (1976-1986), mainly because of the non-pragmatic much less the impracticable economic policies, drove the public to utter despondency and inspired their insistence on the political and economic changes in the country. In response to the demand of the people, the Communist Party of Vietnam, in its Sixth Party Congress held in December 1986, launched a renovation programme called '*doi moi*' to revitalize all organs of the state structure. As a result, the subsequent decade (1986-1995) witnessed series of policy changes in the economy, foreign relations and to some extent in domestic politics too.

This dissertation entitled: ***Renovation in Vietnam Since 1986: A Study in Political, Economic and Social Change*** seeks to study the policy changes ushered in by Vietnam that brought in far reaching effects within a decade that followed the Sixth Party Congress.

This dissertation embodying an analysis of the dramatic changes in economy, politics, and foreign relations of Socialist Republic of Vietnam from 1986-1995, is made to focus on *doi moi* quite understandably, unlike other works like, William J. Duiker's ***Vietnam: Revolution in Transition*** (Boulder, 1995), Vo Nhan Tri's ***Vietnam's Economic Policy Since 1975*** (Singapore, 1990), Mya Than and Joseph L. H. Tan's ***Vietnam's Dilemmas and Options: The Challenge of Economic Transformation in the 1990s***, (Singapore, 1993). Lewis M. Stern's ***Renovating the Vietnamese Communist Party***, (Singapore, 1993), Carlyle A. Thayer and Ramses Amer's ***Vietnamese Foreign Policy in***

*Transition*, (Singapore, 1999) and James W. Morley and Masashi Nishihara's *Vietnam Joins the World*, (New York, 1997) which have dealt with one aspect or the other, of the renovation programme of Vietnam, each in its own way. On the other hand, the present study aims at making a fairly in-depth study of the reform programme and its achievements in the realms of economic, political and foreign relations in the chosen period.

This dissertation is considerably based on the primary source material, comprising the publications of the Vietnamese government such as documents, official newsletters, press releases, periodicals, brought out from time to time, and the publications of the Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in New Delhi and the accounts of interviews and the statements issued by the Party Leaders at different forums and the writings of the Vietnamese leaders of no mean repute, besides the documents of the ASEAN Secretariat, the U.S. government publications, and the documents of the United Nations.

The secondary source material drawn upon, includes books, journals, and newspapers both Indian and Foreign like *Contemporary Southeast Asia*, *Far Eastern Economic Review (FEER)*, *Summary of World Broadcasts (SWB)*, *Asiaweek*, *Asian Survey* and Newspapers like *Bangkok Post*, *International Herald Tribune*, *The Washington Post*, *Nhan Dan*, *The Daily Yomiuri* and *The Japan Times*, to mention a few. Both primary and secondary sources were supplemented by the interaction with the members of the Vietnamese Embassy in New Delhi and an exchange of views with the visiting Professors, subject experts, and columnists on the topic of research, and above all, the Internet source, fairly in evidence in the bibliography given at the end of this dissertation.

The first chapter begins with an account of the physiological features which entails a detailed account of the natural economic resources and various ethnic groups, the glorious past of Vietnam, the French colonization and the national movements eventually leading to its independence. This chapter also accounts for Vietnam's emerging as a testing ground for Cold War rivalry in Southeast Asia and the condition of the economy of the Communist North Vietnam as well as that of the United States-backed South Vietnam's economy till the reunification in 1976.

Following an account of the transition period from 1975 to 1986, the second chapter undertakes to deal with *doi moi* since 1986. The discussion also embraces the reforms introduced in agriculture, industry and foreign investment laws made for the development of the economy. Further, Vietnam's exposure to multi-sectoral economy and the growth of non-state sector and its impact on agriculture, foreign investment, inflation control and growth of GDP are also traced.

In the third chapter, the growth of the CPV from its beginning, its eventual role in the national reunification, the changes in the political front consequent on *doi moi*, the working of the National Assembly, the role played by the media in laying bare the negative phenomena of the society and to some extent, the gradual movement to the political pluralism – are all traced.

The circumstances compelling Vietnam to seek a renovation of its foreign policy, are explained in the Fourth chapter in addition to an account of the removal of the impediments to the implementation of its redesigned foreign policy with a particular focus on its relationships with Cambodia, the U.S, China and the ASEAN nations.

In the final chapter the description of the trends in the realms of economy, politics and foreign relations during the chosen period of study, is aptly followed by a summing up of the conclusions arrived at, in the course of study.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to many persons and institutions for coming forward to offer me a generous assistance and cooperation in preparing this dissertation.

I owe the successful completion of the dissertation to Prof. K. Raja Reddy an ardent and untiring researcher on Vietnam who had supervised with a sustained interest. Thanks to his proficiency in Vietnamese language which facilitated my access to and understanding of some of the original Vietnamese documents.

Other teachers of mine who deserve mention here are, Prof. A. Lakshmana Chetty, former Director of the Centre, for aiding me a lot in completing this work, and Prof. Y. Yagama Reddy, Director of the Centre, whose hand of help, I like to acknowledge, with a deep sense of gratitude. I am also greatly thankful to Dr. C. Ravindranatha Reddy and Dr. P. Munirathnam Reddy, the Associate Professors for their help in times of need and constant encouragement.

I am also deeply indebted to the University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi, for making a provision for a Junior Research Fellowship to pursue my research work in the Centre.

My sincere thanks are due to Prof. V Suryanarayan, former Director, Centre for South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of Madras, Prof. Ganganath Jha, Centre for Southeast Asia and Southwest Pacific Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Prof. Nancy Brendlinger, Department of Political Science, Georgia, USA, Dr. Jayanth, former

Southeast Asia correspondent of *The Hindu* in Singapore, for their encouragement and valuable suggestions in preparing this dissertation.

I would like to register my deep sense of gratitude to Prof. N.J. Richard, the retired faculty from S.V. University, for his constant inspiration and timely help. I am thankful to my senior Dr. M. Nagendra Prasad, Dr. G. Vijayakumar Reddy, the Research Associate, Dr. G. Jayachandra Reddy, the Teaching Consultant and Sri C. Sankar Reddy, Retd. Supdt., Sri Chandra Babu, the Library Assistant, Smt. Shameemunisa Begum, Sri D. Ravichandran, Sri. Venubhushanam, Sri Keerthi Venkateswara Rao and Sri Siddaiah in the Centre for Southeast Asian and Pacific Studies, for prompt assistance and cooperation. I am grateful to the staff of the S.V. University Library as well as the Library staff of the Indian Council of World Affairs, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi for their help in collecting source material.

I am grateful to my parents, kinsfolk and my friend Sri M. Munisankar for constantly encouraging me in completing this work. I owe a lot to my wife, Smt. K. Usha Rani, for her warm regard and hearty cooperation.

Tirupati

29 October 2005.



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# SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

