

Basic Contents of Vietnam - China Relation in the Period of 1945 – 1975



Associate Professor, Dr. Nguyen Manh Ha

Ex-Director Vietnam Communist Party History Institute, Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, Vietnam

ABSTRACT: On January 15, 1950, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam issued a proclamation recognizing the People's Republic of China. Three days later, on January 18, 1950, the Government of the People's Republic of China issued a Declaration recognizing the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam headed by President Ho Chi Minh. This event opened the especially important period in the diplomatic relations of the two countries. Over the past 70 years, although there have been ups and downs, but basically, the relationship between the two countries is pure, positive, respectful, supportive and beneficial to each other on the basis of common ideology. This study highlights the outstanding features of Vietnam - China relations in the period 1945-1975, when the two countries waged revolutionary wars, fought against aggression, defended national independence and built a socialist society.

KEYWORDS: Vietnam, China, Vietnam-China relations, 1945-1975

1. INTRODUCTION

In the period of modern history, the two countries' relations have been tightened and nurtured by cooperation and mutual assistance, led by the Communist Party of China and the Communist Party of Vietnam. Both countries have succeeded in the cause of national liberation and socialism construction. This relationship also stems from the special affection between Presidents Ho Chi Minh and Chairman Mao Zedong and the hard work and dedication of predecessor revolutionaries, generations of leaders and people of the two countries. Up to now, the friendship, cooperation and peaceful relation is still the main flow. Vietnam and China have stood shoulder to shoulder, giving each other great and valuable support and assistance, contributing to the success of the revolutionary cause of national liberation and socialist construction in each country (Pham Binh Minh, 2021).

The Vietnam - China relationship in the period 1945-1975 was shown in three stages:

In the first period from 1945 to 1949, the two countries experienced difficult and arduous years in all aspects. Vietnam had to be self-reliant to wage a resistance war against the invading French colonialists (known in the West as the Indochina war) to protect its newly won independence. The Communist Party, the People's Party and the Liberation Army fought against the Kuomintang army led by Chiang Kai-shek. This was the period when Vietnam had active support for the Chinese revolution. From those difficult early days, "The people of China and Vietnam have used their blood and bones to cultivate the flowers of Sino-Vietnamese friendship" (Hoang Tranh, 1990).

In the second phase, from 1950 to 1954, the two countries Vietnam - China officially recognized and established diplomatic relations. With the victory of the Chinese revolution, the People's Democratic Republic of China was established. When Vietnam became a member of the socialist faction, the Vietnamese people's resistance against the French colonialists had qualitative changes. Sino-Soviet relations are very warm. China actively aided Vietnam in the spirit of "The Vietnamese revolution is a part of the world revolution. If Vietnam's resistance war against the French is successful, it will ensure security in the south of China. This issue is basically the international obligation of the proletariat" (Ly Kien, 2008) and "The Chinese people have enthusiastically helped the Vietnamese people both spiritually and materially" (Nguyen Thi Mai Hoa, 2013).

In the third period, 1954-1975, the cold war became more and more tense with the confrontation between the Soviet Union and the United States, the socialist camp developed and expanded, but the Soviet Union - China relationship also started deviating. Vietnam had to conduct a war of resistance against the US to protect the country (known in the West as the Vietnam War) with extreme difficulty and arduousness. For China, the US presence in South Vietnam made China concerned about the security of the southern border. The relationship between the two countries was reflected during the speech of Mao Zedong at the reception for Le Duan, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Vietnam when he visited China (June 1963): "Responsibility" of Vietnam is very heavy because it not only has to build socialism in the North, but also to undertake the struggle in South Vietnam and in Laos. China has no reason not to share that burden with Vietnam. Supporting Vietnam, China merely

Basic Contents of Vietnam - China Relation in the Period of 1945 – 1975

provided weapons, while the comrades had to rush to the front of the wave and the wind, sacrificing their lives, blood and bones. Thus, Vietnam's help to China is very enormous, China's help to Vietnam is very small” (Yang Kuisong, 2002).

The relationship between Vietnam and China in the period 1945-1975 is a relationship of mutual assistance to maintain stability and bring practical benefits to the people of each country. Although there are still limitations in the relationship between the two countries, basically, as the Chinese side asserted: "The Democratic Republic of Vietnam is a neighbor that is as close as lips and teeth to China. The Vietnamese people are the close brothers and sisters of the Chinese people” (Nguyen Thi Mai Hoa, 2013). For Vietnam, China's help is extremely extensive and precious, and the State of Vietnam appreciates this help and never forgets it (Pham Binh Minh, 2021).

Research Questions

The article focuses on clarifying research questions:

1. What is the basis of the Vietnam - China relationship?
2. What are the basic contents of Vietnam - China relations in the period 1945-1975?
3. Some evaluations of Vietnam - China relations in the period 1945-1975?

2. THE BASIS OF VIETNAM - CHINA RELATIONSHIP

Firstly, China was once the place where many Vietnamese patriots carried out revolutionary activities, where proletarian organizations were located, and where training classes for Vietnamese revolutionary cadres were opened.

The Vietnamese revolution and Vietnamese patriots had an early relationship with the Chinese revolution and the Chinese communists. Right from the 20s of the twentieth century, Guangzhou city was where Vietnamese patriots such as Le Hong Phong, Ho Tung Mau, Le Hong Son, Pham Hong Thai, Phung Chi Kien, etc sought shelter and carried out activities. Especially, Nguyen Ai Quoc received tremendous help from the people and cadres of China during his operation. Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Macau, Kunming, Guangxi... are the places of the founding and headquarters of the original revolutionary organizations of Vietnam such as Tam Tam Xa (1923), the Vietnamese Association of Revolutionary Youth (6-1925), Communist Party of Vietnam (February 1930), External Party Steering Committee (4-1934); of where the first Congress of the Communist Party of Indochina (March 3-1935) was held. These places are where Vietnamese revolutionary cadres were enlightened and trained at the order of Nguyen Ai Quoc. Hoang Pho Military School is where many patriotic Vietnamese young students studied and where revolutionary documents were printed in order to send back to the country (Duong Kach Menh, Youth newspaper...). The theoretical, ideological and organizational preparations for the establishment of the Communist Party and the Vietnamese revolution took place in China.

Second, the Communist parties of the two countries share the same ideals of socialism and proletarian internationalism

The Communist Party of Vietnam and the Communist Party of China (founded on July 1, 1921) were both established on the basis of Marxism, jointly carrying out the mission of leading the people to fight against aggression, reactionaries and henchmen, and bringing the country forward along the path of socialism. Therefore, Vietnamese patriots and communists active in China also contributed to the revolutionary movement there, such as: Nguyen Ai Quoc participated in Hong Kong - Guangzhou General Strike; more than 30 Vietnamese students at Hoang Pho Military School participated in the Guangzhou uprising (December 1927); General Nguyen Son (both China and Vietnam conferred generals on Nguyen Son) and comrade Nguyen Van Luan accompanied the Chinese Red Army in the historic "Great March"; The Communist Party of Indochina (renamed from October 1930) distributed leaflets, calling on the masses to fight against armed intervention and protect the Soviet Union when the French colonialists mobilized troops to suppress the Jingxi revolution (March 1935); Vietnam held a large fair in early 1939 to help the victims of the Chinese war; Vietnam enthusiastically supported China's resistance war against Japan (boycotting Japanese goods)... That was the spirit of proletarian internationalism, comradeship and brotherhood between the two peoples.

Third, from the concept of "helping a friend, you help yourself", sharing joys and sorrows, and based on the facts that Vietnam is the southern gateway of China, and China is the neighboring country, brother, and great friend of Vietnam, the mutual help of the two countries is also the protection of each country.

The Democratic Republic of Vietnam State was established (September 2, 1945) but in the situation of "no allies, no money, almost no weapons". The resistance war against the French colonialists was not supported by international friends and Vietnam had to be self-reliant with mounting difficulties. Meanwhile, the Chinese revolution at this time did not have a state government. During the Sino-Communist civil war, the balance of powers was not conducive to the Chinese revolution. The struggles of the people of the two countries need mutual support and assistance in all aspects. In addition, Vietnam waged a resistance war against the French colonialists and the US imperialists not only for the sake of the Vietnamese nation, but also for the international spirit and mission. If the Vietnamese resistance won, the position and prestige of the socialist camp would be expanded. Simultaneously, as its prestige and position were increased, the southern border area was guaranteed for China. During the period from 1945 to 1975, the two countries stood side by side, supported each other in the spirit of proletarian internationalism for mutual stability and development.

Basic Contents of Vietnam - China Relation in the Period of 1945 – 1975

3. CONTENTS OF VIETNAM - CHINA RELATIONS IN THE PERIOD 1945-1975

3.1. In the first period, from 1945 to 1949, the relationship between the two countries was demonstrated by the fact that Vietnam, despite being in a very difficult situation, was still willing to work together to support the Chinese revolution at China's request.

Firstly, Vietnam supported China in terms of economy, finance, food, rice, salt... In early 1946, Vietnam arranged food and accommodation for 600 people who were former anti-Japanese guerrilla squads - the former 1st Regiment, led by the China Communist Party. They had to flee to Vietnam at the pursuit of Chiang Kai-shek's Chinese Nationalist forces. In the years 1947-1949, Vietnam helped provide food, accommodation, living expenses... for the Communist Party of China to organize 6 courses of training youth and training agricultural and military cadres with nearly 1,000 participants (Nguyen Thi Mai Hoa, 2013, 54). In June 1947, Vietnam helped organize more than 1,000 local people and soldiers in Xuan Tu – Long Chau area who were chased by the Kuomintang army to stay for nearly 4 months. At the same time, Vietnam helped provide for the border area of Dien Que (Yunnan-Guangxi border area), the South Chinese army and citizens many tons of rice and salt, and weapons such as 81mm mortar rounds, AT bullets, etc. In 1949, the Chinese People's Liberation Army achieved great victories. At the danger of rapid disintegration, the Kuomintang army tried to gather forces to hold onto South China. Therefore, the liberated zones of the Communist Party of China near the Vietnam-China border faced many difficulties. The Chinese sent a letter to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam on January 5, 1949, stating the difficulties in southern Yunnan and asking Vietnam to "... immediately provide us with a decent amount of salt... Now every month we need at least 50 tons of salt... We don't have a printer yet, and we think your national banknote printing agency has been around for a long time and can print a lot. Therefore, we ask the Central Government to help us with printing" (Archives No. 5, 3-4). In a letter from the Chinese side dated February 23, 1949, China also mentioned the problem of salt shortage which caused citizens and soldiers suffer, so "...we again urgently request that you will try your best to provide us" (Archives No. 5, 7). And in a letter dated February 25, 1949, a cadre asked for a loan of "10 thousand dong to trade for profit to maintain the army" as well as help with some weapons and ammunition for the army of Ta Giang region (Zuojiang)". The document of the head of the Central Committee of China sent to the Standing Committee of the Central Committee of Vietnam, dated March 14, 1949, said: "Comrade Le Tai has agreed to give Comrade Toan Minh 50 tons of salt and will deliver it in Ha Giang." (Archives No. 5, 12). Besides, in mid-1949, the Vietnamese money printing factory in Ban Thi (Tuyen Quang province) printed more than 500 million Liberation coins and sent them to the Chinese Liberation Army to promptly solve the problems of military supplies.

Second, Vietnam helped China's armed forces operate on the Vietnam-China border. In the spring of 1947, the two Communist parties of China and Vietnam established radio communication led by Zhou Enlai and Ho Chi Minh. Many rear facilities such as newspapers, radio stations, medical facilities... of Ta Giang (Zuojiang) detachment of the Dien - Que - Kiem Border Corps, operating in the Long Chau border area, were located on the Vietnamese side and received Vietnam's support and assistance. In 1948, a part of the army and rear agencies in the two areas of Tran Bien and Tinh Tay ((Jingxi) came to Vietnam to create base. China also asked Vietnam to help "Organize the armed forces, ie the Bac Giang regiment and the border dancers team under the leadership of the Government of Vietnam to form a fighting force. Organize border guards to cooperate in combat. Help us in terms of economy and food" (Dao Quang Cat, 1988, 3-4). At the same time, Comrade Tran Minh, who was in the Political Commissar of the Viet Que Border Center of the Communist Party of China, also sent a letter to the Central Committee of the Vietnam Communist Party asking for Vietnam's help as follows: Vietnam to send an independent regiment to expand operations in Minh Giang, Tu Nhac, and Thuong Tu; The Nam Long Regiment (Vietnam) coordinated with the Phong Thanh Army (China) to expand the base from Binh Lieu to Mong Cai.

Third, Vietnam sent troops to help and coordinate with the Chinese Liberation Army in the Thousand Mountains campaign (Thap Van Dai Son) and intercepted the remnants of the Republic of China army. In March 1949, the Communist Party of China sent a representative to meet with the Central Committee of the Party of Vietnam to propose that military units come to help build and strengthen the Viet - Que (Guangdong - Guangxi) and Dien - Que (Yunnan - Guangxi), develop Vietnam's political and armed forces in those regions, waiting for an opportunity for the main force of the Liberation Army of China come to the South. After studying China's proposal, the Standing Committee of the Party Central Committee and President Ho Chi Minh instructed the Ministry of National Defense - High Command to send troops to help the Chinese revolution expand and consolidate forces in Viet Que and Dien Que. On April 23, 1949, General Vo Nguyen Giap, Commander-in-Chief of the National Army and Vietnamese militia, issued an Order to coordinate with the Chinese Liberation Army to expand the Viet-Que area, telegraphing to the Command of Region 1, specifying the tasks: "coordinating with the armed forces of the Liberation Army of the Viet-Que Border Region, promptly acting to help the Liberation Army build a liberated zone in the Ung-Long-Kham region adjacent to Northeastern border of our country, open to the sea, creating conditions for the expansion of forces, welcoming the great army of the South. Simultaneously, operating in the Northeast to expand the North-East Free Zone to the border and to the sea, adjacent to the Viet-Que liberated zone" (General Staff Department 1963, vol.1, 265).

Vietnam's military forces came to help China in the spirit of proletarian internationalism and solidarity between the two peoples. At the beginning of June 1949, Vietnamese forces participating in the Thousand Mountains campaign (Thap Van Dai Son)

Basic Contents of Vietnam - China Relation in the Period of 1945 – 1975

were divided into two parts, one from Cao Bang, Lang Son, crossing the border to operate in Dien Que border area, Long Chau (Western Front of Thap Van Dai Son) and one from Lang Son, Hai Ninh to operate in Viet Que Border Area in Kham Chau and Phong Thanh (Eastern Front of Thap Van Dai Son). The combat coordination of Vietnam - China from June to October 1949 won great victories.

The Chinese revolution was successful, the People's Republic of China was established (October 1, 1949), the remnants of the Kuomintang army tried to flee the Chinese mainland. On December 9, 1949, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China Zhou Enlai sent a secret message to President Ho Chi Minh, stating: "Just received a telegram from Lam Biao saying that Chiang's remnants in the legions 24, 7, 14 with a combined force of about 10,000 people entered Lang Son to go to Hai Phong, bringing guns and intending to hand over them to the French. It is difficult for our troops to catch up, so we hope that Comrade Z (Ho Chi Minh) will tell if the Vietnamese army can go and destroy these remnants? They have a part of the rebels in the uprising in Hunan... Their fighting force is weak." (Archives No. 5, 17).

With the spirit of "fighting against the Chiang army is to defeat the enemy of the brotherly Chinese people and is Vietnam's international obligation", the Vietnamese army and people have continuously intercepted and defeated the plot to establish base, forcing Chiang Kai-shek's Kuomintang troops to drift back to hide in the southwestern border region of China.

On January 5, 1950, during a meeting and working session with representatives of the Party and Government of Vietnam, Zhou Enlai spoke with emotion about Vietnam's assistance to China "...as Vietnam was poor and had to endure hardships in the resistance war, you should have been helped by China, but you wholeheartedly helped China" (Research Department of the Ministry of National Defense 1988, 28). The help of the Vietnamese army and people demonstrated the pure international spirit of the proletariat, the humanistic tradition of the Vietnamese nation, and the comradeship and brotherhood of the two countries.

3.2. In the period from 1950-1954, the two countries officially established diplomatic relations and China aided Vietnam in its resistance against the French colonialists.

On January 18, 1950, the People's Republic of China recognized and established diplomatic relations with the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. China became the first country to recognize the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. This is a particularly important event in the history of bilateral relations, creating favorable conditions for Vietnam's modern diplomacy. At the same time, China also played an active role in the Soviet Union's recognition and diplomatic relations with Vietnam (January 30, 1950), supported and aided for the Vietnamese revolution. In addition, China also played an important role in the 1954 Geneva Conference, which ended the Indochina war.

In the spirit of "The resistance war in Vietnam led by the Vietnamese Party is very right and very good. The Chinese Party will do its best to help the Vietnamese Party fulfill that task" (Department of National Defense Studies, 1988, 29) and Guangxi Province, China will be the direct rear of Vietnam (Vo Nguyen Giap 2018, 624), at the beginning of 1950, at the request of Vietnam, China helped in all aspects for the Vietnamese resistance war:

Firstly, in terms of consulting work. At the request of President Ho Chi Minh during his visit to China in early 1950, China sent an advisory group to help the Vietnamese revolution, including comrades: La Quy Ba - Member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, Head of the advisory group; Vi Quoc Thanh as the head of the military advisory group; Mai Gia Sinh as the consultant on the staffing work; Ma Tay Phu as the consultant on the logistics work (Institute of Military History of Vietnam 2011, 53). China sent Comrade Tran Canh along with a military advisory group (including 79 people) to help Vietnam win the Autumn-Winter Border campaign in 1950.

Second, in terms of training staff. In April 1950, Vietnamese regimental-level units went to Mong Tu (Yunnan) and Hoa Dong (Guangxi) to receive weapons and military training from China (Yang Kuisong 2002, p.5). China helps train Vietnamese soldiers on siege tactics and explosive fighting techniques. In the early 1950s, Vietnam sent a number of officials to China to study foreign languages and diplomacy. Since 1951, the Chinese Government opened two campuses, the Campus in Nanning and the School of Cavalry in Lu Son, to train cadres in various fields for Vietnam. Besides, many training centers of Vietnam are set up on Chinese soil in Guangxi, Guangdong, Yunnan and right on Hainan island, under the command of the Liaison Department located in Long Chau. About 20,000 people, 10,000 officers and professional staff, were trained at that center during the years 1951-1952 (Général Yves Gras 1979, 798). Especially, from July 1952 to January 1953, China undertook comprehensive training and equipped all Soviet weapons for Regiment 45 (Vietnam's first heavy artillery regiment) and Anti-aircraft artillery regiment 367 (Nguyen Thi Mai Hoa, 2013, 67).

Third, in terms of materials, weapons and equipment. China not only provided direct aid, but also received international aid for Vietnam. According to Chinese statistics, China aided Vietnam, including the resistance war against France, with "155,000 guns of all kinds, 57,850 rounds of ammunition, 3,692 cannons, more than 1,080,000 shells, more than 840,000 grenades, 1,231 cars, more than 1,400,000 military uniforms. 14,000 tons of food and by-products, more than 26,000 tons of oil and a large amount of medicine and other military supplies" (Tran HuuNghia., 2002, 255). In the last days of the Dien Bien Phu campaign, China helped equip a 75mm DKZ battalion and a 6-barreled cachiusa rocket battalion (General Department of Logistics, 2004, 309). These two battalions promptly participated in the Dien Bien Phu campaign. Besides, China helped Vietnam by purchasing most of the goods

Basic Contents of Vietnam - China Relation in the Period of 1945 – 1975

Vietnam could export at that time, and provided for Vietnam with necessary goods. In the two years 1951-1952 alone, the value of goods delivered by China to Vietnam was 23,405 million VND (Archives No. 2)). In particular, during the process of preparation and the meeting of the 1954 Geneva Conference, China accompanied and helped Vietnam in all aspects, from preparing material conditions to the contents of the negotiation program... leading to the end of the war.

At the international level, Vietnam's resistance war against the French colonialists was not outside the influence of the Cold war, especially since 1950, with the presence of the United States, the Indochina war was internationalized. Therefore, the Vietnamese people resisted not only for the sake of their nation, but also for their international obligations, contributing to the protection and strengthening of the socialist camp. In terms of geographical position, the current situation of the two countries Vietnam - China, the results of Vietnam's resistance war had important implications for the security of China's southern border. In return, it was also difficult for Vietnam to win the wars without the support and help of China and international friends. Therefore, to a certain extent, the mutual help of the two countries Vietnam - China was also the help for each country, as well as the task and the noble international spirit of the proletariat. The two countries Vietnam and China fulfilled their international obligations as well as affirmed the good neighborliness of the two peoples.

3.3. In the third phase, from 1954-1975, Vietnam waged a resistance war against the US to protect the country.

Relations between the two countries took place in the context of a tense Cold war, especially the confrontation between the Soviet Union and the United States, and serious conflicts within the socialist faction (USSR - China). The relationship between Vietnam and China manifests itself mainly in two fields of economy - trade and military aid.

Regarding economic - trade relations, right from 1954, Vietnam and China signed a series of economic and commodity exchange agreements. In 1956, the two countries signed the Agreement on Exchange of Goods and Payment and in 1957 signed the Agreement on Exchange of Goods and Payment. Particularly on February 18, 1959, Vietnamese Minister of Industry Le Thanh Nghi and Chinese Minister of Foreign Trade Diep Quy Trang signed 7 aid, exchange and trade documents between the two countries (Agreement on the Government of the People's Republic of China's aid to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in economics - technology Republic of RMB 100 million (non-refundable...)). Accordingly, Vietnam's export turnover to China increased from 4 million rubles in 1955, to 20 million rubles in 1964 and 25 million rubles in 1965 (Document No. 8,600, p.4). In addition, there were a series of protocols on economic and technical aid to Vietnam. Regarding the data of China's economic aid to Vietnam in the 10 years 1954-1964, there are many different statistical sources. According to the report of the Central Military Commission of Vietnam, China provided Vietnam with 1.1 million yuan in aid to build nearly 100 large and small projects (Archives No. 1, p.12), including non-refundable aid. Thus, China is a country that provided Vietnam with a large volume and output of goods, meeting the needs of production recovery and consumption demand of Vietnam in the early years of the resistance war against the French colonialists and the beginning of the construction of socialism. In the economic - trade relationship between Vietnam and China, China did not emphasize profits, but focused on the help, aid and support to Vietnam.

In terms of military aid, during the resistance war, China provided Vietnam with infantry guns, military equipment, food, foodstuffs, medicines, petroleum fuels, transports, various types of artillery, artillery shells and military vehicles, training and training personnel... At the same time, China helped Vietnam build defense facilities such as artillery repair workshops and optical weapons (Z1) in Tran Yen, Yen Bai, ammunition repair workshop (Z2) in Yen Son, Tuyen Quang. China helped organize training and retraining of the Vietnamese air force, as well as organize the construction of the first Vietnamese fighter regiment in China... During 10 years of 1954-1964, China was the country that provided large aid force for Vietnam, including 42,221 tons of weapons, ammunition and equipment, worth 382,004,000 yuan. Compared with the last 5 years of the resistance war against the French colonialists (1950-1954), the amount of military aid from 1955 to 1964 from China to Vietnam was nearly double (42,221 tons compared to 21,517 tons); the value of military aid nearly tripled (382,004,000 Yuan compared to 136,000,000 Yuan). According to statistics from the Vietnamese side, of the total international military aid to Vietnam for the resistance war against the US was estimated at 2,362,682 tons of goods, worth about 7 billion rubles, most from China and the Soviet Union, in which China's aid accounted for about 50% of the above total (War Summary Steering Committee under the Politburo 2000, 601). The report of the General Staff of the Vietnam People's Army dated May 8, 1967 said: "Since 1961, China has provided aid to the armed forces of the South, meeting all the requirements that Vietnam proposed. Most of China's aid equipment is newly produced, newly improved, and of good quality. China also helped transporting weapons in transit" (Archives No. 4). China's military aid to Vietnam was enormous, making an important contribution to the victory of the resistance war.

In addition, the supportive relationship between Vietnam and China was also reflected in many other aspects such as: China strongly opposed the US's senseless war in Vietnam and condemned the attitude of rejecting the Presidential election of the Saigon government. As soon as the National Front for the Liberation of the South was set up (December 1960), China recognized and agreed to let the Front open a representative office in China. China vehemently condemned the US's action to expand the war to bombard the North and sent experts to help Vietnam... As for Vietnam, it also wholeheartedly supported China in foreign affairs: supported the restoration of China's legal status at the United Nations; recognized Taiwan as part of China's territory...

Basic Contents of Vietnam - China Relation in the Period of 1945 – 1975

As the US National Security Council assessed: "Security in Southeast Asia is extremely important to the US, if it falls into communist hands, its influence will be international" (Zhang Xiaoming 2002, 127) and "Vietnam is the cornerstone of the free world in Southeast Asia" (Mac Namara 1995, p.43), Vietnam's resistance war against the US (1954-1975) entered the orbit of the Cold war, and its results greatly influenced the relations of China, the Soviet Union, and the United States.... Therefore, the relationship between Vietnam and China in this period was mainly based on China's continued aid in all aspects to help Vietnam. This was the spirit of proletarian internationalism, the continued protection of China's southern border, as well as the affirmation of China's position in the international arena. Vietnam's victory in the resistance war is not only of great significance to Vietnam, but also of great international significance to world peace and the position of the socialist camp, of the Soviet Union and China.

CONCLUSION

Firstly, the supportive relationship between Vietnam and China derived from the international spirit of the proletariat, rooted in the affection and cultivation of many generations of leaders and people of the two countries. In the complicated international context, each country is interested in national interests. Although the relationship between the two countries also has ups and downs, this is a good relationship period in the history of Vietnam - China relations.

Second, this is a relationship of bilateral assistance, reciprocity, showing the sincere, loyal affection between Vietnam and China as they share the same ideology, have many similar cultural features and are neighboring countries. China stood shoulder to shoulder in support and aid for Vietnam's resistance war, not only to show the international spirit of the proletariat, but also to indirectly protect the peace of the Fatherland and enhance its national position. On the contrary, Vietnam's victorious resistance not only protected peace, independence, and unification of the Fatherland, but also contributed to protecting world peace, consolidating the strength of the socialist camp, and ensuring stability for the southern border of China.

Third, the material and human aid of Vietnam in the years 1945-1949 to China compared to China's help and aid to Vietnam was not big. But it was Vietnam's sincere efforts in the spirit of pure proletarian internationalism in the context of Vietnam's extremely difficult situation. Vietnam was willing to help China within its capacity and to accept losses and sacrifices for the Chinese revolutionary cause. Vietnam's cooperation and assistance to the Chinese revolution created the foundation and was an important driving force for the relationship between the two states in the future.

Fourth, China helped Vietnam when it had to deal with two very important relations with the world's leading military powers - the Soviet Union and the United States, but China still gave Vietnam its comprehensive support, both physically and mentally. During the very fierce days of the resistance war, China's aid and assistance to Vietnam was enormous, precious, timely and effective, which helped Vietnam to win the war quickly.

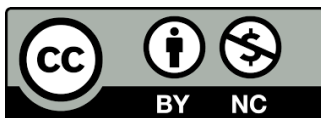
In the current context, when the war ended, the two countries are facing many global problems as well as some remaining problems in their relationship. However, the supportive relationship between Vietnam and China as well as the lessons of solidarity, assistance, consolidation and development of the Vietnam - China, China - Vietnam friendship in the years 1945-1975 are still valid and lasting. This is the foundation for building a better relationship between the two countries.

REFERENCES

- 1) Archives (No. 1). *Summary of aid and debt situation from 1955 to 1966*, documents kept at the Archives Center of the Ministry of National Defense, Vietnam.
- 2) Archives (No. 2). Value of Chinese aid and trade goods from 1951-1954 of the State Planning Commission, National Archives Center III, file no. 743, Vietnam.
- 3) Archives (No. 3). *Summary of economic relations and scientific - technical cooperation between the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the People's Republic of China from the day peace was restored in North Vietnam (1955 to September 1964)*, Font Phu Prime Minister, file number 8,600, Vietnam.
- 4) Archives (No. 4). *Archives Center of the Ministry of National Defense*, font of the Ministry of National Defense, file number 11150, Vietnam.
- 5) Archives (No. 5). *Archives Center of the Ministry of National Defense*, font of the Party Central Committee, file No. 63, Vietnam.
- 6) Dao Quang Cat (1988). *China - Vietnam relations during the two countries' revolution (1948-1979)*, archived at the Institute of Military History of Vietnam. TL No. 1760, p.3, 4
- 7) General Department of Logistics (2004). *Logistics assurance in Dien Bien Phu campaign*, People's Army Publishing House, Vietnam.
- 8) General Staff Department (1963). *Documents directing campaigns of the Party Central Committee*, General Military Commission and General Command, General Staff published, volume 1, Vietnam.
- 9) Général Yves Gras (1979). *Histoire de la guerre d'Indochine (History of the Indochina War)*, Plon, Paris, 1979. Vietnamese translation, Archived at the Institute of Party History, Vietnam.

Basic Contents of Vietnam - China Relation in the Period of 1945 – 1975

- 10) Mac Namara (1995). *Looking Back on the Past - Tragedy and lessons about Vietnam*, National Political Publishing House, Vietnam.
- 11) Many authors (2002). *Real notes on the Chinese military advisory group assisting Vietnam against the French*, Publishing House History of the Communist Party of China, Beijing, (Tran HuuNghia, Duong DanhDy translated, proofreading), Vietnam.
- 12) Institute of Military History of Vietnam (2011). *History of the resistance war against the French colonialists (1945-1954)*, People's Army Publishing House, volume 4, Vietnam.
- 13) Hoang Tranh (1990). *Ho Chi Minh with China*, New Star Publishing House, (Vietnamese translation), Vietnam.
- 14) Ly Kien (2008). *China - Soviet Union - America, historical confrontation*, Youth Publishing House, (Vietnamese translation), Vietnam.
- 15) Nguyen Thi Mai Hoa (2013). *Socialist countries support Vietnam to fight against the US, save the country*, National Political Publishing House, Vietnam
- 16) Pham Binh Minh (2021). *70 years of Vietnam - China relations: Friendship, cooperation is the main flow*, <https://dangcongsan.vn/thoi-su/70-nam-quan-he-viet-nam-trung-quoc-huu-hi-hop-tac-la-dong-chay-chinh-547044.html>
- 17) Yang Kuisong (2002). *Changes in Mao Zedong's Attitude towards the Indochina War (1949-1973)*, Cold War International History Project, Wilson Center, (Vietnamese translation), Vietnam.
- 18) Research Department of the Ministry of National Defense (1988). *Minutes of contact between comrades Zhou Enlai, LuuThieuKy and representatives of the Party and Government of Vietnam* - Research document on China's relations with Vietnam from 1948 to 1979, volume 1, (Vietnamese translation), Vietnam.
- 19) War Summary Steering Committee under the Politburo (2000). *Vietnam Revolutionary War 1945-1975: Victory and Lessons*, National Political Publishing House, Vietnam.
- 20) Zhang Xiaoming (2002). *Cold War and its legacy*, National Political Publishing House, (Vietnamese translation), Vietnam.



There is an Open Access article, distributed under the term of the Creative Commons Attribution – Non Commercial 4.0 International (CC BY-NC 4.0) (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>), which permits remixing, adapting and building upon the work for non-commercial use, provided the original work is properly cited.