

# CHINA AND VIETNAM

When we talk about East Asia, we're usually talking about China. China is a big nation, and historically was the **dominant** power in this part of the **continent**. However, it wasn't the only culture of East Asia, and it would be a mistake to act like all East Asian societies are basically Chinese. They're not. In fact, some had to fight long and hard to **secure** that fact. One example is Vietnam. Vietnam has had an interesting relationship with China throughout history. Through various **economic, cultural, or military** means, China has **exerted** a lot of influence onto Vietnam. But Vietnam is not China, and the Vietnamese people are not Chinese. Forget that, and you might end up making someone in Vietnam pretty unhappy.

## History

Let's start by looking at the basic history of China and Vietnam's relationship. From the records we have, we can see that China and Vietnam had **trade** and cultural relationships for pretty much as long as each society existed. So from the beginning, the Chinese did leave some **legacies** in Vietnam culture, **legacies** like rice farming. However, this was really **intensified** in the 3rd century BCE when the Han **dynasty** of China began **invading** parts of what is now Vietnam. In an **ironic** twist, a former Chinese general named Trieu Da formed a major

Vietnamese kingdom called Nam Viet (sound familiar?) to fight off the Han emperors.

### *Trieu Da*



As the Han **conquered** parts of Vietnam, they brought in Chinese cultural practices and built Chinese **settlements**. Eventually, in 111 BCE the Han dynasty **defeated** Nam Viet and incorporated it into the empire. Nam Viet was divided into nine military **districts** under Chinese rule.

For nearly a **millennium**, China ruled over Vietnam. There were **challenges** to this. Most **notably**, the Vietnamese **noblewomen** called the Trung Sisters managed to kick China out of Vietnam in 40 CE. However, the Han military returned three years later and reconquered the kingdom. It would not be until the end of the Tang dynasty that **political disunity** in China gave the

Vietnamese a solid chance to **rebel**. In 939 CE, Vietnamese rebellions **defeated** the Chinese military and established an **independent** Vietnam.

## **Sinicization**

The nearly 1000-year **period** of Chinese rule had some profound impacts on Vietnamese culture, and this was no accident. China was very confident in its belief that it was the greatest society in the world, and attempted to convert all Vietnamese peoples into Chinese citizens, a process called **sinicization**.

**Sinicization** had **practical** applications as well; the Chinese **governors** believed Vietnam was less likely to **rebel** if the people all thought of themselves as Chinese and gave up their Vietnamese identity.

To achieve this, Vietnamese customs, traditions, and even clothing and hairstyles were **prohibited** by law. The Vietnamese people were forced to dress in Chinese manners, adhere to Chinese rituals, and learn to read and speak the Chinese language. This process was both a success and failure. Chinese mannerism and styles became widely (and in some cases enthusiastically) adopted. China was a cultural epicenter of East Asia, so many Vietnamese people were already excited to try Chinese things. Plus, as the Chinese came in, they brought with them the most advanced **architectural** and building technologies in that part of the world. Vietnam was able to grow economically and politically largely thanks to Chinese **infrastructure**.

*Chinese influence can be seen in many parts of  
Vietnam*



However, Chinese things never actually replaced Vietnamese customs, they simply **supplemented** them. Even those who read and wrote only in Chinese generally spoke in **native** languages. So, did the **sinicization** bring many Chinese traditions into Vietnam? Yes, but did they make the Vietnamese start thinking of themselves as purely Chinese? *No.*

**dominant** - *adj.* exercising influence or control; (of genes) producing the same phenotype whether its allele is identical or dissimilar; *noun* (music) the fifth note of the diatonic scale; an allele that produces the same phenotype whether its paired allele is identical or different

**continent** - *adj.* having control over urination and defecation; abstaining from sexual intercourse; *noun* the European mainland; one of the large landmasses of the earth

**secure** - *adj.* free from fear or doubt; easy in mind; free from danger or risk; not likely to fail or give way; kept safe or defended from danger or injury or loss; financially sound; able to withstand attack; *verb* assure payment of; make certain of; furnish with battens; cause to be firmly attached; fill or close tightly with or as if with a plug; get by special effort

**economic** - *adj.* using the minimum of time or resources necessary for effectiveness; financially rewarding; concerned with worldly necessities of life (especially money); of or relating to the science of economics; of or relating to an economy, the system of production and management of material wealth

**cultural** - *adj.* denoting or deriving from or distinctive of the ways of living built

up by a group of people; relating to the raising of plants or animals; of or relating to the shared knowledge and values of a society; of or relating to the arts and manners that a group favors

**military** - *adj.* associated with or performed by armed services as contrasted with civilians; characteristic of or associated with soldiers or the military; of or relating to the study of the principles of warfare; *noun* the military forces of a nation

**exert** - *verb* put to use; make a great effort at a mental or physical task; have and exercise

**trade** - *noun* the skilled practice of a practical occupation; the commercial exchange (buying and selling on domestic or international markets) of goods and services; the business given to a commercial establishment by its customers; an equal exchange; a particular instance of buying or selling; people who perform a particular kind of skilled work; steady winds blowing from east to west above and below the equator; *verb* exchange or give (something) in exchange for; turn in as payment or part payment for a purchase; engage in the trade of; be traded at a certain price or under certain conditions; do business; offer for sale as for one's livelihood

**legacy** - *noun* (law) a gift of personal property by will

**Intensify** - *verb* become more intense; make more intense, stronger, or more marked; make the chemically affected part of (a negative) denser or more opaque in order produce a stronger contrast between light and dark; increase in extent or intensity

**dynasty** - *noun* a sequence of powerful leaders in the same family

**Invade** - *verb* march aggressively into another's territory by military force for the purposes of conquest and occupation; penetrate or assault, in a harmful or injurious way; occupy in large numbers or live on a host; to intrude upon, infringe, encroach on, violate

**Ironic** - *adj.* characterized by often poignant difference or incongruity between what is expected and what actually is; humorously sarcastic or mocking

**conquer** - *verb* overcome by conquest; to put down by force or authority; take possession of by force, as after an invasion



**settlement** - *noun* something settled or resolved; the outcome of decision making; a conclusive resolution of a matter and disposition of it; an area where a group of families live together; termination of a business operation by using its assets to discharge its liabilities; the act of colonizing; the establishment of colonies; a community of people smaller than a town; a body of people who settle far from home but maintain ties with their homeland; inhabitants remain nationals of their home state but are not literally under the home state's system of government

**defeat** - *noun* an unsuccessful ending to a struggle or contest; the feeling that accompanies an experience of being thwarted in attaining your goals; *verb* win a victory over; thwart the passage of

**district** - *noun* a region marked off for administrative or other purposes; *verb* regulate housing in; of certain areas of towns

**millennium** - *noun* a span of 1000 years; the 1000th anniversary (or the celebration of it); (New Testament) in Revelations it is foretold that those faithful to Jesus will reign with Jesus over the earth for a thousand years; the meaning of these words have been much debated; some denominations (e.g. Jehovah's Witnesses) expect it to be a thousand years of justice and peace and happiness



**challenge** - *noun* a demand by a sentry for a password or identification; questioning a statement and demanding an explanation; a formal objection to the selection of a particular person as a juror; a call to engage in a contest or fight; a demanding or stimulating situation; *verb* raise a formal objection in a court of law; ask for identification; issue a challenge to; take exception to

**notable** - *adj.* widely known and esteemed; worthy of notice; *noun* a celebrity who is an inspiration to others

**noblewomen.** - *noun.* A woman of high-rank in society.

**political** - *adj.* involving or characteristic of politics or parties or politicians; of or relating to your views about social relationships involving authority or power; of or relating to the profession of governing

**disunity** - *noun* lack of unity (usually resulting from dissension)

**rebel** - *adj.* used by Northerners of Confederate soldiers; *noun* 'Johnny' was applied as a nickname for Confederate soldiers by the Federal soldiers in the

American Civil War; 'greyback' derived from their grey Confederate uniforms; a person who takes part in an armed rebellion against the constituted authority (especially in the hope of improving conditions); someone who exhibits great independence in thought and action; *verb* take part in a rebellion; renounce a former allegiance; break with established customs

**Independent** - *adj.* not dependent on or conditioned by or relative to anything else; not contingent; free from external control and constraint; (of a clause) capable of standing syntactically alone as a complete sentence; not controlled by a party or interest group; (of political bodies) not controlled by outside forces; *noun* a writer or artist who sells services to different employers without a long-term contract with any of them; a neutral or uncommitted person (especially in politics)

**Sinicization** - *noun* a process whereby non-Chinese societies come under the influence of Chinese culture

**period** - *noun* a stage in the history of a culture having a definable place in space and time; an amount of time

**practical** - *adj.* having or put to a practical purpose or use; concerned with actual

use or practice; guided by practical experience and observation rather than theory; being actually such in almost every respect

**governor** - *noun* a control that maintains a steady speed in a machine (as by controlling the supply of fuel); the head of a state government

**prohibit** - *verb* command against

**architectural** - *adj.* of or pertaining to the art and science of architecture

**Infrastructure** - *noun* the stock of basic facilities and capital equipment needed for the functioning of a country or area; the basic structure or features of a system or organization

**supplement** - *noun* a quantity added (e.g. to make up for a deficiency); a supplementary component that improves capability; textual matter that is added onto a publication; usually at the end; *verb* add as a supplement to what seems insufficient; serve as a supplement to; add to the very end

**native** - *adj.* belonging to one by birth; characteristic of or existing by virtue of geographic origin; characteristic of or relating to people inhabiting a region

from the beginning; as found in nature in the elemental form; *noun* a person who was born in a particular place; an indigenous person

Wheel decide: <https://wheeldecide.com/index.php?id=519159>



Which word works?

conquer    dominant    independent    notable    millennium  
practical    natives

The company is now \_\_\_\_\_ in its market.

We will \_\_\_\_\_ them and return here, once we have created an army.

When the speaker used a \_\_\_\_\_ quote in her speech, everyone in the audience knew.

Another laboratory has provided \_\_\_\_\_ confirmation of the test results.

A \_\_\_\_\_ is one-thousand years.

It looks pretty, but it has no \_\_\_\_\_ use in the real world.

These new laws will affect immigrants and \_\_\_\_\_ alike.

### Paraphrasing

'The **disunity** on our team all started when some of our members began to dislike the leader.'

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'The vitamin was added as a supplement to her diet to improve her blood circulation.'

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Vocabulary word	Synonym
Secure	
Trade	
Invade	
Defeat	
Challenge	
Rebel	
Notable	
Period	
Independent	