

## Geo-Political Maneuvers: *Challenges before Democracies:*

### **Vietnam: Has President *To Lam* assumed powers of the Supreme Leader**

July 19, 2024

July 19, 2024: Hanoi, Vietnam — To Lam, the President of Vietnam assumed the power of the Chief of the Communist Party of Vietnam, as an interim measure, because of party chief **Nguyen Phu Trong**'s poor health.

The Western companies had been planning to reduce their total dependence on China, after Covid 19. So, **many of the Western companies had moved their production to Vietnam, since cheap and non-Unionized labour, similar to that in China, was available in Vietnam also.**

Moreover, for decades after the fall of Saigon, Vietnam had been able to have a stable polity, which was independent of China.

**Suddenly, there is a fear that the regime in Vietnam may become unstable and that China may acquire control over Vietnam, similar to the control China exercises over Laos, Cambodia and Pakistan.**



NOTICE from the Communist Party of Vietnam:

(Reference: <https://en.baochinhphu.vn/politburo-issues-notice-on-party-general-secretarys-health-111240718161208612.htm>) Following a request of the Specialised Council for Protection of Central-level Officials' Health, General Secretary of the Party Central Committee **Nguyen Phu Trong** has, over the recent past, been

managing the work and taking health treatment and care at the same time, a notice by the Politburo said.

The notice further stated that now, due to the need to continue prioritising the time for the General Secretary to focus on taking intensive care, and in order to ensure the overall management of the Party Central Committee, the Politburo, and Secretariat, on the basis of the working regulations of the 13th Party Central Committee, Politburo, and Secretariat, for the immediate future, the Politburo assigns **To Lam**, Politburo member and State President, to be in charge of the work of the Party Central Committee, Politburo, and Secretariat with responsibilities and power provided by the Politburo.

The Western Industries, China, Vietnam and India: Indian PM **Narendra Modi**, the Prime Minister of India since May 24, 2014, had been wooing Foreign Investment for a faster development of technological companies in India. After Covid 19, some of them started looking at the possibility of moving part of their production to India and to take advantage of the stable and consistent policies of **Narendra Modi**. However, while President **Xi Jinping** had reconciled to the idea of some of the industries from China moving a part of their production to Vietnam, a fellow communist country, albeit temporarily not on excellent terms with China, President **Jinping** wanted to block any movement of the western industries to India.

India is a democracy, where the labour can form unions. China used India's Communist Parties and the agents of Pakistan, *the Deep State of which has started following China* to ensure the defeat of **Narendra Modi's** government at the General Elections of 2024. China succeeded in reducing the majority of Modi's party. But the **National Democratic Alliance** (NDA), of which Modi's party was the major constituent, has retained a majority in the Parliament.

Meanwhile, the polity in USA has become unstable after the attempt on Trump's life and the withdrawal of Biden from the Presidential contest of November 2024. There are unconfirmed reports of disability of President Jinping so that he might not be able to as active as he used to be.

[www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) will keep its Readers informed about these fast changes.

Our Readers know that the US and European companies had made China the only **Workshop of the World**, in their quest for cheap and non-Unionized labour. This was justified by many economists from Harvard and other Ivy-League Universities, on the basis of lazy research on production of goods at optimum rates for the whole of the world. It was done in an environment when USSR had collapsed in 1990 and

the Berlin Wall had come down. The western intelligentsia was talking about “the End of History.” Henry Kissinger advocated moving manufacturing plants to China by assuring the world that as China became richer, it would become a democracy in the image of the US and UK.

**This assumption of Kissinger, other experts on China and Think Tanks failed spectacularly.**

---- EDITORIAL COMMENTS on the GEO-POLITICAL EFFECTS on GENERAL ELECTIONS-2024----  
[www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) believes that **Narendra Modi** took **Chandrababu Naidu** of **Telugu Desham Party (TDP)** and **Nitish Kumar** of **Janata Dal (United) (JD(U))** in confidence and discussed with them the necessity of presenting a picture of **continuity of policies** and **stability of the regime** in India, if the foreign investment were to be attracted to India.

China had made humongous efforts,

China wanted that Indian Government should present a picture of inconsistent and continuously changing policies and an unstable Government to foreign investors so that West’s companies, who wanted to reduce their dependence on the Chinese market would not go to India. China wanted them to go to Vietnam, since the small country could never replace China’s large market and resources.



*June 19, 2024: **Narendra Modi**, the Indian Prime Minister  
(Reference: X by @iNishant4)*

---- A Brief NOTE on CORRUPTION in VIETNAM ----

Corruption is deep-rooted across South East Asia, and has proven stubbornly tough to eradicate.

But in Vietnam's larger neighbors, relatively free media and regular elections serve as a safety valve to let off the steam of public anger over corruption. Vietnam's communist system does not allow such a safety valve, and the party has had to find other ways to assuage the public.

---- A BACKGROUNDER on RELATIONS between CHINA and VIETNAM ----

President Xi Jinping disregarded Vietnam's elevation of its diplomatic relations with the United States and Japan to a strategic alliance, on December 11, 2023.

DECEMBER 12, 2023: President **Xi Jinping** offered to Vietnam's Communist Party General Secretary **Nguyễn Phú Trọng**, to jointly create a "China-Vietnam community with a shared future of strategic significance."

EDITORIAL COMMENTS: [www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) believes that Xi's visit was delayed because of lengthy talks over use of the phrase "**shared future**", favored by Beijing to describe ties between the two sides, though initially resisted by Hanoi.

China continues to claim most of the South China Sea. China hopes to move beyond the distrust by offering "dozens of co-operation documents," according to China's Ambassador **Xiong Bo** to Vietnam.

China has long been Vietnam's largest trading partner, and Vietnam is China's biggest trading partner in ASEAN and the fourth largest globally. Vietnamese agricultural exports including fruits and vegetables are the favorites of Chinese consumers. China's raw materials and machinery equipment exported to Vietnam effectively boosted the Vietnamese manufacturing sector.

Ambassador **Xiong Bo** pointed to the increasing number of Chinese tourists and exchanges of film and TV serials.

During Xi Jinping's visit, China is expected to offer to upgrade rail links between the neighbors. Boosting transport links would allow Vietnam to export more to China,

especially farm products, while Beijing wants to further integrate the country's north with its southern supply chain networks.

OTHER GRANTS expected from CHINA: 1.investments for new undersea optical fiber cables, the 5G network and other telecoms infrastructure.

2. Wider co-operation in critical minerals, in a reference to the rare earths, of which China is the world's leading refiner while Vietnam has the second largest estimated reserves after its neighbor.

He said that Vietnam is an important player in the **Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative (GDI)**. It supports the **Global Security Initiative (GSI)** and the **Global Civilization Initiative (GCI)**, and supports **China's accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership**.

President Xi Jinping offered with a liberal hand grants and help in multiple fields for development of Vietnam.

#### ---- A BACKGROUNDER on the political state of VIETNAM ----

**Nguyễn Phú Trọng** (b. April 14, 1944) has served as General Secretary of CPV since 2011. As the head of the party's Secretariat, Politburo and Central Military Commission, Trọng is **Vietnam's paramount leader**. He had also previously served as President of Vietnam from 2018 to 2021.

**General Tô Lâm** is the incumbent President of Vietnam, serving in this role since 22 May 2024, succeeding former President **Võ Văn Thưởng**, 53, who resigned on March 21, 2024 due to allegations of fraud and bribery being made against officials. **Võ Văn Thưởng** had a property business in the province of Quang Ngai, where he was once the local party boss. The case dates back more than a decade, but is being pursued now by the police, raising suspicions that there may be political motives behind the investigation.

The position of President, while largely ceremonial, is considered a natural stepping-stone to becoming the party's General Secretary.

(Reference [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_presidents\\_of\\_Vietnam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_presidents_of_Vietnam))

When **Nguyễn Phú Trọng** resigned as State President, **General Tô Lâm** stood against Thuong and lost the vote.

Tô Lâm (b. 10 July 1957) is a police officer who has served as the 13th President of Vietnam since May 2024. He served as **Minister of Public Security from April 2016 until his election to the Presidency in May 2024**. A member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Vietnam, he is also **one of the Deputy Heads of the Central Steering Committee on Anti-corruption**. He is widely considered to be a powerful figure in the General Secretary **Nguyễn Phú Trọng** 's anti-corruption campaign.

President Thuong's resignation coincided with the spectacular trial in Ho Chi Minh City of Vietnam's biggest property tycoon **Truong My Lan**, who is accused of defrauding a State Bank of \$12 Bn. (On June 20, 2024, she was sentenced to death. **Lan** was found guilty of embezzlement, bribery and violating banking rules around lending.)

**Võ Văn Thưởng** (b. 13 December 1970) served as the 12<sup>th</sup> President of Vietnam from March 2023 to March 2024, being the youngest person to serve in this position since the country's reunification at the age of 52. His resignation after just over one year in office amidst the Communist Party's anti-corruption campaign made him the shortest-serving President in Vietnamese history.

**Võ Văn Thưởng** resigned, on 21 March 2024, after a series of his former subordinates in Quang Ngai province were arrested in a major corruption case.

As the second highest official in Vietnam after General Secretary **Nguyễn Phú Trọng**, President **Thưởng** was likely to ascend to the position of **General Secretary** at a young age. During his brief term, President **Thưởng** won appreciation since he was able to improve relations with **USA, Japan, Australia** and the 'Vatican during his historic meeting with Pope Francis'.

*EDITORIAL COMMENTS: [www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) believes that the incumbent President **Tô Lâm**, as one of the Deputy Heads of the **Central Steering Committee on Anti-corruption**, has played a leading role in identifying cases of corruption against some of the previous Presidents. He is young and is likely to ascend to the powerful position of **General Secretary** of Communist Party of Vietnam.*

.....Please see on the next page a table of Presidents of Vietnam after it became the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

President of the <b>Socialist Republic of Vietnam</b>						
	<b>Lê Đức Anh</b> (1920–2019)	23 September 1992	24 September 1997	5 years, 1 day	1992	Communist Party of Vietnam
	<b>Trần Đức Lương</b> (1937–)	24 September 1997	27 June 2006 (Resigned from office)	8 years, 276 days	1997	Communist Party of Vietnam
	<b>Nguyễn Minh Triết</b> (1942–)	27 June 2006	25 July 2011	5 years, 28 days	2006	Communist Party of Vietnam
	<b>Trương Tấn Sang</b> (1949–)	25 July 2011	2 April 2016	4 years, 252 days	2011	Communist Party of Vietnam
	<b>Trần Đại Quang</b> (1958–2018)	2 April 2016	21 September 2018 (Died in office)	2 years, 172 days	2016	Communist Party of Vietnam
	<b>Đặng Thị Ngọc Thịnh</b> (1959–)	21 September 2018	23 October 2018	32 days	—	Communist Party of Vietnam
	<b>Nguyễn Phú Trọng</b> (1944–)	23 October 2018	5 April 2021	2 years, 164 days	2018	Communist Party of Vietnam
	<b>Nguyễn Xuân Phúc</b> (1954–)	5 April 2021	18 January 2023 (Resigned from office)	1 year, 288 days	2021	Communist Party of Vietnam
	<b>Võ Thị Ánh Xuân</b> (1970–)	18 January 2023	2 March 2023	43 days	—	Communist Party of Vietnam
	<b>Võ Văn Thương</b> (1970–)	2 March 2023	21 March 2024 (Resigned from office)	1 year, 19 days	2023	Communist Party of Vietnam
	<b>Võ Thị Ánh Xuân</b> (1970–)	21 March 2024	22 May 2024	62 days	—	Communist Party of Vietnam
	<b>Tô Lâm</b> (1957–)	22 May 2024 <sup>[1]</sup>	Incumbent	33 days	2024	Communist Party of Vietnam

