



Việt Nam Độc Lập Đồng Minh Hội

**League for the Independence of
Vietnam**

1945 - 1946



Việt Minh

League for the Independence of Vietnam

The League for the Independence of Vietnam (Việt Nam Độc Lập Đồng Minh Hội) known as Việt Minh, was a national independence coalition formed by Ho Chi Minh on May 19, 1941, initially formed to seek independence for Vietnam from the French Empire.

During World War II, Japan occupied French Indochina. In late 1943, the Việt Minh forces, led by General Vo Nguyen Giap, began to infiltrate Vietnam to launch guerrilla operations against the Japanese. The Việt Minh forces liberated considerable portions of northern Vietnam. After the Japanese surrender to the Allies, Việt Minh units seized control of Hanoi and Hồ Chí Minh proclaimed the Democratic Republic of Vietnam on September 2, 1945. Negotiations between the French and Việt Minh broke down quickly. What followed was nearly ten years of war against France, known as the First Indochina War or, to the Vietnamese, the French War.

During the war, The Việt Minh took control over many rural areas of the country and began to advance towards the French occupied areas. Following their defeat at the Battle of Điện Biên Phủ, in 1954, the French began negotiations to leave Indo-China. As a result of peace accords worked out at the Geneva Conference in Switzerland, Vietnam was divided into North Vietnam and South Vietnam until unifying elections could take place in 1956. Hồ Chí Minh was appointed Prime Minister of North Vietnam, which would be run as a socialist state. Ngô Đình Diệm, who was previously appointed Prime Minister of South Vietnam by Emperor Bảo Đại, eventually assumed control of South Vietnam.

Some time after the declaration of independence, on September 2, 1945 and until December 1946, the new government overprinted several Indo-Chinese stamps for use by the Việt Minh forces and in their controlled area. The common overprinted inscriptions are "Việt-Nam Dân-Chủ Công-Hoa" ("Democratic Republic of Viet Nam") and "Việt Nam - Độc lập - Tự do - Hạnh phúc" (Viet Nam - Independence, Freedom, Happiness). Usually, the colony name INDOCHINE is covered by a black strip overprint. Several of these stamps were also surcharged by local currency. Since the process methods used to issue these stamps were relatively primitive, many varieties of these stamps are known like double overprint, inverted overprint, missing letters, etc.

Examples of the common overprints printed by the Việt Minh on the Indochinese stamps:



OP of the new name:
Democratic Republic of
Vietnam



OP of the Việt Minh
motto: Viet Nam -
Independence,
Freedom, Happiness



Example of OP
used to revalue
stamps



Example of OP used
to create a semi-
postal stamp for
charity purposes



Việt Minh

Overprinted Indochinese Stamps – 1945 – 1946

OP: "Việt-Nam Dân-Chủ Công-Hoa" – Democratic Republic of Vietnam / "Bưu Chính" – Postage



Alexandre Yersin



Alexandre de Rhodes



Juvenile Sport



Marshall Philippe Pétain



Việt Minh



Auguste Pavie



Planting Rice

Overprinted Indochinese Stamps – 1945 – 1946

OP: “Việt-Nam Dân-Chủ Công-Hoa” – Democratic Republic of Vietnam

OP: “Độc lập – Tự do – Hạnh phúc” – Independence – Freedom – Happiness



Deudart de Lagrée



Admiral Amédée Courbet



Paul Doumer



Việt Minh



Philippe Pétain



Admiral Charner



Admiral Rigault de Genouilly

Revalued Indochinese Stamps – 1945 – 1946



King Norodom Sihanouk



Việt Minh

Overprinted and Surcharged Indochinese Stamps – 1945 – 1946

OP: "Việt-Nam Dân-Chủ Công-Hoa" – Democratic Republic of Vietnam

Surcharged with New Value



Nam-Giang Festival



Pierre Pasquier



Cathedral of Orléans, France



Doutart de Lagrèze



OP: "Binh sĩ Bị nạn" – Fund for War Wounded



Admiral Pierre Paul Marie de la Grandière



Leutenant François Garnier





Việt Minh



Jean Marie de Lannesson



Joost van Vollenhoven



Semi-Postal: Overprinted Indochinese Stamps – 1946

OP: "Việt-Nam Dân-Chủ Công-Hoa" – Democratic Republic of Vietnam
Surcharged with New Values for various charitable Purposes



Cathedral of Orléans, France



OP: "Cứu Đói" – Famine Relief Campaign



Alexandre Yersin

OP: "Bao Anh" – Child Welfare



Pigneau de Behaine

OP: "Binh sĩ bị nạn" –
Fund for War Wounded



Việt Minh

Semi-Postal: Overprinted Indochinese Stamps – 1946

OP: "Việt-Nam Dân-Chủ Công-Hoa" – Democratic Republic of Vietnam
Surcharged with New Values for various Charitable Purposes



Saigon Fair

OP: "Chống nạn mù chữ" –
Anti Illiteracy Campaign



National Revolution

OP: "Đổi đời mới" –
New Life Movement



Nam-Giao Festival

OP: "Quốc Phòng" – For the National Defense



Empress Nam Phuong

OP: "Đan Sinh" – For People's Livelihood



Emperor Bao Dai



Việt Minh

President Hồ Chí Minh – 1946

Hồ Chí Minh (1890 - 1969) was a Vietnamese Communist revolutionary and statesman. He served as prime minister and president of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

In 1929, Hồ Chí Minh founded the Indochinese Communist Party. Later, he established the Việt Minh movement that struggled against the Japanese occupation regime and the Vichy French Government members. In 1945, after the Japanese surrendered, the Việt Minh established the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and elected Hồ Chí Minh as president. The French Union refused to recognize the new state, hence the Việt Minh fought them resulting in the French withdrawal from Indochina after their defeat at Điện Biên Phủ. The Geneva conference decided to divide Vietnam to North Vietnam and South Vietnam. The former remained under the Việt Minh control headed by Hồ Chí Minh.



President Hồ Chí Minh – 1946 – 1948



Semi-Postal Stamps with Inscription:
"Phó Thủ Cau Quoc" –
For National Defense



Việt Minh

Varieties



IL2b green cp



IL3a



Color Variations

