



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 Cộng-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.

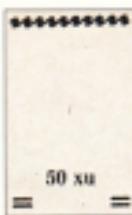
Examples of the common overprints printed by the Việt Minh on the Indochinese stamps:



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



Viet Minh

Overprinted Indochinese Stamps – 1945 – 1946

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



Alexandre Varenne



Alexandre de Rhodes



Juvénal Sarte



Marshall Philippe Pétain



Việt Minh



Auguste Pavie



Planting Rice

Overprinted Indochinese Stamps – 1945 – 1946

OP: "Việt-Nam Dân-Chủ Cộng-Hòa" – Democratic Republic of Vietnam

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



Deodart de Lagrée



Admiral Amédée Courbet



Paul Doumer



Viet Minh



Philippe Pétain



Admiral Charner



Admiral Rigault de Genouilly



Revalued Indochinese Stamps – 1945 – 1946



King Norodom Sihanouk



Việt Minh

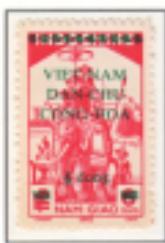
Overprinted and Surcharged Indochinese Stamps – 1945 – 1946

OP: "Việt-Nam Dân-Chủ Cộng-Hà" – Democratic Republic of Vietnam

Surcharged with New Value



Nam-Giao Festival



Pierre Pasquier



Cathedral of Orléans, France

OP: "Binh si Bị naja" – Fund for War Wounded



Doudart de Lagrée



Admiral Pierre Paul Marie de la Grandière



Leytenant François Garnier





Viet Minh



Jean Marie de Lannessan



Joost van Vollenhoven

Semi-Postal: Overprinted Indochinese Stamps – 1946

OP: "Việt-Nam Dân-Chủ Cộng-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: "Bảo Anh" – Child Welfare



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



Viet Minh

Semi-Postal: Overprinted Indochinese Stamps – 1946

OP: "Việt-Nam Dân-Chủ Cộng-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: "Bồi song mới" –
New Life Movement



Nam-Giao Festival
OP: "Quốc Phong" – For the National Defense



Empress Nam Phuong
OP: "Đản Sinh" – For People's Livelihood



Emperor Bao Dai
OP: "Đản Sinh" – For People's Livelihood



Viet 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 resulted in the French withdrawal from Indochina after their defeat in 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 Cầu Quốc" –
For National Defense



Viet Minh

Varieties



IL2b green 15c



IL3a



Color Variations

