

## BOOK REVIEW

# Contemporary Vietnam: A Guide to Economic and Political Development

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*Contemporary Vietnam: A Guide to Economic and Political Development*

*Ian Jeffries*

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According to Asia Development Bank 2014, GDP (for the first quarter of 2014) rose by 5.0%, and GDP growth is forecast to rise slightly to 5.6% in 2014. Ian Jeffries -Honorary Professor in the Department of Economics at Swansea University (UK) is the author of the book *Contemporary Vietnam. A guide to economic and political developments*. The book is divided into two main sections. First section, “*Political developments*”, briefly discusses political background and presents a chronology of the political developments since the

Tenth Congress of the Communist Party April 18-25, 2006). This section also discusses the human toll of the Vietnam War, the membership to the Communist Party as well as topics like demography, religion, internet and AIDS and SARS. The second section, “*Economy*”, discusses key topics to understand Vietnamese economy today, from the economic system to the global financial crisis, foreign trade, foreign aid and foreign direct investment, agriculture sector and the privatization. Rather than using the traditional academic style to discuss topics, the author chooses excerpts from news published in different media to illustrate key political, economic and events that occurred in Vietnam recently. The 238 pages of the book will help academics and general readers to get insights on contemporary Vietnam, an emerging economy of South East Asia.