What are the relationships between politics & the economy, culture & education within a country?

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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. US politics

1.1. *Government structure*

The United States is a federal constitutional republic in which the federal government shares sovereignty with the state governments.

To ensure that no one branch of government would become too powerful, the Framers broke federal government up into three branches which are balanced and separate.

- Executive Branch: This is the presidential branch, with the President (Joe Biden) at its head who is elected by the entire country through the electoral college.
- Legislative Branch: This is the congressional branch, with both the House of Representatives and Senate.
- Judicial Branch: This is the courts branch with the Supreme Court (a panel of q judges or justices) at its head.

The point here is that each of the branches has the power to limit, or check, the other two and this creates a balance between the three separate powers.

Ex: The president (head of the executive branch) serves as commander in chief of the military forces, but Congress (legislative branch) appropriates funds for the military and votes to declare war. In addition, the Senate must ratify any peace treaties.

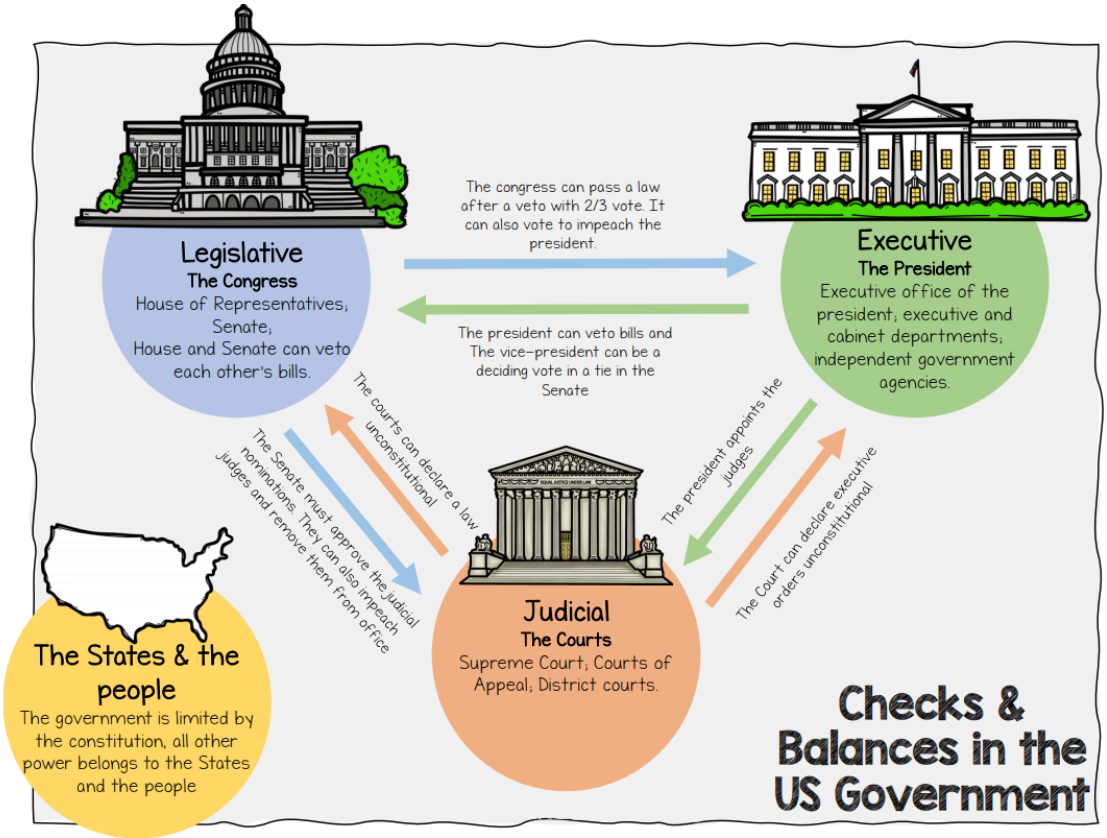


Figure 1: Checks & Balances in the US Government

1.2. Political system

1.1.1. Political parties and elections

- Political parties

Today, America is a multi-party system. The Democratic Party and the Republican Party dominate modern politics in the United States. Other parties, often generally termed "third parties", in the U.S. include The Green Party, Libertarians, Constitution Party, Tea Party…



Figure 2: Political parties in the USA

The main difference between the two parties is, indeed, their political orientation. The Democratic Party is left-leaning, liberal and usually associated with progressiveness and equality. The Republican Party, instead, is right-leaning, traditional and associated with equity and economic freedom and with the ideal of "survival of the fittest". Given their different origins and opposing political orientations, the two parties clash on a number of fundamental issues : tax, health care, abortion, labor and free trade,…..



Figure 3: Two major political parties in US

- US Presidential Election:

Americas distinctive nominating process is an additional structural barrier to third parties. In most nations, partisan nominations are controlled by the party organizations. But in the United States, it is the voters who make the ultimate determination of who the Republican and Democratic nominees will be. This system, of course, contributes to the fact that the United States has weaker formal party organizations than most other democracies.

- Election progress and requirements: The US Presidential Election takes place every four years. Candidates must be at least 35 years old, born in the United States and lived in the US for the previous 14 years to be eligible.

  Presidential primaries and caucuses: votes for hopeful presidential candidates from each of the major parties.

  Delegates: These delegates represent their state in the national party convention and vote to decide each party's presidential candidate.

  National conventions (summer): to receive the nomination of the party

  General Election campaigning: the presidential candidates go to rallies and take part in debates to win the support of voters across the nation. Moreover, they explain their plans and views to society.

  Electoral College : On Election Day, voters go to the polling place and cast their vote for their preferred candidate. The voters elect their President and Vice President indirectly. Both are chosen by electors through the Electoral College process.

  Inauguration Day : at the U.S. Capitol building in Washington D.C

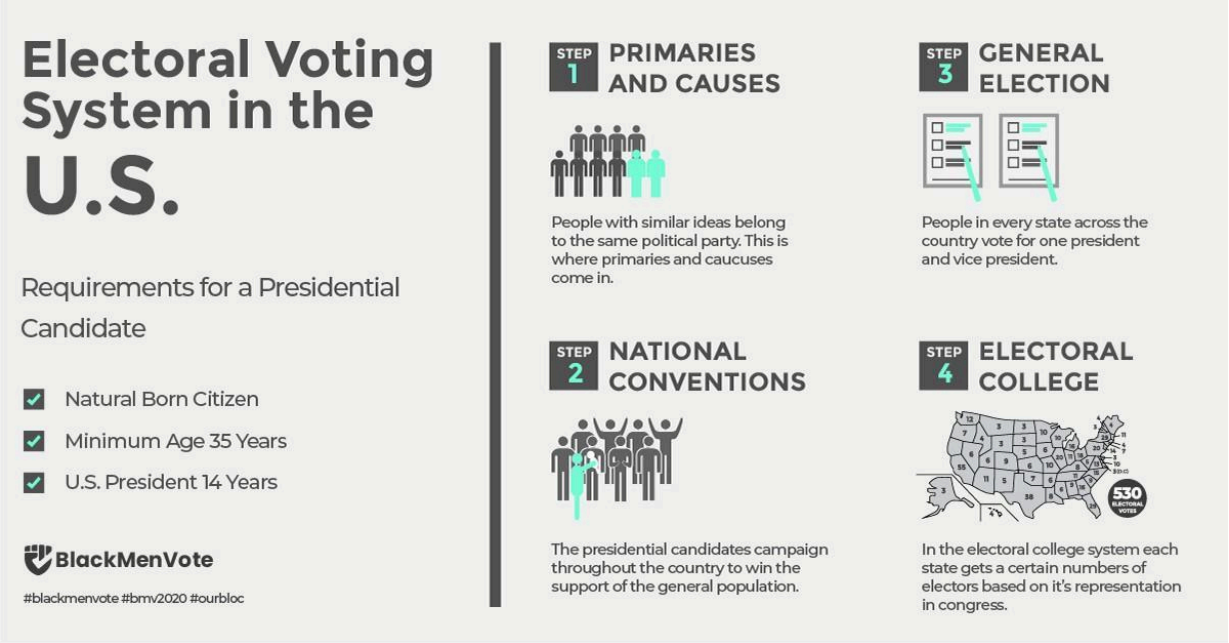


Figure 4: The U.S. electoral voting system

1.2. Voting behaviour

1.2.1. Voter turnout

The 2020 presidential election is over, the excitement and sense of urgency between both Republicans and Democrats seems to have reached new heights for this election cycle

In data from a recent Gallup survey, 77 percent of all U.S. registered voters said the outcome of this year's presidential election matters more to them than in previous election years. That's the highest percentage in the poll's 26-year history, with the last five election cycles hovering around 70 percent.

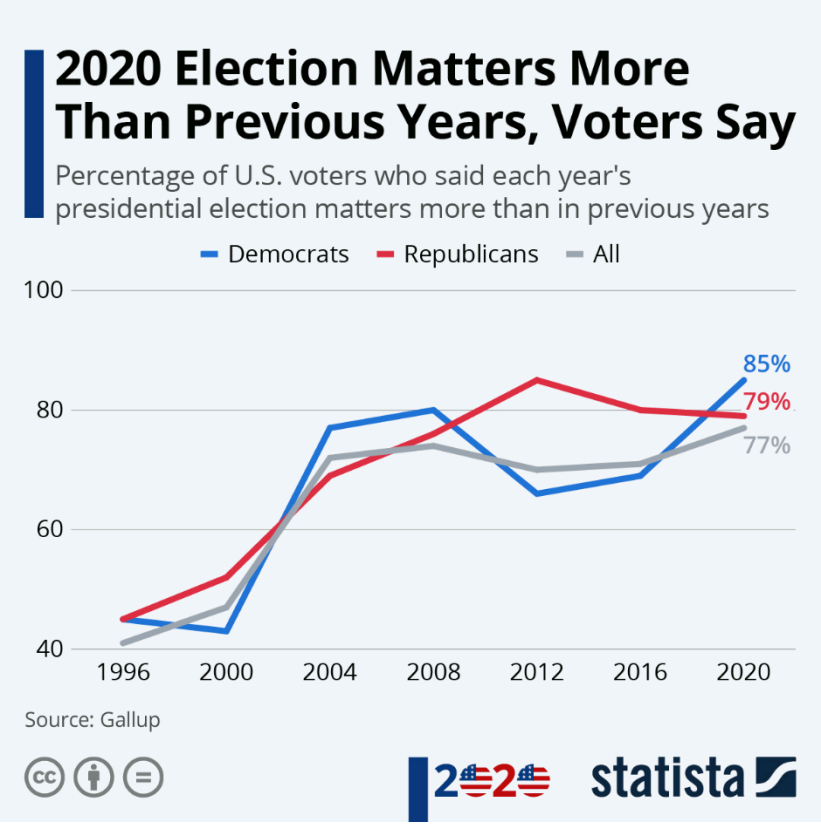


Figure 5: Voter turnout 2020

Voter turnout is the percentage of eligible voters who cast a ballot in an election. Socioeconomic factors such as education, income, gender, age (reflects issues that people care about. Older people are more likely to vote than young people and are more likely to be politicians.) , and race significantly affect how likely individuals are to vote.

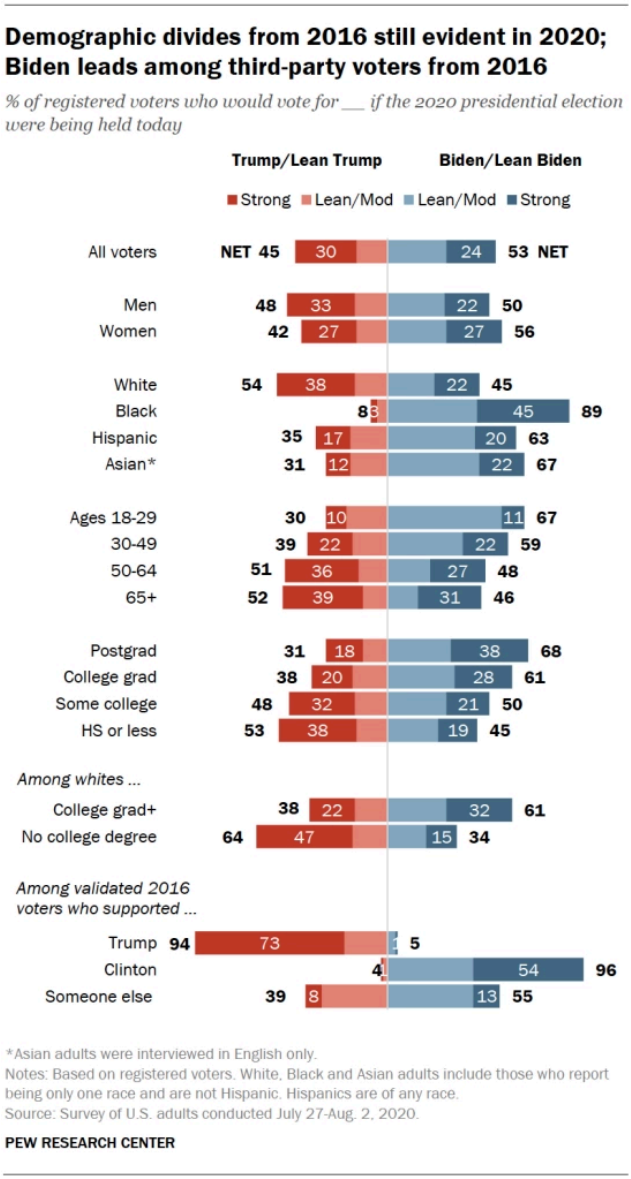


Figure 6: Voter turnout based on socioeconomic factors

Especially, media has a significant role for reaching youth and reports a massive and continuous increase in engagement during this election cycle. Although it's too early to determine exact causation, NPR, in an October 29 article on surging youth turnout shared that the number of early voters under 30 who are voting for the first time in their life is more than double the number of first-time voters at this point in the 2016 election. and now every candidate has at least one Twitter profile and Facebook page

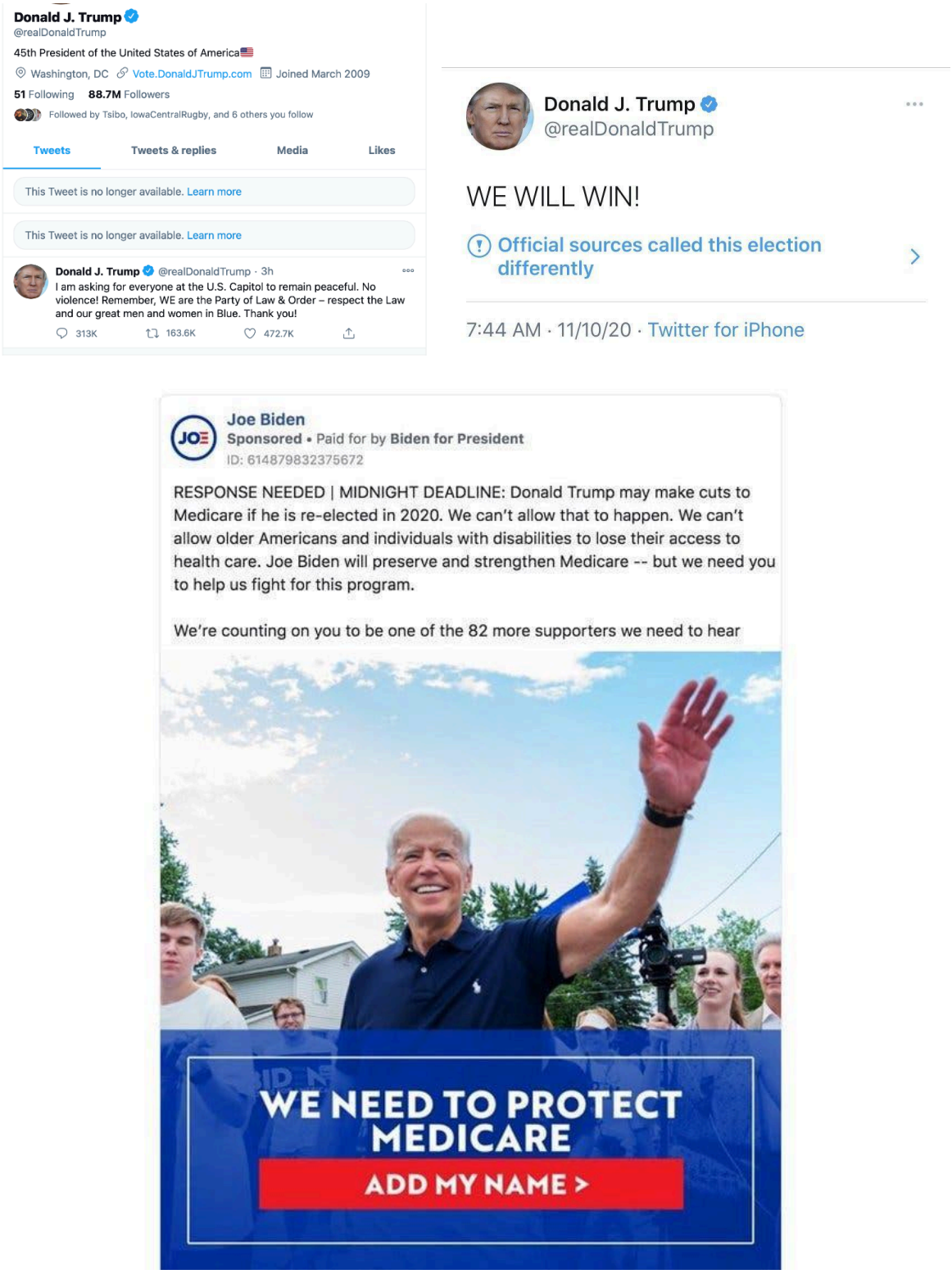


Figure 7: Presidential candidates' campaigns



Figure 8: Magazines about politics

1.2.2. Factors impact on voting ideology

Political scientists sometimes refer to the process by which individuals establish their personal political ideologies as political socialization. And they have identified four main agents that contribute to our political identities.

Family: And parents are usually the first people that express political opinions to kids. If you respect your parents and admire them, it's likely you will adopt their political ideology. On the other hand, adopting an opposing political view can be a form of rebellion.



Social groups, which in this case, refer to one's race, gender, religion, or ethnicity. Obviously, these are generalizations, but certain groups tend to fall predictably into liberal or conservative camps.

E.g.: African Americans and Jewish people are among the most liberal Americans while white Catholics tend to be conservative. One of the reasons that many uses to explain why African Americans and Latinos tend to be liberals is that these groups are disproportionately poor and receive a significant share of government benefits.

Gender : The gender gap refers to the fact that women tend to be more liberal overall than men. This is especially true on the issue of national defense where they tend to favor spending reductions rather than increases.



Education, namely the primary and secondary school system. This is the most formal way that our political views are shaped since almost all-American students take at least one year of American history, and many states require courses in civics.

Political conditions

Example : If you came of age during the Reagan era, when popular politicians were singing the praises of self-reliance and calling government the problem rather than the solution, it's likely that you'd develop conservative political views.

1.3. Political forces

1.3.1. **Lobbyists and Special Interest Groups**

Lobbying is trying to influence legislators' votes on the bills they pass into law. Lobbying is done by people called lobbyists, often lawyers. Lobbyists try to influence members of Congress to get laws passed that will help the group they represent. Today, lobbying is sometimes done by volunteers, but it's often a full-time job paid for by interest groups.

Lobbyists work for groups called interest groups. Interest groups are organized groups of people who share a set of goals and try to influence the government to make laws that support these goals. They also have an important role in election campaigns. they can

do by mobilizing voters or by putting direct pressure on elected officials.

- Some examples of interest groups are:

The NRA or National Rifle Association, who represent people concerned with Second Amendment gun rights; the NRA is one of the wealthiest groups.

The AARP (American Association of Retired Persons represents the interest of the elderly. The AARP is the largest interest group with over 38 million members.

There are thousands of interest groups, including the American Farm Bureau which represents farmers; the National Education Association which represents teachers, and the NAACP which represents the interests of African Americans.

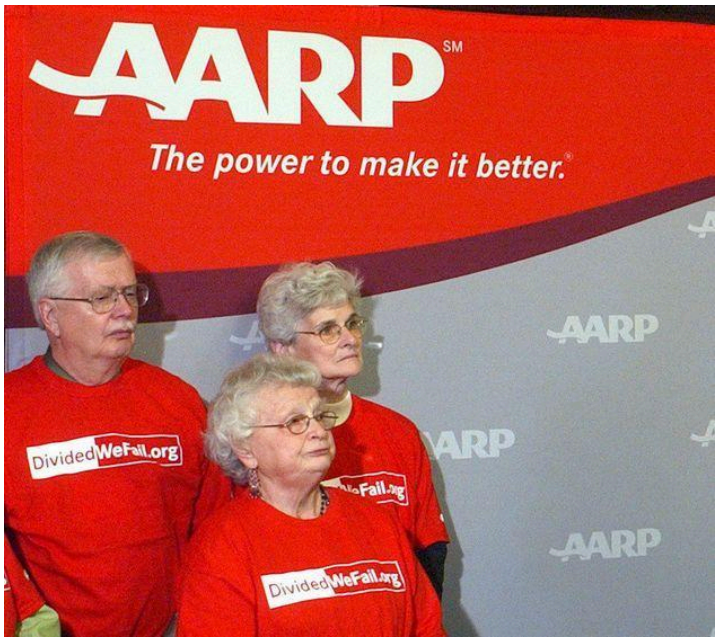


Figure 9: The AARP (American Association of Retired Persons)

1.3.2. African Americans

Collectively, African Americans are more involved in the American political process than other minority groups. They have the highest level of Congressional representation of any minority group in the U.S., though this doesn't extend to the senate.



Figure 10: African Americans

1.3.3. Hispanics

Hispanics have the ability to be an influential force in politics, a fact that is especially true in areas with high Hispanic populations.

- The term Hispanic is used in the United States to refer to people with origins in Spanish-speaking countries, like Mexico, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Costa Rica.
- Due to the homogeneity among Hispanic voters, they have the ability to be an influential force in American politics. This is especially true in areas with high Hispanic populations, and, based on demographic predictions, will continue to be important throughout the 21st century.



Figure 11: Influential Hispanic Americans in US politics

2. VIETNAM politics

2.1. Political structure system

- Our political system consists of three "sub-systems" are the Communist Party, the State and the Fatherland Front. The three political "sub-systems" are closely linked, sharing the same goal of building and developing the country, moving towards socialism, led by the Communist Party.
- The State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is a socialist rule of law state of the People, by the People, for the People.
- Form of government: Democratic Republic – Socialist Republic

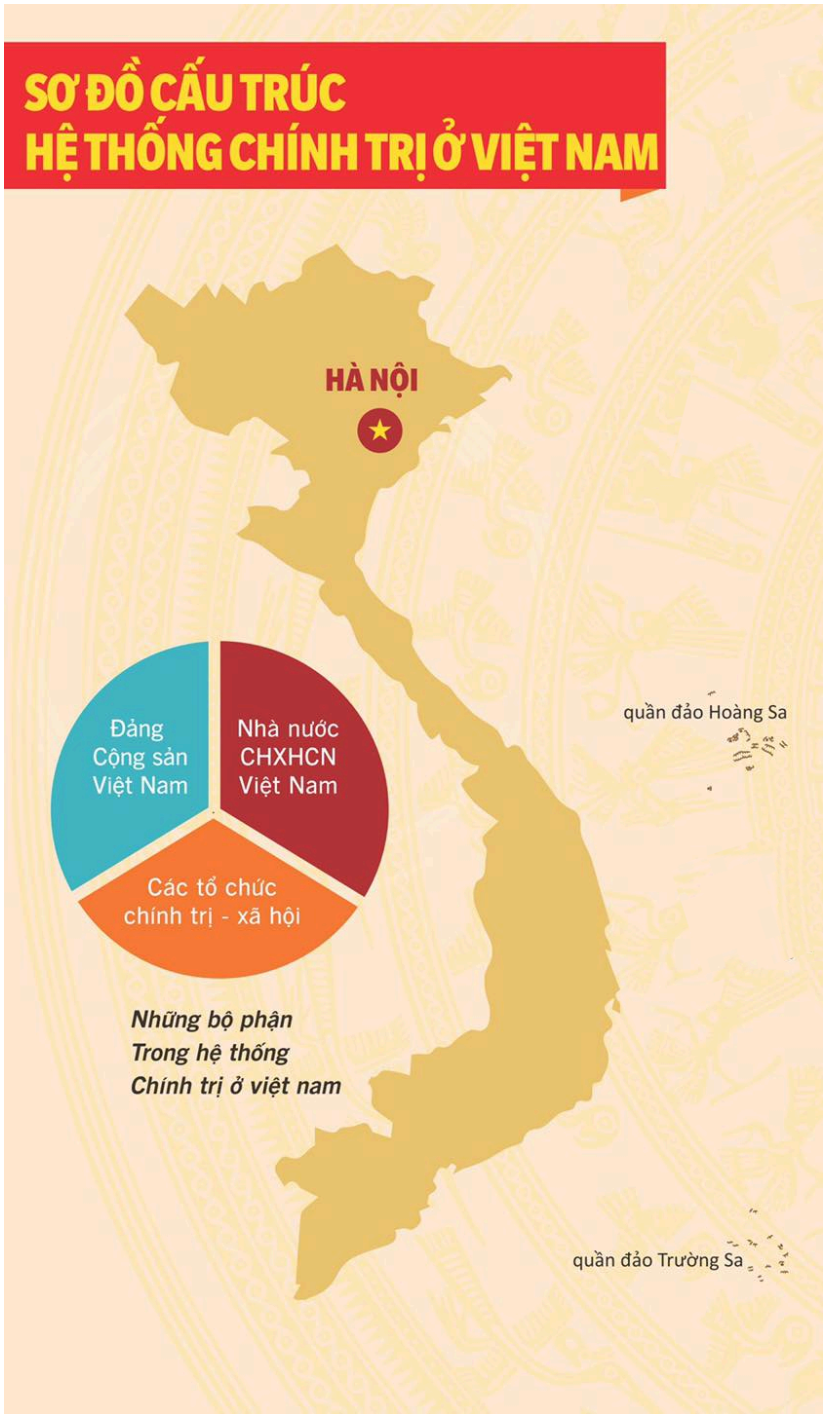


Figure 12: Political system in Vietnam

2.1.1. The Communist party of Vietnam

On February 3, 1930, the Communist Party of Vietnam was born. The Communist Party of Vietnam was founded, led and trained by President Ho Chi Minh. In the past eight decades, under the leadership of the Party, our people have successfully carried out the August

Revolution in 1945, completely abolished feudal colonialism, and established the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (now the Republic of Vietnam).

The current leader of the Party is General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong.



Figure 13: The Communist party of Vietnam

2.1.2. The Fatherland Front of VN

The political base of the people's government, where the will is expressed, aspirations, gather the people's great unity bloc, promote the people's mastery, where the members consult, coordinate and unify the actions of its members.



Figure 14: Vietnamese Fatherland Front

2.1.3. The State system :

- ***The National Assembly :*** The National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is an important legislative body in the Vietnamese political system, the highest representative body of the Vietnamese people and the state authority. Highest level of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.



Figure 15 : The National Assembly in Vietnam

- ***The State President:*** The President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is the head of state of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the head of State of Vietnam, on behalf of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in domestic and international affairs. The

President is one of the members of the National Assembly of Vietnam elected by the entire National Assembly

- ***The Government :*** The Government is established by the President and approved by the National Assembly and has a term of office according to the term of the National Assembly (5 years).
- ***The Supreme people's court:*** The Supreme People's Court is the highest judicial organ of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

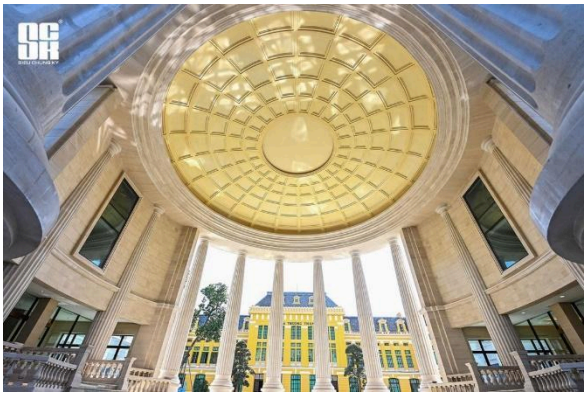


Figure 16: The Vietnam Supreme people's court

- ***The Supreme People's Procuracy of Vietnam :*** The Supreme People's Procuracy of Vietnam is the highest level in Vietnam's People's Procuracy system.
- ***The local system***

2.2. Trade unions and other political organizations

Trade union is a political and social organization of the working class and of the working people, has a bigger role in maintaining Vietnam's **political stability.** In the age of development, they have actively participated in the management of the State and the society; prevent violations, corruption and other issues; raise the sense of responsibility of public employees. => Therefore, they are stabilizing the whole society, thereby maintaining the political order.

2.3. Election

2.3.1. Requirements for candidates to be in National Assembly and election progress

(i) Citizenship: Vietnamese people.

(ii) Having the loyalty, equality, being a shining example of obeying the Vietnamese law.

(iii) Having good education quality, capability, health and enough experiences to work in National Assembly deputies.

(iv) Keeping tight contact with the people to listen to their wants, willing and opinion.

(v) Participating in every activity of the National Assembly.



Figure 17: The election of National Assembly XV – 2021

Having these conditions, a person can become a candidate in an election and is given equal conditions during the process.

In the end, *5 or 6 candidates will be chosen* based on the final results- who have the highest number of votes. These are the low-level candidates and this election progress is called the **local election**. In this progress, there is a requirement of the equal distribution of candidate structure, composition and number; so that it can ensure representative voices from all regions, areas, … - 183 electoral areas in total.

Then the list of win candidates will be collected and the Department of Industry and Trade (specialized agency of Provincial People's Committee) will choose out 500 individuals to be a part of National Assembly.

2.3.2. Voting behavior



Figure 18: Vietnamese people voted in the election 2021

Election rules are provided through laws and are strictly adhered to the reality. In general, there are four principles: ***universal suffrage***, ***equal election***, ***direct election***, and ***secret ballot***.

Universal suffrage guarantees that every citizen - satisfying to the laws, are allowed to participate in the election:

- According to Vietnam election law, age is the only considered factor. 18 years old and above is the legal range of age to have the right to vote.

Equal election means that there are no discriminations among voters under the basis of social class, ethnic, gender and so on.

In a **direct election** means that the people must directly express their choices through their own secret ballot.

The last principle, **secret ballot**, constitutes a measure to ensure that voters are free to express their will when selecting their representatives without any influence.

II. The influence of politics on the development of the US

1. Economy

In fact, politics strongly influences the economic stability of a country. The reason is that politics is a process of forming the economy (monetary policy, inflation rate, employment and so on) through the exercise of power. Any change in the political side, such as election, political crisis – or simply, changing the policies can deeply interconnect to the industry. The election for choosing a new President in the USA is a practical example for this relationship.

Generally, Joe Biden officially became the President on 21/01/2021 – when COVID 19 is hurting the economy deeply for this country. “America Rescue Plan ” was signed with a hope to get out of the economic depression by 2020.

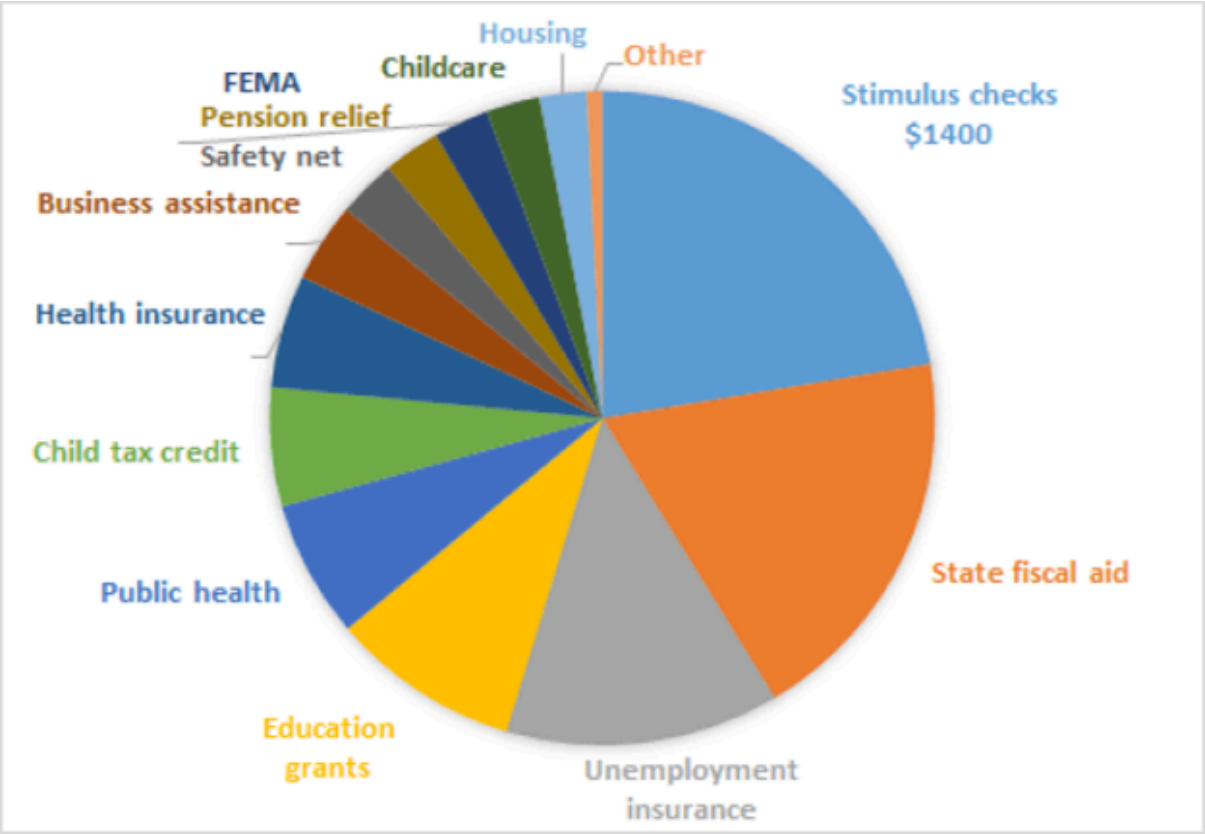


Figure 19: Pie chart – The division of 1.9 billion dollars in "America Rescue Plan"

The Plan is to help the people, businesses, industrial regions and the overall economy under the negative impacts of COVID 19. Among those, the US government focus on these economical aspects:

- 400 billion USD are used to boost up the supply chain, solve the unemployment issue and stimulate consumption.
- 15 billion USD (fund) and 175 billion USD (government loan) to help the small-sized business in tough situations.
- Increasing income for the workers, so that the quality of labor sources will rise, and motivate the citizens to consume more.
- Divided equally to big cities, suburbs and the countryside.

After 8 months available, this Plan has solved many problems in political and economic issues. Firstly, the money source of this plan was provided equally to every aspect and secured more funding later so that the Democrats can focus more on the long-term economy in the future. Thus, it takes the pressure off the tense political negotiations and also helps the Government and Democrats leadership to secure trillions of dollars - which is considered to be a massive political win. Besides, the Plan helps to increase the American's life satisfaction and beliefs, thereby reducing the inner political conflicts to focus more on improving the economy. Secondly, the

Plan brought to the American economy many outstanding results about GDP, working labour sources or productions.

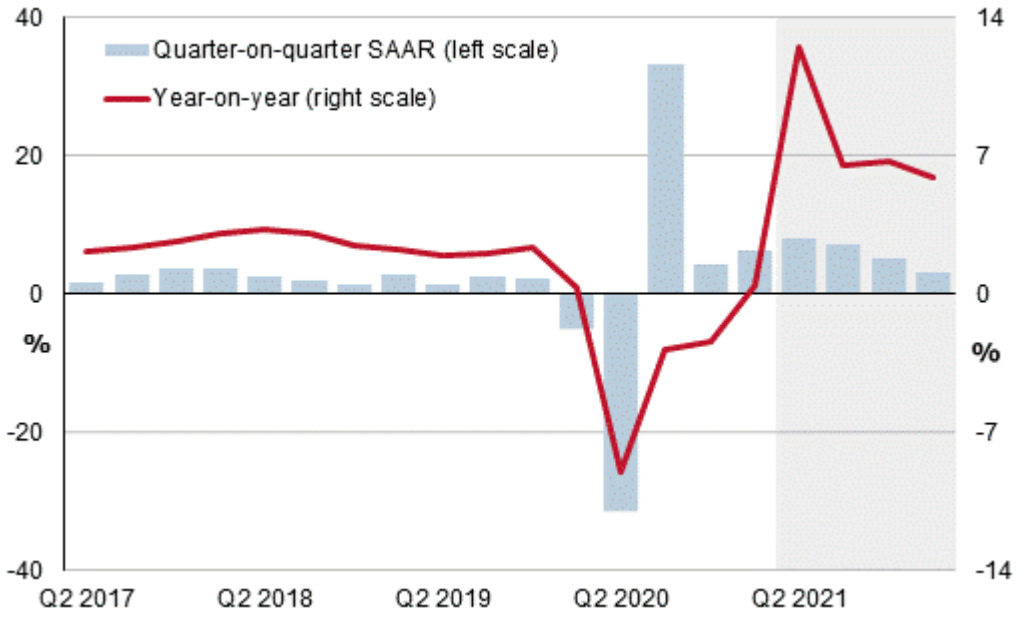


Figure 20: GDP and GDP growth rate in each quarter from Q2/2017 to Q2/2021.

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis and FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast.

As it can be seen on the table, in the second quarter of 2020, the GDP rate is continuously negative in 2 months (-5% and -31,5%). However, due to this plan, America witnessed the highest growth of GDP (red light) in the second quarter compared to the same period in the past 70 years – according to CNN News.

Next, US Labour Department reports, the unemployment issues have been partly solved with nearly 950 thousand new workers in July. It made the unemployment rate by 0,5% in July – lowest rate since 3/2020. Some economical aspects, especially the service and securities industry, have recovered in this year.

This is not the first time America faces an economic crash . In 2008, a Great Recession caused by the housing bubble and bank crisis brought huge bad consequences to people's lives: Unemployment (6,5%), bankruptcy businesses, State budget deficit ($450 billion),… *[source: US Department of Labour]* It only ended when the State provided $700 billions to buy up toxic assets from companies and provided billions dollar to save the bank. However, the job loss and slow economic growth intensified discontent with the Democratic Party, and also the citizens after suffering economic crash. This is a big lesson, when the Government had a slow response to the economic problems, while Joe Biden provided timely plans & policy when the country was facing many difficulties.



Figure 21: China - US Trade war

Another event – Trade war between the US and China since 2018 is also an example of how politics affect the economy. The war happened due to the disagreements between the two countries in economic policies; then led to damage in global trade flows and the USA itself.

- Even though the economic growth rate in the early days increased 3% in 2018, it was reported to decrease in the next year 2019.
- Face with job loss, inflation rates and even a negative deficit ($360 billions)

- Impact on the economic sector, especially agriculture and industry –the export of products went down to below $7 billion in 4/2019. This is because of the American rise in import tax for Chinese products; meanwhile the final industrial goods are made by the China workers.

2. Culture

2.1. Culture in the past.

a, The American Indian Genocide

The decimation of indigenous American Indian cultures, beginning five centuries ago, is still being whitewashed by textbooks and movies. Government policies, well-documented elsewhere, guided the destruction and containment of native American cultures, culminating in the problematic status of Indian people today. Despite this historical backdrop, there has been only the most begrudging admission of any public responsibility for the damage done to native American cultures. Little public support has gone to efforts to preserve, retrieve and build upon native cultural traditions. Where affirmative steps are called for, none has been taken. Chief among the U.S. government's initiatives toward native peoples has been the reservation -- remarkably like the former South African "homelands." The current *laissez-faire* federal policy pretends that Native American cultures are now free to enjoy an even chance in our society, to compete for resources with dominant cultural forms and traditions. The official alternative to the reservation has been pressured to assimilate into the mainstream culture.



Figure 22: Indian Removal Act: The Genocide of Native Americans



Figure 23: The American Indians

Through much of the time that Native American peoples have endured this cultural combat, the idea of "the Indian " has been a powerful symbol within our national culture. We usually see Indian people portrayed as brutal and warmongering, worthy of punishment at the hands of white settlers and the U.S. government. Nevertheless, Indian influences on contemporary United States culture are extensive. In Hollywood films and western novels and "cowboy art," Indians have symbolized connectedness and sensitivity to nature (and the loss of the wilderness), highly developed skills, and individual courage. The "new age" philosophies which emerged from the 1960's depend heavily on traditional Indian knowledge; within their frameworks, Native Americans symbolize balance, inner wisdom, ordeal and transcendent experience, and natural dignity. Recently, Native American activists have done much to revitalize their cultural traditions. Assimilationism has lost some of the attraction it had in the past. But history cannot be undone.

b. The New "American Culture"

Until the first huge waves of immigration of the 19th Century, the fledgling nation's white population was largely northern European and Protestant. Its leadership was imbued with the Enlightenment principles embodied in Bill of Rights -- though applying these principles very selectively indeed, mainly to the community of white male property owners. The values of the Enlightenment, as interpreted by the first American political philosophers, emphasized protection of individual liberties and preservation of private initiative against the potential tyranny of state power. Though such cultural issues as education, suffrage, and slavery were subjects of heated public debate, the government took a hands-off attitude that effectively favored those with power.



Figure 24: The Bill of Rights

This emphasis upon individual liberties has been counterbalanced throughout United States history by a contrary tradition of communitarian practice and values. Barn-raisings, mutual aid at harvest time and in the face of floods or blizzards, mistrust of distant political leaders -- these too are part of the cultural heritage evoked by the phrase 'American culture.' These values, though, are not granted the same status under law as personal liberties and property rights. In periods of red-baiting and witch-hunting, they sometimes sound a little too close to socialism for comfort. The dominant white social consensus was not significantly threatened until well after the Civil War. When more diverse immigrant groups began to appear in increasing numbers, those who saw themselves as "true Americans" became alarmed. Fear of foreign ideas and unfamiliar cultural practices led to aggressive limitations on immigration, barring "undesirable" national groups from immigrating, placing quotas on other groups. Racist attitudes once deployed primarily against American blacks and native people were adapted to apply to white ethnic, Asian and Latin American groups new to the United States.

c, Cold War Culture

World War II represents an abrupt break from the cultural themes, programs and history of the 1930s -- at least for all but one of these traditions. The anti-communism of the 1950s -- the so-called "McCarthy Era" -- had its roots in the '30s. The Depression had given rise to all kinds of radical political, economic and cultural thinking, much of it reflected in the cultural programs of the era. This had the effect of mobilizing the forces of reaction in U.S. culture. The threat to the status quo posed by the ground-breaking work of the period -- the socially-relevant productions of the Federal Theatre, the legitimation of working people's history in Writers Project publications, the images of social change depicted in Federal Art Project murals -- could not have been clearer. The successes of the Dies Committee campaigns against the WPA

provided tactical experience and lent legitimacy to the reactionary critique of "foreign ideas" and radical ideologies.



Figure 25: World War II

This dramatic shift in attitude affected the few who were still interested in public cultural policy in the years immediately following World War II. There was very little explicit discussion of cultural policies during the Fifties. But the civil rights movement was beginning to make progress in attacking the culture of racism; this was to become the first of many movements to transform cultural attitudes in the Sixties and early Seventies.
It has been argued that during the Red Scare, when it was seen as dangerous to admit to any but Right-wing political ideas, artists continued to make radical statements by breaking with traditional forms, by indirection and abstraction. But the art world was no longer ready to make the connection between art and society explicit. This gulf between art and ordinary life, portrayed as unbridgeable, is now the basis of most cultural policymaking in the United States.

2.2. Culture in the past.

In order to protect their culture, they created some policies and organizations. Below are some examples:

- Policies:
  - The Antiquities Act of 1906 (16 U.S.C. §§ 431-33m) authorizes the penalization of anyone who destroys or damages historic ruins on public lands, or excavates ruins, monuments, or antiquities on lands owned or controlled by the federal government. This was later supplemented by the Archaeological Resources and Protection Act of 1979 (16 U.S.C. §§ 470aa-mm), which specifically protects archaeological resources on public or Indian land from sale, exchange, or transport without proper permission.
  - The Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) has implemented a Site Preservation Program, which focuses on grant giving, recognition, and public outreach. It has also been involved in shaping a better understanding of archaeological ethics among the public by, for example, speaking out against treasure hunting TV shows that might promote looting and destruction of archaeological sites.

- SAFE has been working on promoting public awareness on the dangers of archaeological looting in the United States. Various blog posts by archaeologists provide insights into the current state of looting in the United States.

from our partner SAFE SAVING ANTIQUITIES FOR EVERYONE

- Organizations:
  - The National Archive of Data on Arts & Culture (NADAC) is a repository that facilitates research on arts and culture by acquiring data, particularly those funded by federal agencies and other organizations, and sharing those data with researchers, policymakers, people in the arts and culture field, and the general public.

NADAC

National Archive of Data on Arts & Culture

  - The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) offers grant opportunities to arts and culture organizations and individuals specific to cultural diplomacy.

BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

- U.S. Department of Arts and Culture (USDAC) does not provide funding opportunities for arts organizations, but is involved in helping communities create and implement cultural policy.

3. Education

In America, the Ministry of National Education is the place that provides guidelines related to universal education policy, data collection, award grants and scholarships, but has little influence over the content of the academic program, the result of academic performance or quality of education -

These tasks have been assigned to individual states responsible for primary education, secondary education and partly higher education. Each state has a State Board of Education responsible for education policy, budgeting for education, and quality assurance at the elementary and secondary levels.

Education and politics are related because education is an agent which transmits political culture. Education plays a prominent role as an agent of transmitting political education such as political socialization which molds people into the political class in a community.

Therefore, it can be said that the American educational philosophy is associated with the two words "self-control" and "freedom". President John Adam once said "Children should be educated according to the principle of liberty" and rightly so for more than 200 years American education has always been associated with that philosophy.



Figure 26: President John Adams

America is famous for being a free country, so its education always brings freedom for people. In the US, parents and teachers encourage children to express their personal views on all issues, encourage independent thinking, self-control, think, question, discuss, improve expression, communication and creativity.

The learning programs are highly experiential, stimulating to discover new things, develop thinking, encourage learners to give their opinions and judgments. In the educational philosophy of the American people, it is always up to teach their children how to make their own choices and defend their own opinions without being constrained by what is available as long as they can prove what they have given is correct. But America's children are also taught to respect the opinions of others and take responsibility for their own decisions. This strikes a balance between personal ego and shared obligations to the community.

As a country with the most developed economy, the infrastructure system here is extremely complete to meet all the necessary needs for development and research. Education in the United States is primarily provided by the public, controlled, and funded sector at three levels: federal, state, and local. Investment in education accounts for a large proportion of the total GDP of the US, almost every year the US government every year spends 5-6% of the budget in the total GDP to spend on education. Not only that, the estimated investment in American education is increasing; it proves that Americans care about education and want to develop their education in the future.

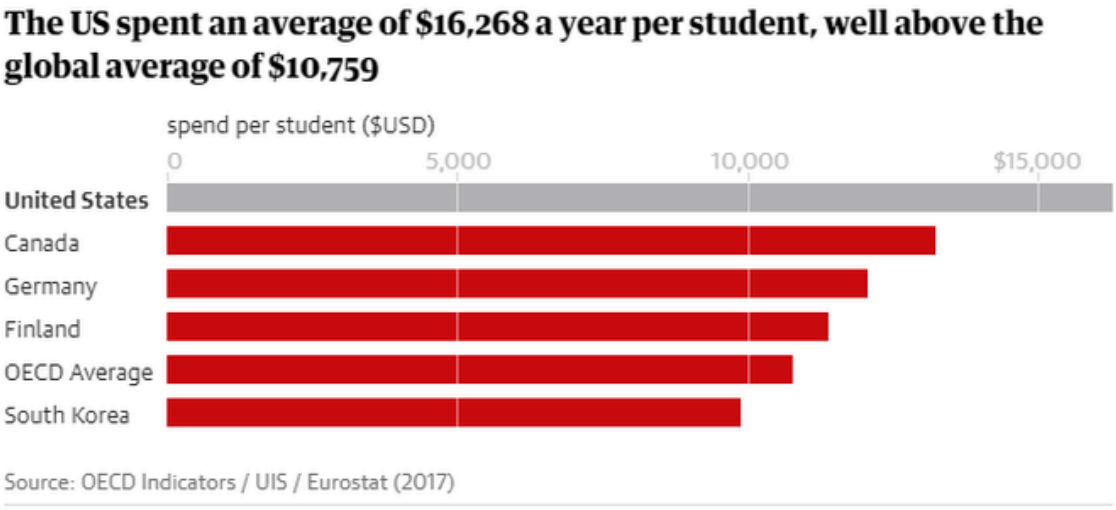


Figure 27: The US spent for education

Besides, the US also has many student support programs such as: loan program; students that have the federal loans will pay monthly payments equal to 15% of their income, to repay until the debt is paid off, if within 25 years the debt is not paid in full, the remaining balance will be forgiven, application execution since 2014.

However, contradictions within the American nation such as the polarization of rich and poor, discrimination against religion, race or polarization of political ideology in American politics and conflicts with factions Islamic extremism as well as Gun rights are not strictly controlled in the US has led to terrorists causing school shootings. School shootings are more likely to affect urban schools and Afro-American students, while mass shootings are more common in suburban schools with the majority of white students. Terrorist incidents at schools are increasing year by year. In the 10 years from 2009 to 2018 at least 177 schools in the US witnessed school shootings. The shooting happened at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, Seventeen people were killed and fifteen hospitalized, making it the deadliest high school shooting in US history.



III. The influence of politics on the development of the Vietnam

1. Economy

Vietnam's development has been changing over the past 30 years. In The Renovation Period 1986, Vietnam politics and economy were reformed in order to boost the economic growth. According to the Sixth Party Congress meeting, a new economic thinkings was created with many changes in the policies: encouraging FDI - export products, granting autonomy of production and business to State-owned enterprises and deleting the subsidized economy. This change has positive impacts on the economic face, in many sectors: service, production, industry,... By the 2000s, Vietnam, from one of the world's poorest countries into a low-middle-income country.
From 2002 to 2018, GDP per capita increased 2.7 times, and more than 45 million people have been lifted out of poverty. Thus, the poverty rate dropped sharply from 70% to less than 6%. This milestone strongly confirms the role of the Government in our country.

Nowadays, although Vietnam is also being affected because of COVID 19, the government always has effective rules and supporting plans for everyone to deal with the epidemic, thereby ***protecting the economy***. This policy is called "Mục tiêu kép" to balance among 3 terms: politic, social and economy. During the first 6 month, the Government mainly pay attention to the sectors inside the country to save the key important factors in our country. Among those, there are many policies to help the businesses and people:

- **Resolution 42:** VND 62,000 billion for helping people having tough times; reducing electricity prices, water prices…
- **Directive 11:** solutions for the difficulties in production and business, maintaining the economy during COVID-19 epidemic;
- **Decree No. 41/2020** for paying tax and land rent (business)

All of these policies are to provide the best conditions for the economy and people's lives; therefore, there will not be any conflict or dissatisfaction among people within Vietnam. As a result, Vietnam's politics is still in peace and security, and the economy achieved some outstanding goals; meanwhile other countries suffered difficulties in the current situation.



Figure 28: GDP growth rate in Q2 in 2017-2021 period & in first six months over the same period

As the General Statistics Office of Vietnam reports, in the first 6 months of 2021, GDP growth rate went up by 5.64%, over 3.82% over the same period. Among those, there are 3 sectors that have the highest GDP: industry - construction (1), service (2) and forestry (3).

However, the number of employees working decreased compared to the previous quarter and the unemployment rate increased. Consequently, the government and localities implemented many forms of job creation, provided benefits or helping fund for workers, and people in areas directly affected by the epidemic. Therefore, the people's life in general remains stable – and has stability in politics inside the country.



Figure 29: The Business issue of the first six months in 2021

A positive sign in Vietnam's economy is the rise in many industrial sectors – compared to the same periods in the previous year. Next, the number of new start-ups and still-active businesses are increasing positively with more than 93,000; as opposed to the fall in bankrupt companies. This comes from the help of government, including reduce 50% of tax in economic activities in Q3 and 4/2021 for small-sized businesses, family companies and some other sectors (such as tourism, service, logistic, …); and simplify some steps in trading process with other partners inside and outside the country.



Figure 30: Overall Vietnam FDI over 3 months in 2021

Finally, Vietnam has many strengths to attract foreign investors and companies, namely: tax policy, investing policy, good quality and quantity of labour forces,… . Besides, the way the Government maintains political stability and prevents disease are also factors attracting them to invest and collaborate in Vietnam. In the first 3 month of 2021, FDI in Vietnam was 4.1 billion USD, rose 6.5% over the same period last year – even though there was a fall in the number of new contracts signed.

To conclude, after the election, there are many laws and plans that are signed in order to reform the economy during and after the COVID 19. In general, these are few main points for the last 6 months of 2021: Disease prevention (1), Policies to support businesses (2), focus on cutting logistic – transportation cost (3), promote digital transformation and digital economy (4), help unemployed people (5) and focus on the inside of the economy (6). All of the changes in the economic – political laws are for people's life, survival of businesses and foremost, the development of Vietnam.

2. Culture

Cultural researcher Huu Ngoc emphasized: The origin of Vietnamese culture in Southeast Asia belongs to wet rice civilization. In addition to internal movement (indigenous ethnic groups), the original has undergone acculturation, with additional cultural elements added (mainly from China, India and the West: France, because of the colonial war period).

2.1. **Cultural acculturation with China (179 BC - 1858)**

Vietnam acculturates with China's culture through two stages: the period of Northern domination and the period of independent Vietnamese dynasties.

- *During the Northern domination period (179 BC - 838)*, "cultural confrontation" was the main thing. The Chinese imposed Han culture on Vietnam, the Vietnamese resisted to protect the original culture. It was in that struggle that Vietnamese identity was sharpened and strongly asserted. The Vietnamese have adapted to some Chinese political concepts and organizations to create a cohesive ethnic group, especially Confucianism has become a common political philosophy.





Figure 31: The influence of Confucianism on Vietnam's culture

- *During the period of independent dynasties (l0-19th centuries)* with the Ngo, Dinh, Le, Ly, Tran, Ho, Le, Mac, and Nguyen dynasties, cultural dialogue with China was

predominant, although confrontation was still ongoing. Over two periods of 2000 years, acculturation has brought some positive results for us. In terms of intangible culture, we have imported and modified many things from China. We learned Chinese characters, but also created Nom characters and Chinese-Vietnamese words. Confucianism and Buddhism have Vietnameseized features, including Chinese institutions, rituals and customs. During the period of major acculturation with China, the phenomenon of dialogue with Indian culture should not be forgotten. Acquisition with China is continuous, direct, and often through confrontation (war, domination), while with India it is through dialogue (missionary, trade), often indirect and discontinuous. . India's greatest influence is through religion (Buddhist, Hinduism).



Figure 32: Nom characters



Figure 33: Buddhism in Vietnam during the Ly dynasty

2.2. Acculturation with France: First Modernization (1858-1945)

In Vietnam, the first "modernization" period was the French colonial period. However, because the Western influence of this period was mainly on urban society in some big cities, Vietnam was still a semi-feudal colonial country.

- During the French colonial period, cultural confrontation was key, especially in the early stages: Confucian intellectuals reacted, did not want to exchange "brushes" for "pencils" and learned Quoc Ngu as well as French.

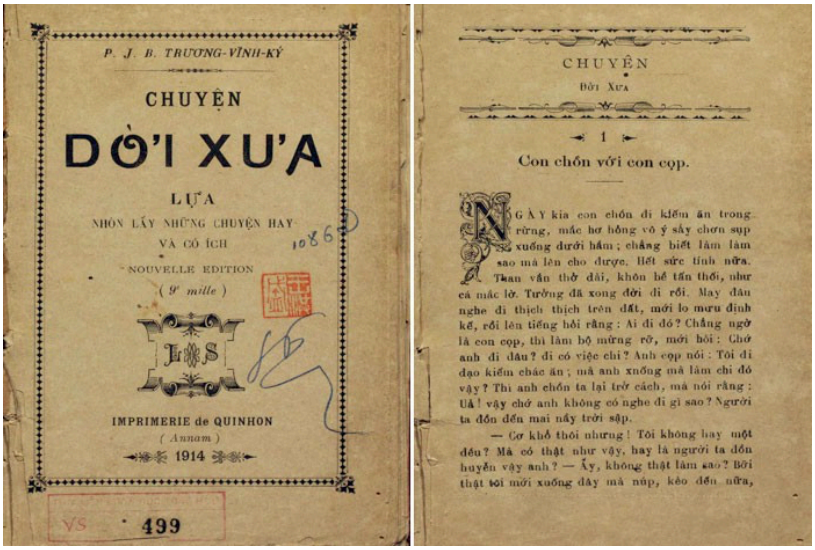


Figure 34: Quoc Ngu during the French colonial time

- From the 20-30s of the 20th century, parallel to the cultural confrontation, there was a phenomenon of cultural dialogue. Modern Confucianists such as Phan Chau Trinh, Phan Boi Chau, new intellectuals such as Duong Quang Ham, Hoang Xuan Han, Nhat Linh... wanted to bring in Western science and democracy. The Western concept of "ego" and especially French romanticism helped create new poetry and a whole line of Vietnamese literature. In the 17th century, Western missionaries, especially a French missionary, created the Quoc Ngu to spread Christianity in Vietnam. When the French colonialists occupied Vietnam, their intention in teaching Quoc Ngu was to serve their governing purpose. Vietnamese patriots use Quoc Ngu to spread patriotism, fight for independence, and build Vietnamese science.



Figure 35: Catholic Church in Hanoi

- French cultural heritage is still deeply embedded in Vietnamese life. There are intangible heritages such as Quoc Ngu that we are still using today; habits, customs, lifestyles, standards of a civilization; and tangible heritages like French buildings and structures.



Figure 36: Westernized clothes



Figure 37: Norom Palace in Da Nang



Figure 38: Northern Government in Hanoi



Figure 39: Opera House in Ho Chi Minh city

2.3. Some policies about culture today

- Policies and laws on cultural heritage:
    - Decree No. 65 of November 23, 1945 of the President of the Provisional Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam on the preservation of fairy tales in the national construction.
    - In order to adapt to the context of the times and new perceptions about cultural heritage, especially intangible cultural heritage, in 2009, The 12th National Assembly promulgated the Law amending and supplementing a number of articles of the Law on Cultural Heritage
    - Decree No. 86/2005/ND-CP dated July 8, 2005 on management and protection of underwater cultural heritage, Decree No. 109/2017/ND-CP dated September 21, 2017 on protection and management of world cultural and natural heritage in Vietnam
    - The system of policies on investment and resource support in the inventory, collection, preservation and restoration of the cultural heritage system, especially the cultural heritage of ethnic minorities has also been promulgated by the Government



Figure 40: Ha Long Bay - One of the World's Wonders



Figure 41: Son Doong Cave - One of the World's Wonders

- Policies and laws on tourism and spiritual culture, beliefs and religions:

These are important areas of cultural life. With abundant reserves of cultural resources and unique identity, Vietnam has many favorable conditions to accelerate the development of the tourism industry.

- Decision No. 147/QD-TTg dated January 22, 2020 of the Government approving the Vietnam tourism development strategy to 2030
- Decree No. 45/2019/ND-CP dated May 21, 2019 on sanctioning of administrative violations in the field of tourism



Figure 42: Tourism in Vietnam

Along with tourism activities, activities related to the spiritual life, beliefs and religions of the people are always concerned by the Party and State with the promulgation of many policies and regulations to ensure the safety for activities to take place safely, conveniently, consistent with the fine customs and traditions of the nation's culture.

- Decree No. 110/2018/ND-CP dated August 29, 2018 of the Government regulating the management and organization of festivals
- Directive No. 05/CT-TTg dated February 9, 2018 of the Prime Minister on promoting the implementation of a civilized lifestyle in marriage and mourning.

3. Education

From 1858 to 1945, the French considered it urgent to destroy Confucianism and create a French-style education system. Although this educational model turned the colonists into French, gradually leveling our culture, forcing us to give up our language in order to develop into French, it also created a knowledge class with knowledge and skills in science and technology at the university level (medicine and pharmacy, agroforestry, veterinary medicine, construction) as well as creating a teaching staff, a number of lecture halls and laboratories, which are essential in organizing, teaching and learning at the college and university level in the early years of building our people's education system.

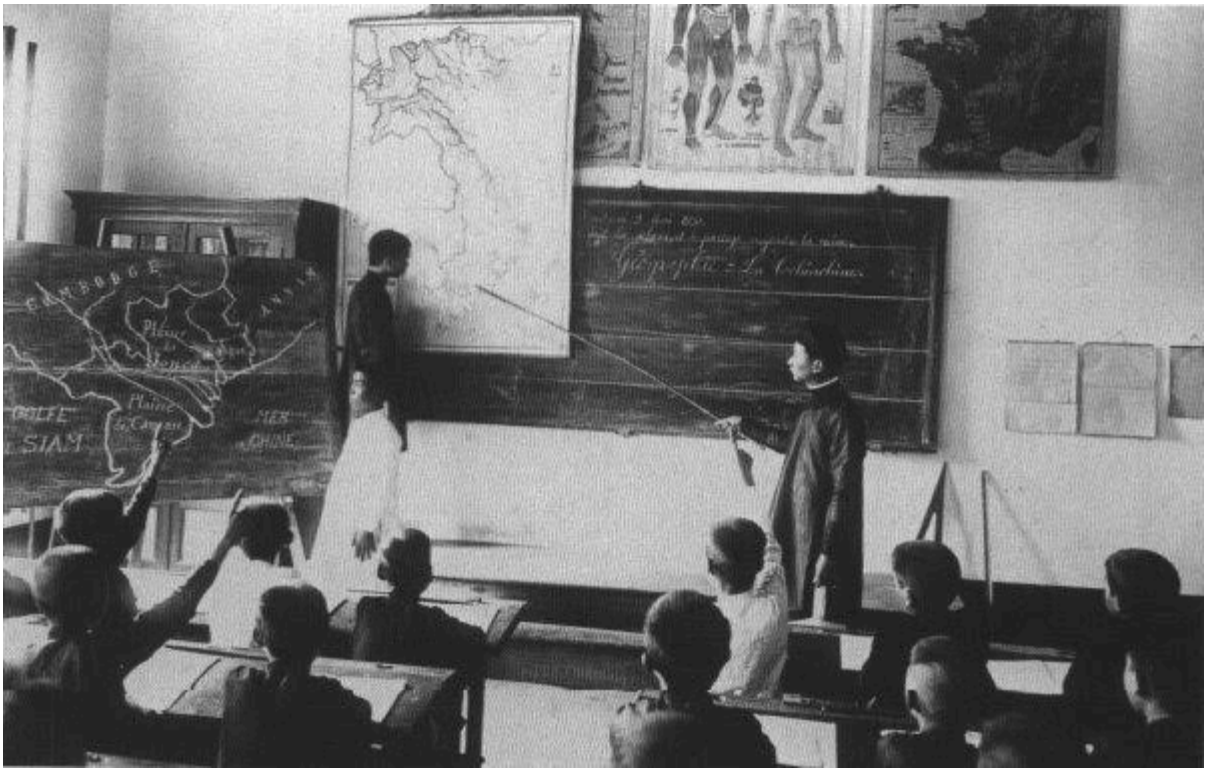


Figure 43: Geography lesson in 1940

After the country's liberation, Vietnam built its own education system: there is consistency throughout the country in terms of curricula and teaching contents and textbooks of each grade level; especially the use of Vietnamese in teaching and learning, including master's thesis and doctor of science level.



Our State has set the directions for further development in the education sector, such as general education, which needs to create conditions for each individual to develop to their fullest potential, to satisfy the basic learning needs of each person. people. Implement illiteracy eradication and primary school universalization. In the system of high schools, it is necessary to associate cultural learning with vocational training. The teaching is streamlined and modern, avoiding overload, and at the same time improving practical skills, implementing step-by-step streamlining of students at all levels. For special subjects, to develop quickly and improve the quality of education in disadvantaged areas and regions mountains and ethnic minority areas. Promote the movement of study promotion and promotion talent, building a learning society;

expanding distance learning methods and systems community learning centers, continuing education centers.



Figure 44: Core competencies that need to be trained for students

Besides, upholding the goal of socialist education, promote the positive aspects of a progressive and equitable education and training for everyone in society, and limit the negative effects of the market economy mechanism on educational and training activities.

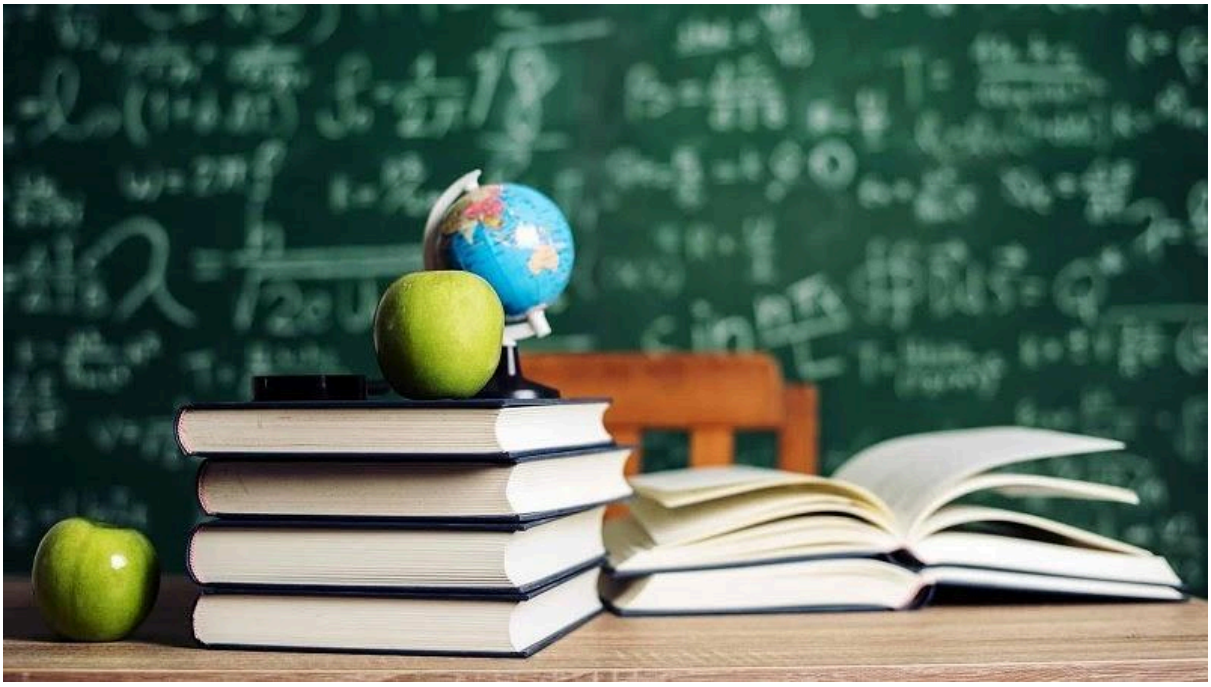


Figure 45: Socialization of education

The State has also requested the Ministry of Education to strengthen international cooperation in education and training in order to acquire valuable experiences in education abroad such as credit-based teaching programs, case teaching methods, etc. the learner-centered method, the dialogue method, the socratic method, the group work method, the presentation method, the essay-making method, the multiple-choice method, the scientific criticism method...



Figure 46: 5E Teaching model

In addition, the Party and State always pay great attention to the cause of education and training, especially investment policies, ensuring the proportion of spending on education is 20% or more of the total budget. water. Along with the continuous growth of the economy and society, investment in education from the state budget next year is always higher than the previous year. Within 5 years of the 2016-2020 period, state budget recurrent expenditure on education has increased by over 32.2%. Even public expenditure on education/GDP of Vietnam is high compared to many countries in the world (4% in 2019), even compared to some countries with a higher level of economic development in the region. (Singapore 3.2% in 2010, Thailand 3.8%).

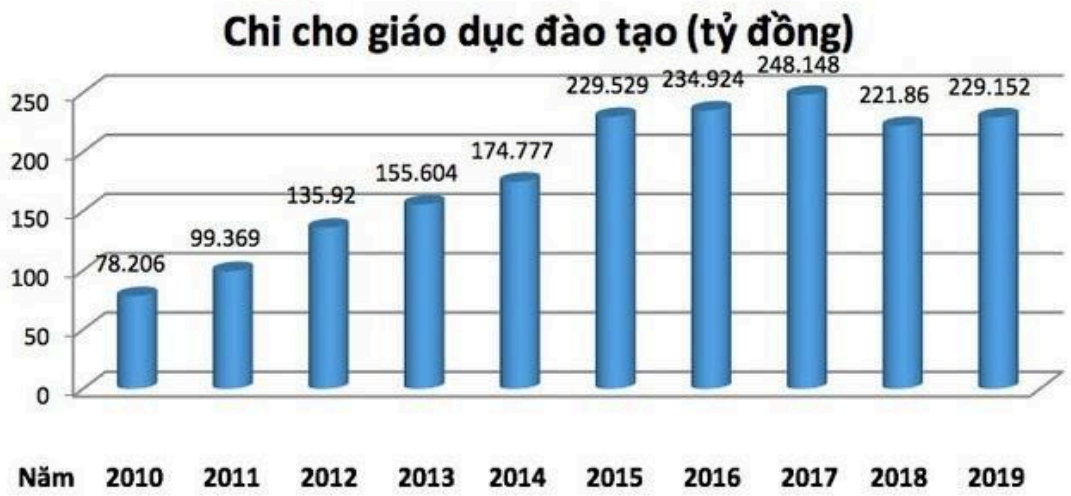


Figure 47: Vietnam's spent for education through years

However, education is under the unified management of the State so most of our country's training programs are compiled by the Ministry of Education, not international, so degrees are not recognized in the world. With such a "closed" education, it will cause many obstacles in the process of global integration. The quality of the curricula has not improved the original limitations, too much theory and little practical application.

IV. Lessons for Vietnam

1. Economy

From the practice of synchronously and comprehensively innovating the relationship between economy and politics in Vietnam, our Party and State have accumulated more and more experience in leadership and management. Some great lessons can be drawn as follows:

- Maintaining the socialist orientation in the development of the market economy. The socialist-oriented market economy model is the achievement of a breakthrough in economic and political innovation in Vietnam. However, at present, in order to maintain the socialist orientation, it is necessary to perform well in the leading role of the state economy, in order to be an important material tool for the State to orient and regulate the macroeconomy. At the same time, the State effectively manages and regulates economic development practices.
- Reforming the Party's leadership method in the direction of democracy. If the Party led by the command method as before, the renovation would be inappropriate and ineffective, especially in the conditions of the market economy and the rule of law. At the same time, in the condition that the party is in power, it is necessary to have a supervising mechanism, control system with the party's power towards the economy.
- Continuing to perfect economic thinking, form a system of new economic viewpoints system, in accordance with the institution of socialism in Vietnam. Economic innovation requires institutionalizing policies and viewpoints in the economy into laws, mechanisms and policies, ensuring that the economy operates on the basis of a new development institution.

2. Culture

The reality of the innovation process shows that, in order to develop culture and lay the solid foundation for the country's rapid and sustainable development, especially in the context of the rapid development of the world and the globalization process is irreversible, some major lessons can be drawn as follows:

- The Party and State must be deeply aware of the development process and values of mankind, stimulate the process of industrialization and modernization, develop a modern market economy and international integration, from which to orient the system of

development values of Vietnam, on the one hand, highly promote traditional values and at the same time approach the common advanced development values of mankind.

- It is necessary to realize that culture is not only a constitutive element located in the superstructure (the field of thought) but also a basic element of the infrastructure (model and social production relations ...) Therefore, it is not possible to consider the development of culture, especially human values - cultural values - social values only as the relationship and interaction between infrastructure and superstructure. The successful building of production and business models and relations that are both economically and socially effective, sustainable development (such as the organizational model of advanced production and business chains) itself contains cultural values - human values - positive social values.

- To create the basis for the formation and development of human values - cultural values - social values to meet the requirements of the process of change, rapid development, complexity and breakthrough of the world, it is necessary to carry out synchronous solutions on education and propaganda, legal solutions, economic solutions, social ethics solutions; effectively combine the role of the Party with the role of the State, the role of subjects and the role of society. It is important to create a healthy environment to encourage the formation, existence, development and affirmation of democratic values, creative values, community cohesion and social responsibility to promote rapid and sustainable development.

3. Education

- Learn from education systems in foreign countries, on the basis of understanding the situation and reality of each type of country - developed, developing, underdeveloped, to choose the most suitable.

- The construction of education must be associated with the development of science and technology. In this regard, the 10th Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam (2006) affirmed that education, training and science along with technology are the leading national policy, the foundation and driving force for the development of industrialization and modernization of the country.

- The reform and development of education requires creative thinking; to innovate creative and intelligent people.

- Properly invest resources, especially focusing on pedagogical schools, training and fostering of teachers.

- Appreciate international experience and trends in world regarding

education while maintaining national independence and national sovereignty

- Education reform and development is an indispensable and objective requirement of national construction in all fields, first of all socio-economic development. Socio-economic development requires qualified people, on the other hand, creating favorable conditions and attraction for "everyone can learn" and "study well". Therefore, education reform is closely related to the economic, political, social, and cultural aspects of the country, and has a corresponding interaction.

- Education reform and development is a difficult, complicated and arduous process, there would be potential mistakes and failures without clear vision and political perspectives.

- Education reform in any country must have the main orientation, funding, conditions, and material means of management staff, teachers with high educational quality.

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