

EVOLVING AUSTRALIA including the 13 years BETWEEN 1962 and 1975

In what context did change occur?

1887 French Indo-China^[1] A grouping of the three Vietnamese regions of Tonkin (north Vietnam), Annam (centre), and Cochinchina (South Vietnam) with Cambodia was formed in 1887. Laos was added in 1893 and Kwangchow Wan in 1898. The capital was moved from Saigon (in Cochinchina) to Hanoi (Tonkin) in 1902 and again to Da Lat (Annam) in 1939. In 1945 it was moved back to Hanoi.

After the Fall of France during World War II, the colony was administered by the Vichy government and was under Japanese occupation until March 1945, when the Japanese overthrew the colonial regime. Beginning in May 1941, the Viet Minh, a communist army led by Hồ Chí Minh, began a revolt against the Japanese. In August 1945 they declared Vietnamese independence and extended the war, known as the First Indochina War, against France.

1945 Ho Chi Minh Creates Provisional Government: Following the surrender of Japan to Allied forces, Ho Chi Minh and his People's Congress create the National Liberation Committee of Vietnam to form a provisional government. Japan transfers all power to Ho's Vietminh. **Ho Declares Independence of Vietnam. British Forces Land in Saigon, Return Authority to French**

1950 US Pledges \$15M to Aid French: The United States sends \$15 million dollars in military aid to the French for the war in Indochina. Included in the aid package is a military mission and military advisors.

1954 Battle of Dienbienphu Begins: A force of 40,000 heavily armed Vietminh lay seige to the French garrison at Dienbienphu. Using Chinese artillery to shell the airstrip, the Vietminh make it impossible for French supplies to arrive by air. It soon becomes clear that the French have met their match. **French Defeated at Dien Bien Phu**

Domino theory; U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower



USA: School Desegregation and Equal Educational Opportunity. IT IS NO ACCIDENT that the pivotal Supreme Court decision launching the modern civil rights movement was an education case -- the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka ruling.

1956 French Leave Vietnam. US Training South Vietnamese begins: The US Military Assistance Advisor Group (MAAG) assumes responsibility, from French, for training South Vietnamese forces.

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- 1962 Australia sends a training team to **Vietnam**. (*I was 13 years old*)
- 1964 Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATT) increased to 83 advisers with expanded role. Warrant Officer Class 2, Kevin Conway becomes the first Australian to die as a result of enemy action in South Vietnam.
- USA: All **legally-enforced public segregation** was abolished by the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- 1965 A demonstration against the war in Sydney results in 65 arrests. By 1965, both major political parties had **removed 'White Australia'** from their political platforms.
- 1966 Australian commitment in South Vietnam will be Increased to a 4350-man task force, and will **include conscripts**.
- 1967 A Referendum proposed to **include Aboriginal people in the census** and to allow the Commonwealth government to make laws for Aboriginal people. (*I was 18 years old*)
- 1973 **Laws passed to ensure that race would be totally disregarded as a component for immigration to Australia**
- 1975 Phnom Penh, Cambodia falls to the Khmer Rouge. Communist forces capture Saigon as the last Americans leave in scenes of panic and confusion. (*I was 26 years old*) **2 million fled South Vietnam (Population 49,896)**
- 1979 Despite the dangers and the resistance of the receiving countries the number of boat people continued to grow, reaching a high of **54,000 arrivals in the month of June 1979 with a total of 350,000 in refugee camps in Southeast Asia and Hong Kong**. At this point, the countries of Southeast Asia united in declaring that they had "reached the limit of their endurance and decided that they would not accept any new arrivals".[\[16\]](#)
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- 1983 Removal of optional enrolment for Indigenous citizens, and removing any differentiation or distinction based on race in the Australian electoral system. (*I was 33 years old*)
- 1975 **The Australia Racial Discrimination Act passed**, which made racially based selection criteria unlawful.

That 13 years saw massive change of which war was a major catalyst. The Middle East war/s will cause great change as well. The task is to progress to a fairer planet in the belief justice will herald lasting peace (and injustice will ensure reoccurring war). We have a long way to go! The issues of today are often read with the newspapers a mm from the face! Stand back and plan for a decade

or more. The threats and opportunities are obvious as is the direction of change.

2016 Preparation being made for a Referendum to fix the historical exclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples from Australia's Constitution – the nation's 'rule book' and founding document and to eliminate racial discrimination in the Constitution – such as the section that still says people can be banned from voting based on race. (I am 67 years old)

The politics of exclusion does not work: Exclude women from voting, apartheid in South Africa, colonial subjugation of one people by another, bullying etc. While it's happening people find all sorts of reasons and language to justify it.

What will we be the situation when you are 67 years old?



The cycle of life: dependence, independence, interdependence, to a stage of relying on the strength of your network (a dependant stage)

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The Hy-Vong Community

HOME THE SPIRIT OF HY-VONG JOURNEYS IMPACTS ON HY-VONG MEMBERS AUSSIE VIETNAMESE

Escape

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The Hy-Vong Community

*"Suddenly a shadow is cast over that freedom,
The devil comes and obliterates the sunshine,
And covers it with darkness and sorrow.
The rows of trees become withered,
The children are quiet under the trees."*

Duc Vi Lam

This Hy-Vong Community website is provided as resource which tells of the now ordinary lives of men with an extraordinary history years after they arrived in Australia, and of the impact their arrival had on Australia's refugee and foreign policy in the years since.

Hy-Vong is the Vietnamese word for "Hope". The community was founded by Fr. Strangman MSC in 1981 to assist unattached and detached refugee young people from South East Asia following the wars in Vietnam and Cambodia. In many ways it is a complicated story which remains relevant to today's refugee situation in Australia and beyond.

All one needs to do is to reflect on the attitudes, knowledge and experiences of those involved at that time to feel the effect on this community home.

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The main countries involved in the Vietnam War were North and South Vietnam.

South Vietnam was backed by anti-communist countries and members of the South East Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) which included the United States, South Korea, Australia, the Philippines, New Zealand, Thailand, Khmer Republic (later overthrown by Khmer Rouge), Kingdom of Laos and Republic of China (Taiwan).

North Vietnam was backed by the communist allies which included People's Republic of China, Soviet Union, Pathet Lao (Laotian Communist insurgents), Khmer Rouge (Cambodian Communist insurgents) and North Korea.

There were 6 Free World nations and 2 communist allies that officially sent men and material support to South and North Vietnam respectively. In total, there were at least 21 countries* reported to get involved in the entire wars in Vietnam – from the First Indochina war (December 19, 1946 – August 1, 1954) to the Vietnam war (the Second Indochina war) (November 1, 1955 to April 30, 1975):

1. France
2. Japan
3. The United Kingdom (members of Allied Control Commission (ACC))
4. India (members of ACC)
5. Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam)
6. Soviet Union
7. People's Republic of China
8. North Korea
9. Cuba
10. Laos (Kingdom of Laos and Pathet Lao)
11. Cambodia (Khmer Republic and Khmer Rouge)

12. Republic of Vietnam (aka South Vietnam (1955 – 1975)
succeeded State of Vietnam (1949 – 1955))
13. The United States
14. South Korea
15. Australia
16. New Zealand
17. Thailand
18. Philippines
19. Taiwan
20. Spain
21. Canada and the ICC (later ICCS)