

Viet Minh = Viet Nam Doc Lap Dong Ming Hoi =

Vietnamese Independence Brotherhood

= popular front strategy begun in mid-1941 (i.e., welcomed all groups in effort to oust Japanese and French and to create an independent Vietnam (communist agenda was secondary to united front; emphasized less divisive issues: *“For the moment . . . class interest must be subordinated to the national problem. If the independence and freedom of the whole nation could not be recovered, not only the whole nation would be further condemned to slavery but the . . . class interests would be lost forever”* [official party history].)

Other uses –

= the Vietnamese Communist Party (The party was officially the Lao Dong.)

= the post-1945 government (The government/nation was actually the Democratic Republic of Vietnam; thus, its citizens were Vietnamese [but many people native to Vietnam opposed independence and supported the French].)

= the anti-colonial nationalist movement (Many Americans used the term Viet Minh for the insurgents in the South—the Viet Cong—whose efforts dated from the mid/late 1950s. Seen as communists, the insurgents were not distinguished from earlier groups who *were* communists or who cooperated with them against the Japanese and French.)