

# Vietnam's Era Of National Rise: Policy Introduction And Practical Implementation Of The Concept “Kỷ Nguyên Vươn Minh

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**Abstract.** Since his inauguration as General Secretary of Vietnam Communist Party, To Lam has subtly mentioned Vietnam's “new beginnings”, “a new era”, and “the Era of National Rise of the Vietnamese people” during his speech deliveries for meetings of different fields. These can be found in his early writings such as “Quyết tâm xây dựng Đảng vững mạnh, nước Việt Nam giàu mạnh, dân chủ, công bằng văn minh” (Determination in Building a strong party and a Prosperous, Democratic, Just and Civilized Vietnam), “Chuyển đổi số - Động lực quan trọng phát triển lực lượng sản xuất, hoàn thiện quan hệ sản xuất đưa đất nước bước vào Kỷ nguyên mới” (Digital transformation - A crucial driver of developing workforce, bettering production relations to push the country into a new era), “Tiếp tục đổi mới mạnh mẽ phương thức lãnh đạo, cầm quyền của Đảng, yêu cầu cấp bách của giai đoạn Cách mạng mới” (Continuing leadership method renovation of the Party, an immediate requirement for the new Revolutionary era). The new political concept signals the new stage of policy including content, implementation for the new expectation of the outcome for Vietnam. Since this is the new concept of domestic politics of Vietnam, the paper will analyse aiming to explain the policy content related to the concept, understand the contemporary social, political context of Vietnam and conclude the opportunities and challenges implementing the policy.

**Keywords:** Era of National Rise, Domestic politics, Ky nguyên vuon minh, Vietnam Communist Party.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

On October 31st, 2024, General Secretary To Lam in his speech at the Hochiminh National Political Academy explained that *era* is a word specifying a time frame that is usually used to differentiate different stages of development in specific fields. An era is characterized by contemporary significant events or development orientation that transcends the growth trajectory by one or multiple aspects of society. The “era of nation's rise” or “rising era”, by definition, is the time for robust, assertive, and ambitious advancements and aspirations. Entering this new era, Vietnam is aiming for greatness with tremendous goals and unprecedented achievements. Under the leadership of the Vietnam Communist Party (VCP), every citizen in this new era will enjoy a life of democracy, equity, prosperity, and civility - a society that is considered the epitome of societal development by every nation in the world (Lâm, 2024).

On the journey to which, Vietnam aspires to become a developing country with well-developed industries and be classified as a country with a middle-semi-high income rate by 2030. By 2045, Vietnam must be a developed socialist country with modern industries and join a group of high-income-rate countries. If accomplished, such achievement will be the milestone marking the 100th celebration of the founding of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Upon the path to these goals, indispensable are the long-lived fervency of the Vietnamese nation upholding the value of independence and national pride, the belief in upward development, and the acknowledgment and incorporation of prevailing conditions of the contemporary world (Lâm, 2024). Officially, the grand vision of the “Vươn mình” era (hereinafter *Era of National Rise*) was unanimously approved by the members in the 10th Central Committee Meeting in September 2024 (Quang Minh, 2024). A few days later in his attendance at the 79th United Nations General Assembly “Summit of the Future” and speech delivery at Columbia University, the General Secretary publicly made notification to the world about Vietnam's turning point - the Era of National Rise. After these, the notion of Vietnam's Era of National Rise kept being introduced to other foreign diplomats during the Secretary's visits to Cuba, Mongolia, Ireland, France, and Malaysia as a clear message of restating a new springboard for Vietnam's development and foreign policies henceforth (Quy, 2025). According to General Secretary

Tô Lâm, Vietnam sets off on its journey to reach the heights of the Era of National Rise right at the 14th National Party Congress, which is already scheduled in early 2026.

In general, the Era of National Rise could be understood as a new subsequent stage of development in Vietnam's history (same as the “Đổi mới” Era, i.e. Renewal Era). In this era, Vietnam aspires to make great strides in changing its inherent potency with the view to improve the lives of millions of Vietnamese in multiple aspects, hence enhancing its position in the international hierarchy. This is shown in Vietnam's resolution to enter the group of developed countries by 2045. Vietnam will open the gate to this new era after the advent of the 16th National Party Congress in 2026.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Understanding this Era of National Rise from a theoretical perspective, it can be seen as a type of national development plan. Empirically, national development planning has re-emerged from oblivion in recent years, with 135 countries devising it or any alike which has doubled in the last 10 years (Launchlan, 2020). The custom of national planning once was very prevalent in the last century, emanating from the success of the five-year plans of the Soviet Union or the Marshall Plan of the U.S (Chimhowu et al., 2019). Several hypotheses have been suggested to explain the resurgence of national development plans. Some of the hypotheses take on the impacts of millennium or sustainable development goals as a starting point but that is not justifiable at present since Vietnam has diverged toward more ambitious goals. Reflecting on what has been elaborated about the Era of National Rise, Vietnam is more of promoting this discourse as an introduction for the many transformative national agendas in the future and the former is the general monitoring and assessing mechanisms for those agendas. Sometimes national plans are also seen as a response of nations towards the volatile global economy and its impacts or, the national plans being a vehicle for countries to chase after their own aspired goals rather than the MDGs/SDGs (Launchlan, 2020).

From another perspective, the aspired Era of National Rise can be considered a sub-stage within a long-term process of social development. Rather than seeing this as a technical development plan, from a macrocosm viewpoint, Vietnam is just onto subsequent steps on the path to its more accomplished version. For social sciences disciplines, development is always a terminology that cannot be just unitarily explained by one mere theory or definition. However, to visualize the far-reaching nature of development within a society, scientists in different areas from various social science disciplines have continuously devised and revised the so-called *modernization theory* for this phenomenon. One of the earliest and most popular was the model of economic development stages of Rostow (1960). Of that, there are 5 stages of growth in each society's economic dimensions, including:

1. The traditional society: limited productivity with a focus on agriculture, organized by central power distribution rule such as the Chinese dynasties, medieval Europe, primitive Middle East and Mediterranean civilizations
2. The preconditions for take-off: modern science application to production but still overtly predominant with low-productivity methods of production, industries flourish, and infrastructure begins to develop at the minimum extent to support profit-making economic activities.
3. The take-off: removing obstacles and hindrances for sustainable growth; increased investment, which creates technical conditions for more new and complex industries to grow and expand; more intricate production methods and growing well-off population
4. The drive to maturity: technological industries becoming the main drivers for economic growth and investment in return, efficiency-based institutionalization, and governance; less import-dependent, technical or institutional autonomy with almost every product
5. The age of high mass-consumption: choice of the mass decides the consumption; skill-intensive labour dominance; ‘durable’ goods replacing modern technology as an objective of production; welfare state and economic security becoming the priorities

On a deeper level of theorizing, Rosenstein-Rodan also shared a similar thought with Rostow about preparing for greater economic development. Specifically, they claimed that in order to overcome growth-impeding conditions, states need to intervene to some extent by means of workforce education,

planning, and organizing investment programs (Rosenstein-Rodan, 1943 as cited in Martinussen, 2001, p. 57). A descendant of Rosenstein and Rodan is Nurske (1953), who devised the vicious circles of self-replicating poverty. He described the cause for protracted poverty induced from both perspectives of suppliers and consumers. Since the demand of the market is low, there are not many opportunities for the market to expand, which then discourages the idea of investment. On the demand side, an impoverished population with low income would likely have less than nothing to save, therefore less capital accumulation and low productivity (Nurkse, 1953, pp. 4-5). In order to escape this cycle, the state should provide incentives to invest and mobilize capital and funds for investment. The state is also responsible for resource management, foreign aid attraction, and allocation (Nurkse, 1953).

Within this field of state-led approach, theorist Myrdal (1956) asserted that economic growth in industrialized countries was realized thanks to the state's active involvement, while the less developed countries were stuck in a cycle of poverty due to uneven development and limited demand for production equipment. The latter are regarded as "soft" states which have some specific characteristics and "attitudes" that can stunt growth. They also lack efficient government institutions and functional conditions such as legislation systems for growth. Even in the sense of political personnel, these people tend to act upon the idea of preserving their own interests rather than acting according to democratic procedures. Hence, corruption is more common in these soft states. In order to resolve these weaknesses, policies are considered to be effective tools that should take the political sphere as a starting point (Myrdal, 1971, p.188). Political changes then lead to vested positive changes in other life aspects: (1) output and incomes, (2) conditions of production, (3) levels of living, (4) attitudes toward life and work, (5) institutions (policies as the 6th category) (Myrdal, 1971, Part 4). By this argument, it can be seen that the government is an actor who creates necessary conditions for economic growth by its promulgation and coordinating power through law and policies.

Besides these economic-oriented theories, other social sciences, such as political science, psychology, and sociology, contribute to the field of development studies (see Bordoloi & Das, 2017). Worth noting among these fields is the analysis of development in political science. Huntington (1996) referred to modernization as a transformative process of a society from primitive to civilized. He also argued that modernization and Westernization tend to go hand in hand, but not necessarily. However, in reality, modernization waves were adopted with different attitudes. Generally, Western cultural values only persist for a period until the pace of modernization begins to pick up faster, which then ignites a process called de-Westernization and brings back indigenous values. To an exact extent, societally, modernization will promote the growth of the economy, military, and political prowess of the whole society and enhance the awareness of indigenous culture values. In the end, the world witnesses a greater number of modern societies with strengthened cultural heterogeneity (p.68). Another concern for political theorists is the relationship between economic development and democracy. Lipset (1959) saw that democracy was only realized when an economic development level was reached. For Przeworski (2004), the abovementioned result was not decisively obvious whether the state functions as an authoritarian or a democracy. Whereas, Treisman (2020) showed that democracy transitions do not relate directly to economic development as it depends on some other factors. Upon studying, it was coincidental that authoritarian states were likely to transform into democracies and that democracies would not likely revert to authoritarianism.

### 3. METHODS

We apply the content analysis and discourse analysis method in order to analyse the documents, speeches by the leaders of Vietnam Communist Party and Vietnam Government. The text "Ky nguyen vuon minh" (Era of National Rise), "Phat trien" (Development), "Thoi dai moi" (New era), "Tinh gon" (Streamlining), "Chuyen doi" (Transformation) would be coding for data collecting and analyzing in order to understand the perspective of Vietnam government and the Vietnam Communist Party regarding to the concept "Ky nguyen vuon minh" (Era of National Rise) as well as the political guideline for implementing within political context of the country.

For the purpose of analyzing the policy of Vietnam, the documents collection would be retrieved from various primary and official source of the Vietnam Communist Party and Vietnam Government such as speeches, writings of the leaders, resolutions, decrees by the Government published on NhanDan News,

Vietnam News Agency, Vietnam Government Electronics News, etc. The data would be approached interpretively for the purpose of framing the understanding of Policy and Guidelines of the Vietnam Communist Party and the State.

Moreover, the data of primary and secondary resources related to the contemporary social-economy context of Vietnam would be collected to understand the current society of Vietnam before examining the practical implementation of the concept “Ky nguyen vuon minh”. This suitability between political wills of the government and practical context of society would be discussed by opportunities and challenges of policy implementation.

#### 4. RESULTS

##### 4.1 The seven strategic guiding principles of the concept Era of National Rise:

Aspects	Issues of concern	Principles
Party leadership methods	Ineffective paperworking, institutionalizing, overlapping functions with the Government	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Preventing misbehaviors that corrodes the leadership of the VCP</li> <li>2. Streamlining the party's apparatus</li> <li>3. Renewing documenting, issuing and officials educating process</li> <li>4. Enhancing inspecting and prosecuting processes with technological and digital application</li> </ol>
The role of the Party in the rule-of-law and people-centered government	Institutional issues, unsupportive legal system for socioeconomic development and investment attraction	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Shifting legislation-building mindset to encourage creativity and promote resources</li> <li>2. Drafting sustainable, concise, principle-like, people-centered laws</li> <li>3. Continuous checking and revising the laws based on testing them in reality</li> <li>4. Vertical power and functions dividing to localities</li> <li>5. Preserving the power of the Party and emphasizing leaders' roles and discipline by legal drafting</li> <li>6. Researching and creating favorable legal corridors for novel issues related to the 4th Industrial Revolution, artificial intelligence, digital and green transformation</li> </ol>
State apparatus	High cost of function; overlapping authority, redundant contacts, minor corruption, wastefulness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Streamlining the apparatus of the party, the congress, the government and the Motherland Front, political-social organizations</li> <li>2. Reducing number of medium contacts, locality-oriented functions and power separating and dividing, clarifying responsibilities between administrative levels and personnel</li> <li>3. Concluding results of implementing Resolution No.18-NQ/TW “Issues of continuing state apparatus and organizing for a refined, productive and effective political system” from the 6<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of the 12<sup>th</sup> VCP Central Committee to reflect and refer for future streamlining apparatus decrees.</li> </ol>
Digital transformation	Unstructured and unsupportive mechanisms, policies and legal system; lagged digitalization, red tapes,	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Building legal corridors for digital development and strengthening national security, citizen's rights and benefits</li> </ol>

	minor corruption, incompatible data sharing between administrative units	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Improving talent attracting and retention mechanisms, renovating strategies for intellectual and creativity development</li> <li>3. Promoting technological application, building and upgrading data sharing and digital connection platforms</li> <li>4. Accelerating digital transformation, digitizing administrative procedures, public service at high degree; connecting demographic, land, and business databases; developing digital economy and digital citizenry.</li> </ol>
Superfluity prevention	Poor legal drafting, time and resource waste, opportunity waste, poor infrastructure and natural resources management, ignorant consuming behaviors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promoting austerity, awareness of superfluity; preventing and penalizing corruption by legal means</li> <li>2. Revising laws for wasteful behaviours among government officials, promoting technology advancement in management.</li> <li>3. Tackling protracted, underperforming and resource-wasting projects</li> <li>4. Equitising state-owned enterprises</li> <li>5. Spreading non-wasteful culture</li> </ol>
Personnel	Underperformance, unchecked poor qualifications, innovating, leading and managing capability	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Upgrading recruiting, educating, training, appointing, promoting, assessing procedures</li> <li>2. Promoting self-study to prepare for digital transformation</li> <li>3. Building personnel encouraging and protecting mechanisms for innovative, daring and responsible officials</li> <li>4. Removing poorly-qualified and unvirtuous personnel</li> <li>5. Emphasizing personnel training and educating for executive-level personnel</li> </ol>
Economy	Institutional bottleneck, poor public property investment, weak role of nonstate actors, negative credit activities, poorly-connected infrastructure, unactual technological and scientific application, lack of highly-qualified workforce	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Erasing legal and institutional bottlenecks and barriers, unlocking the flow of resources of private and foreign sector, synchronizing and renovating socioeconomic infrastructure</li> <li>2. Focusing on building the socialist society model</li> <li>3. Developing new producing workforce and producing relations by combining high-qualified producing workforce and modern producing materials, strategic commuting infrastructure, digital and green transformation.</li> <li>4. Initiating digital transformation revolution, promoting strategic technologies, digital and green transformation, concentrating on science – technology in development.</li> </ol>

(Lâm, 2024)

#### 4.2 The status of Vietnam prior to the Era of National Rise

For Vietnam’s history, every era opened is a testament to the success of the VCP leadership in bringing the country to new heights and navigating through the challenges of an ever-evolving world. Particularly, this new era underlines the role of the VCP in creating breakthroughs for the innate potency that subsequently transcends the external influence of the country. However, this Era of National Rise

realization resolution would be nonsensical if Vietnam lacked existing favorable conditions and necessary prerequisites. From the perspective of General Secretary To Lam, Vietnam has collected substantive political and economic gains that can enable itself to realize the incoming stage of development. Adding onto this reality is the need for change induced by the seismic shift in the international power structure. The first and also the most stressed determinant of the Era of National Rise is the present economic situation of Vietnam. Closing year 2024, the size of Vietnam's economy officially has reached 476,3 billion USD which increased Vietnam to the 34th position among the largest economies worldwide (Khanh Vu & Phuong Nguyen, 2025; Vietnam News Agency, 2025a). This is regarded as a magnificent success in economic development for Vietnam since the GDP per capita has surged nearly ninefold from under 700 USD (1986) to 4700 USD (2024) in just one generation (World Bank, 2024; Nguyen Le, 2025). After 46 years since the Renewal Era, Vietnam has now labeled itself as an upper-middle-income country (NDO, 2024).

Trade by far is the main driver of the remarkable growth of Vietnam's economy. The import-export turnover of 2024 nearly reached 800 billion USD (786,29 billion USD), of which exports accounted for 405,53 billion USD. This is the ninth consecutive year that Vietnam has maintained a trade surplus (Viet An, 2025; NDO, 2025). In addition to this, foreign investment is one of the pillars that create Vietnam's economic growth success. Due to its strategic geographical location and appealing cost of production (mainly because of the low-priced workforce), Vietnam becomes an attractive arrival for investors (Khanh, 2024). The 2024 foreign direct investment (FDI) capital value of Vietnam accumulated 38,23 billion USD, continuing to hold the 15th position among top developing nations of FDI attraction (Vietnam News Agency, 2025b).

Needless to say, these economic breakthroughs are not to be realized without political facilitators. To the present, Vietnam has joined 20 free trade agreements (FTAs) and 16 of which are already in effect (Voice of Vietnam, 2025). Those agreements result from years of diplomatic relations nourishment. Besides, Vietnam is also a member of multiple global economic and financial mechanisms including APEC, WTO, WEF, BRI, and many others. Diplomatic activities also engender opportunities to collaborate with multinational corporations. Especially in regard to technology and AI, Vietnam has successfully drawn tech giants such as Intel, Samsung, Apple and lately NVIDIA to invest in Vietnam. This equals not only a more wide-open path of new main drivers of trade growth but also technology transfers which will bring tremendously beneficial impact on the domestic technological industries on a societal scale (Viet Nam News, 2024).

#### **4.3 The preparation for the Era of National Rise**

Since being rendered as the "bottleneck of bottlenecks", the party-state apparatus becomes the first subject to be brought to change. The Central Committee of VCP became a pioneer in the frontline in reducing its apparatus. Based on the then-issuance of Resolution 18-NQ/TW on *Issues of Renewing and Reorganizing the Political System Apparatus for Refinement, Effectualness, and Productivity*. At the end of 2024, there were 13 units, and Administrative-level organizations and non-business agencies under the Party Central Committee finishing the mission of apparatus refinement (Lại Hoa, 2025).

On the government side, streamlining is especially more challenging due to the massive number of ministries, departments, and agencies under its management. The goal is to reduce 15% - 20% of internal contacts of the ministries and ministry-level organizations (Báo Chính phủ, 2025a). After rounds of consulting and drafting, in February 2025, the governmental apparatus will be reduced to: 17 ministries and ministry-level organizations (22 before) and 5 government-affiliated institutions (8 before). Internal streamlining targets to lower the number of contacts of ministries and ministry-level organizations by 4,250 contacts among departments, branches, and public non-business agencies. Specifically, 13 directorates, 519 agencies, 219 agencies, 3303 branches, and 203 public non-business units are to dissolve. The same goes with the National Assembly which happens to be less complicated with some committees and departments being terminated, transferred, or merged (Luân Dũng, 2025). In reality, there is a possibility that 35% - 40% of the government system will be dismissed, more than the goal previously proposed (Linh Ha, 2024).

Regarding the provincial and administrative city levels, after the abnormal National Assembly meeting taking place from February 12th to February 20th, each People Committee of every province will

implement its streamlining plan immediately. Plans are sent to the Party Central Committee and National Assembly to review before the Abnormal Meeting (Báo Chính phủ, 2025a). Specialization departments of provincial systems are obliged to finish all personnel, financial, relocation, and asset-related tasks before February 20th.

Since November 2024, every unit of Vietnam's political system has braced itself for the utmost mission of streamlining the apparatus. Seemingly rushed as it is, this streamlining process is being done with the motto "Administrative level paves the way, local level follow up" with the spirit of "running and queuing at the same time". This means every governmental institution will take head-on streamlining mission and simultaneously adjust while executing if there are any mistakes (Vietnam News Agency, 2025a). Carrying out this major institutional reform shows Vietnam's great political will toward greater achievements. Especially in the economic sphere, state-apparatus streamlining will open a wider road to welcome more investors, especially those concerned with a cumbersome governmental system. This would also predispose businesses' resources towards more specialized activities, rather than wasting on unnecessary red tape (Vietnam News Agency, 2025a).

## 5. DISSCUSSION

### 5.1. The opportunities for Vietnam entering the Era of National Rise

After nearly 40 years of renewing, Vietnam has changed from the inside out with its status enhanced significantly. Upon incoming breakthroughs, Vietnam is granted several advantageous conditions for its aspiration of rising.

The current global system is now still favorable for growth despite political frictions and adversaries between countries. Vietnam, like other developing and small economies, is under the influence of major ones. That being said, continuous growth is viable for years thanks to the rule-based international market. This structure is mostly ensured by Vietnam's WTO membership. Since joining this international economic organization in 2007, the domestic economy has been endowed with windows of opportunity coming from the globalized world economy. Within the legal system of the WTO, Vietnam's economy is both equally protected and connected to other member economies. Economic cooperation thus becomes easier for Vietnam and a dire important condition for an export-dependent economy like Vietnam (see Kawamura, 2023; Hiep, 2020). This can be seen in the number of FTAs that Vietnam is a signatory.

This cooperative positivity is not only present in the economic sphere but also in others. With a focal point of digital transformation in this new era, Vietnam has already accessed technology advancements and has motives to accelerate the process of digital transformation. Digital applications have become more prevalent in the society of Vietnam with the rise of E-commerce, E-government, and digital payment in recent years. Another motivation for digital transformation is the increasing contribution of digital products in international trade, namely smartphone and technological components production (Báo Chính phủ, 2025c). Not to mention, the demand for technology infrastructure for domestic and international businesses as well as the public will render digital transformation non-negligibly mandatory in the near future.

On a wider scope, the international political climate is also somewhat ensuring for Vietnam to embark on the new era. In such a globalized and interdependent world, countries are aware of how impactful interconnectedness is to their well-being and development. Therefore, the dissonance between major powers will likely lead to cooperative measures of small nations to diminish unwanted impacts. This trend is unavoidable amidst the unpredictable nature of countries, especially great powers such as the U.S. and China with the simmering trade war recently. Vietnam as a minor state is able to counter these frictions by taking advantage of the power of the collective through diplomatic relations and cooperation mechanisms. Should Vietnam leverage this asset, it can navigate toward a new era with a different and more respectable global status. Following this corollary, it can be said that cooperation mechanisms at various scopes would be notably important for Vietnam to rein in its new journey ahead.

Nonetheless, the external beneficial conditions do not mean actual growth without this most important factor - the Vietnamese people. Grasping opportunities is equal to being ready and eager for changes, a kind of spirit that needs to be fostered by the leaders in the party-state system and the common people as

well. This implies that opportunities do not unfold themselves but depend on the ability to identify and capitalize on them (Báo Chính phủ, 2024d).

### 5.2 The challenges

While the previous part argues that Vietnam can take advantage of the external advantages of a globalized world, the path toward the Era of National Rise is also filled with risks and challenges. Rippling effects from the geopolitical clashes and political rivalry between major countries can cause detours in Vietnam's aspired growth path. Taking the Ukraine-Russia war as an example, the international supply chain that had yet to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic was again disrupted. In the case of Vietnam, the war caused the price of commodities such as oil, petroleum, and fertilizers to increase, which affected the inflation rate in Vietnam due to rising energy prices (Tung & Baker, 2023). The trade exchange of Vietnam with Ukraine and Russia got bogged down due to payment and shipment difficulties caused by Western sanctions (Thoi Nguyen, 2022). As for the present, facing the new Donald Trump administration's tariff policies and the looming trade war between the U.S. and China, Vietnam will have to carefully balance out the impacts of these phenomena. At this moment, it is still unclear that Vietnam will be on the firing line of the U.S. trade tariff salvo but this scenario cannot be ruled out since Vietnam has the third largest trade surplus with the U.S. Concurrently, Vietnam is also under pressure from China with requests for a larger volume of Chinese manufactured goods imports (An Hai, 2025). Economic growth hence becomes more challenging since it has a symbiotic relationship with Vietnam's diplomatic relations with those nations.

Looking on the inside, the growth trajectory of Vietnam depends on the political system itself. While party-state apparatus streamlining is necessary for better governance and effective management, one of the most head-aching issues in the system is still negativity and corruption. Last year, Vietnam witnessed the largest corruption scandal in the nation's history done by a property tycoon with over 12.4 billion USD embezzled, over 3% of the national GDP in 2022 (Ghosal, 2024). Not just corruption, the Vietnamese government also faces bureaucracy and other negativities among its personnel which deteriorate people's trust and the party-state and people relationship in general. Lack of trust and hearing between the government and the people will lead to nowhere if not degradation.

## 6. CONCLUSION

Vietnam, under the leadership of the new General Secretary To Lam, has now begun its new journey with greater development aspirations in terms of economic and managerial capabilities. Known as the Era of National Rise, this will be a historical period for Vietnam to create breakthroughs in its governance, economic growth, and social transformation amidst global major developmental trends such as artificial intelligence, digital transformation, green transformation, etc. In order to step into this new era, the Vietnamese government has commenced tackling one of its huge weaknesses – the institutional system – by aggressive apparatus streamlining. For the time being, this has been the first but not the only adjustment that Vietnam will implement upon moving toward the Era of National Rise. Beyond this preparing stage, Vietnam will shed a new version with enhanced capabilities, ready to welcome a pool of new opportunities for growth. That otherwise inevitably comes with more unpredictable headwinds. Research-wise, there is room for exploitation in this topic of research since not so many things of the Era of National Rise have unfolded. To say the least, in the aspect of politics, Vietnam's foreign policy and diplomacy will have to change to serve the goals in this new era of development.

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