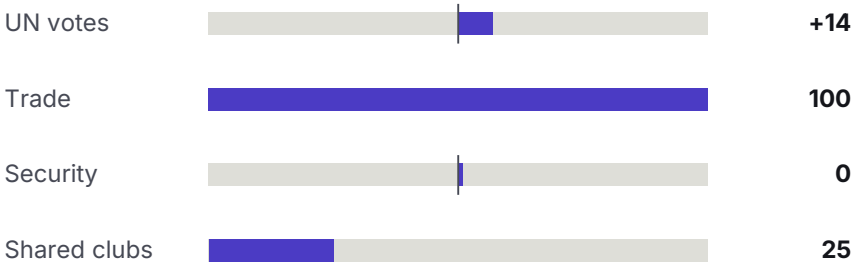
Viet Nam & China

A war in 1979, a clash at sea in 1988, and today China is Vietnam's largest trade partner.

+29

Close

Relationship index, −100 to +100. Votes and security run from −100 to +100; trade and shared clubs from 0 to 100.

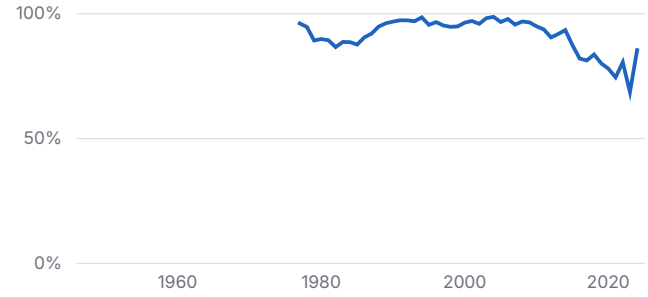


IN SHORT

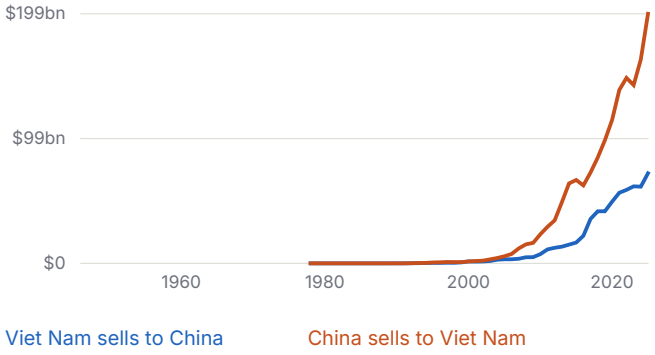
- Armed conflict: UCDP records them on opposite sides, as main parties, most recently in 1988.
- At the UN their vote agreement is 78% (2022–2024), about average for both of them.
- Trade in goods ($232 billion a year) is very important for Viet Nam, much less so for China.
- At the UN they name each other about equally often (150 and 102 sentences).
- 88,000 people born in Viet Nam live in China (UN DESA counts place of birth, however long ago they moved). A separate count, by UNHCR: 303,000 refugees and asylum seekers from Viet Nam in China; the two counts measure different things and are not added up.

OVER TIME

Share of recorded UN votes cast the same way

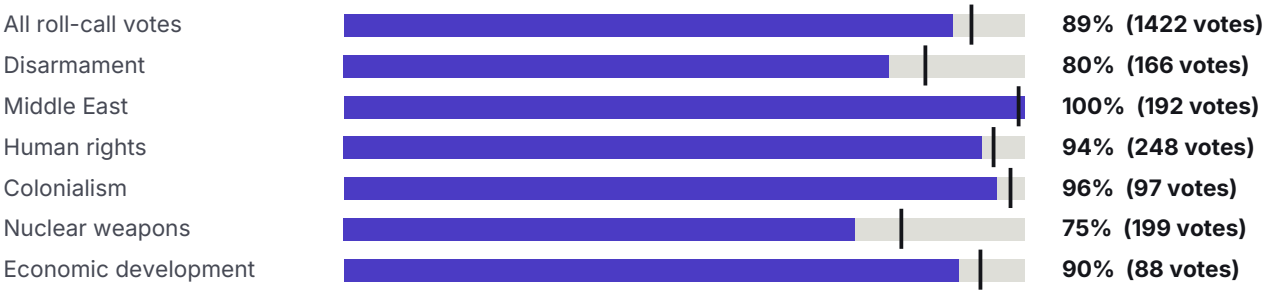


Goods exports each way (US dollars)



VOTES TOPIC BY TOPIC (SINCE 2010)

Most alike on Middle East (100% of votes the same), furthest apart on nuclear weapons (75%), against 89% on all votes since 2010.



Bar: since 2010. Mark: all years. Share of roll-call votes on whole texts cast the same way, counted vote by vote; an abstention against a yes counts as a difference. Disarmament, colonialism and economic development count votes up to 2018.

THE FACTS

UN votes	At the UN, the vote agreement of Viet Nam and China was 78% in 2022–2024. For Viet Nam, China is the 63rd most distant voting partner out of 191; for China, Viet Nam is the 37th closest partner.
Trade	Trade in goods between them averaged $232 billion a year in 2023–2025: 31.1% of all Viet Nam's trade and 4.7% of China's. China is Viet Nam's largest trading partner.
Words	Since 1946, Viet Nam has named China in 150 sentences of its General Debate speeches; China has named Viet Nam in 102.
Security	The Uppsala Conflict Data Program records them on opposite sides of armed conflict (China, Viet Nam, 1974–1988).
People	88,000 people born in Viet Nam live in China and 84,000 born in China live in Viet Nam (2024, UN DESA).
People	Their national football teams have met 9 times.

HOW SURE WE ARE

UN votes	**High**	259 shared votes on whole texts in 2022–2024, the years the headline share covers. With that many, a share is good to about ±6 points.
Trade	**High**	Goods trade is reported in 3 of the 3 years 2023–2025. Goods only, from customs data (IMF); services and energy pipelines are not in it.
Security	**High**	The Uppsala Conflict Data Program covers every state up to 2025. It counts only conflicts with at least 25 battle deaths a year.
Shared clubs	**High**	The list of tracked groups is fixed; membership is checked by hand.
Index	**High**	As sure as the weaker of its two required parts, votes and trade. Security and shared clubs add to it but never make it surer.

MOMENTS (EDITORIAL CONTEXT, NEVER PART OF A SCORE)

1950	China recognises the Democratic Republic of Vietnam
1979	Sino-Vietnamese War
1988	Clash at Johnson South Reef in the Spratly Islands
1991	Relations normalised
1999	Land border treaty signed
2014	Standoff over a Chinese oil rig in disputed waters

SOURCES AND HOW TO CITE

UN votes, speeches, mentions and trade: Nations on Record (UN General Assembly voting data, UN General Debate Corpus, IMF International Trade in Goods). Armed conflict: Uppsala Conflict Data Program, version 26.1. Migration: UN DESA International Migrant Stock 2024. Refugees: UNHCR. Football: international results archive (CC0). Every score follows fixed rules written out on /method; AI never sets a score. Independent and non-commercial; not affiliated with the United Nations.

Cite as

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