Books on the economic history of Vietnam

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Vietnam should teach economics to high school students [1]. The need for this subject is apparent. However, where should we begin? Indeed, classic works, or at least certain passages, are recommendable. A simple search on Google can point you to a lot of good selections [2-5]. However, this is the easy part. How about books on Vietnam's economy, especially the economic history of Vietnam. High school is a great opportunity to study basic knowledge and get to know about history.

This short paper presents some important books, which are more or less accessible using the Internet, on Vietnam's economic history for a later recommendation. The criteria are relatively straightforward: a book should be in Vietnamese, and it should cover different eras of Vietnam's economy, and textbooks are excluded. The author used the National Library of Vietnam's book database as the main source. Google and Worldcat were also used to find more results. The keywords are: "Lịch sử Kinh tế Việt Nam," "Kinh tế Việt Nam."

The finding from a quick desktop survey is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Books on the economic history of Vietnam

	Book	Year	Period	Authors	Ref
1	Lịch sử Kinh tế Việt Nam 1945 – 2000 (2 Volumes)	2002	1945 – 2000	Đặng Phong	[6]
2	Lịch sử Kinh tế Việt Nam	2003	Beginning – 2000	Phạm Văn Chiến	[7]
3	Lịch sử tín dụng nông nghiệp Việt Nam, 1875-1945	1997	1875 – 1945	Phạm Quang Trung	[8]
4	Lịch sử nền kinh tế quốc dân Việt Nam	2002	Feudalism – Present	Thế Đạt	[9]
5	Kinh tế Việt Nam từ cách mạng tháng tám đến kháng chiến thắng lợi	1966	8/1945 - 1954	Nguyễn Ngọc Minh	[10]
6	Kinh tế Việt Nam: Thăng trầm và đột phá	2009	1945 – 2008	Phạm Minh Chính; Vương Quân Hoàng	[11]

7	Kinh Tế Việt Nam, 1945-1960	1960	1945-1960	Viện Kinh Tế Thuộc Ủy Ban Khoa Học Nhà Nước	[12]
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Some books are probably available in bibliographic information only [10,12]. Meanwhile, the most updated book that I can find was published 12 years ago already [11].

Indeed, the list is by no means exhaustive. But by all means, the table is very short. In 2020, according to IMF calculation, Vietnam's gross domestic products (GDP) in dollar terms, PPP-adjusted, for the first time in its history exceeded US\$ 1,005 billion. The country's population becomes close to 100 million. Its stock markets' daily trade value reached almost US\$ 1 billion a day for the first week of 2021.

Apparently, for an emerging economy with growing regional importance like Vietnam, the above list of books falls short of our expectations. It is proof that a big gap will certainly need to be filled. For economics, predicting the future is always a hard job. Nonetheless, failing to learn from the past lessons will make the job even harder.

References

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