

# HAN CHINESE

Approximately 1.1 million Han Chinese people (officially called *Hoa* in Vietnam) live in practically every province of Vietnam. The highest concentration however, live in about a dozen provinces in northern Vietnam near the Chinese border, in addition to many in the coastal areas of southern Vietnam. Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) has traditionally been the home to most Han Chinese people in Vietnam, although as many as two-thirds of the Chinese have fled the country since 1975.

The China-Vietnam war of 1979 was chiefly the result of the bad treatment and ethnic hostility that Chinese living in Vietnam were experiencing. This led to a mass exodus of Han Chinese back to China where they have been

resettled by the Chinese government. Although the Han Chinese are one of Vietnam's 53 official minority groups, there are at least nine different subgroups and languages spoken among them, reflecting their regional origins in China. The largest group are the Cantonese, who number more than 500,000. Thousands of Cantonese came to Vietnam from Guangzhou in the 1930s to the 1950s. They were employed as railroad workers and helped construct the thousands of miles of tracks, tunnels and bridges that serve Vietnam today.

Other large Chinese groups in Vietnam include the Min Nan (also known as *Hokkien*) who originated in Fujian Province, the Hainanese,

Mandarin speakers from the north and central parts of China, and the Yunnanese. Each group of Chinese retains their own ethnicity and keeps to themselves. Although they speak languages that are mutually unintelligible, all Chinese groups are able to read and write the same script.

The Han Chinese are easily the largest ethnic group in the world, and Mandarin is spoken by more people than any other language. The 1990 Chinese census listed more than one billion Han people in China.

The Han Chinese arrived in Vietnam in various waves of migration over a period of 1,500 years. China controlled Vietnam for more than 1,000 years from 200 BC to 938 AD. The Vietnamese finally overthrew China's domination in the aftermath of the collapse of China's Tang Dynasty. The Vietnamese call this time in their history "The 1,000 year war". Chinese influence has shaped numerous parts of Vietnamese culture, language and religious belief. The Chinese called Vietnam *Annam*, meaning 'the pacified south'.

Numerous Han flooded into Vietnam to escape the carnage of Mongolian rule of China in the 13th century.



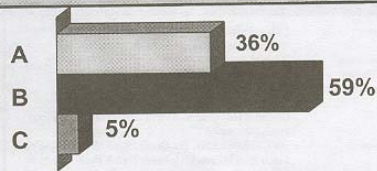
**Population:**  
900,185 (1989)  
1,118,000 (2000)  
1,364,000 (2010)

**Language:**  
Sino-Tibetan

**Religion:**  
Daoism

**Christians:**  
50,000

## Status of Evangelization (Awareness of Christ and the Gospel)



A = have never heard the Gospel or the name of Christ  
B = were evangelized but have not yet become Christians  
C = adherents to any form of Christianity

The Chinese have exerted influence on Vietnam at other times in their history, including a brief reign from 1414-27.

Using their extraordinary abilities in trade and commerce, the Chinese gradually assumed control of much of Vietnam's economy. By the mid-1970s they controlled most of the food, textile, chemical and electrical industries. This ability of a fraction of the population to dominate the nation's economy led to anti-Chinese riots and discrimination.

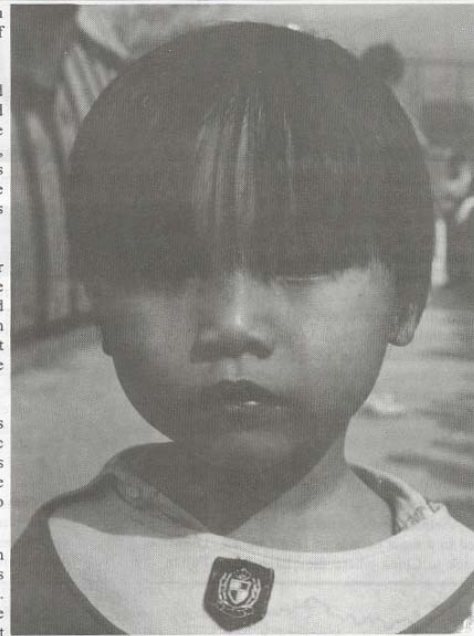
The Han Chinese in Vietnam have retained their traditional religious beliefs, which are a mixture of Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism and ancestor worship. Confucian principles, although technically not a religion, have left their imprint on every generation of Chinese thought in the past 2,500 years.

Each clan or lineage of Han Chinese has appointed a leader to maintain their specific ancestral rites and handle important affairs. This has led to secret triad societies (similar to the Mafia) among the Han Chinese Diaspora who live in dozens of countries around the world.

Approximately 5% of Han Chinese in Vietnam adhere to Christianity, especially Catholics among the urban centers throughout the country. Most Han youth now speak Vietnamese and are difficult to distinguish from their Viet counterparts.

Many of the Han living along the China-Vietnam border are completely unevangelized and have absolutely no knowledge of the Gospel or the Person of Jesus Christ. Gospel Recordings are available in five different Chinese languages.

The Chinese Bible is not readily available in Vietnam, so most believers use the Vietnamese Scriptures and meet in Vietnamese churches.



## Pray for the Han Chinese

- 1 Pray for a revival among the more-than-one million Han Chinese living in Vietnam. Pray the Gospel would spread from the economically influential Han to millions of people under them.
- 2 Ask the Lord to send Chinese evangelists from China and other parts of the world to share Christ with the 95% of Han in Vietnam who do not know Him.
- 3 Pray against strongholds that work against the advance of the Gospel among the Chinese, especially Buddhism, Daoism and ancestor worship.

## Overview of the Han Chinese

<b>Countries</b>	China, Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Vietnam, USA, Laos and dozens of other countries	<b>Subgroups (9)</b>	: Trieu Chau, Phuc Kien, Quang Dong, Quang Tay, Hai Nam, Xe Phang, Thuong Nhan, Minh Huong, Ho
<b>Pronunciation</b>	: "Ho-ah"	<b>Religion</b>	: Daoism, Ancestor Worship, Cao Datism, Buddhism, Non-Religious, Christianity
<b>Other Names</b>	: Hoa, Chinese, Han, Tau, Khach	<b>Christians</b>	: 50,000
<b>Population Source</b>	: 900,185 (1989 census) 1,042,482,187 in China (1990 census) Diaspora Han Chinese live in dozens of other nations around the world.	<b>Scripture</b>	: Bible 1894, New Testament 1877, Portions 1862
<b>Location</b>	: Ho Chi Minh City, Ha Giang, Kien Giang, Dong Nai, Mien Hai, Hanoi, Halphong, Namh Binh, and most other provinces in Vietnam.	<b>Jesus film</b>	: available in Mandarin, Min Nan, Cantonese, Hainanese, Amoy and Foshow
<b>Language</b>	: Sino-Tibetan, Chinese	<b>Gospel Recordings</b>	: Cantonese #00013; Hainanese #00166; Amoy #00185; Mandarin #00037; Yunnanese #00241
<b>Dialects (5)</b>	: Cantonese, Mandarin, Min Nan, Hainanese, Yunnanese	<b>Christian Radio</b>	: available (FEBIC & TWR)
		<b>ROPAL code</b>	: YUH00 (Cantonese), CHN00 (Mandarin); CFR00 (Min Nan);