POLITICAL ECONOMY OF VIETNAM: MARKET REFORM, GROWTH, AND THE STATE

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION ..................................... 1
II. POLITICS AND RESISTANCE SINCE THE
FRENCH INDOCHINA WAR .......................... 6
III. MOVING TOWARD MARKET ECONOMY ....... 15
IV. ECONOMIC RENOVATION ....................... 23
V. SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY .............................................. 34
VI. CHALLENGES ..................................... 43
VII. CONCLUSION .................................... 68

I. INTRODUCTION

The evolution of Vietnam’s political economy is unlike that of any other nation in the world today. No other country has endured so much uncertainty, hostility, occupation, civil war, political transition, or rapid economic change. If the time period from 1842 through 1975 in Vietnam was marked by a struggle for independence, then the period from 1975 to 2013 can be described as a period of maintenance and flourishing of a dynamic capitalist nation. As the world’s 13th largest population with approximately 87.84 million people,1 the second largest producer of coffee in the world,2 fifth largest producer of rice,3 a major producer of crude oil, and durable goods, Vietnam’s economic prowess is well established. Given the tremendous pace at which economic growth had been realized since national independence in 1975, the successes of Viet-

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