

# Reassessment of Beijing's economic and military aid to Hanoi's War, 1964–75

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# Introduction and Arguments

1. China's aid to Hanoi between 1964 and 1975 for their war efforts was based on China's subtle moves to manipulate Hanoi during the war. Therefore, it was based on strategic calculation and ideological conviction rather than Hanoi's own needs.
2. The second one was that not only did their efforts to manipulate not succeed and made Hanoi suspicious of them, but it was arguably China's biggest foreign policy failure during the cold war.





## Ideology



- ❖ Imperialism was the root of war.
- ❖ Same ideology with North Vietnam but different interests.
- ❖ The Soviet Union followed a multi-faceted approach.



# Soviet-Chinese relations

- ❖ The Soviet policy challenged China's role in Vietnam.
- ❖ It created pressure on Beijing.
- ❖ Increasing Soviet aid to North Vietnam was accompanied by further increase in Chinese aid.
- ❖ This created a clash of interests between the two countries and strained their relationship.
- ❖ Basically Soviet revisionism versus true Marxism.



# Vietnamese Approach

- ❖ Tet offensives in 1968, proved to China an alignment of interests with North Vietnam.
- ❖ However, major defeat changed the Vietnamese approach into negotiating, thus alarming Beijing.
- ❖ Talks with the Americans make China withdraw its troops by 1970.

# Changes in China's Attitude

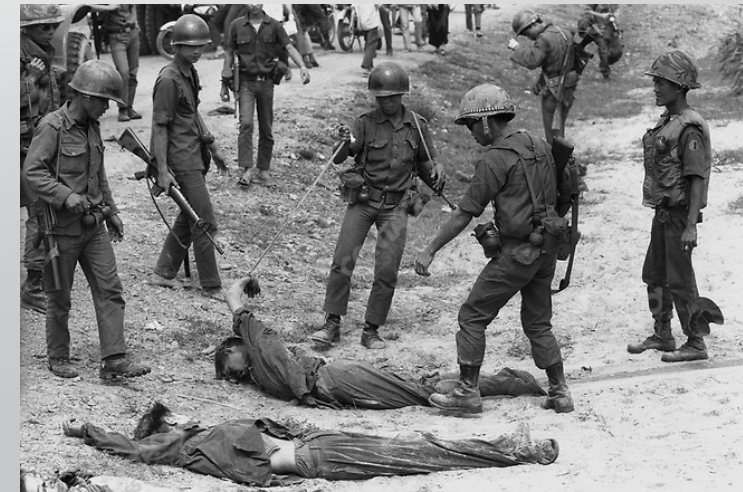
- ❖ China felt threatened by the Soviets and the Americans together.
- ❖ China therefore re-opened its embassies abroad.
- ❖ By 1970 China started accepting the peace talks and supported them.





# Vietnam on the Offensive

- ❖ With China's new attitude towards the US, North Vietnam realized they cannot rely on Chinese aid forever and took matters in their own hands.
- ❖ They launched the Easter offensive, which later failed and they blamed said failure on China.





# After the Paris Peace Accords

- ❖ Despite the signing of the Paris Peace Agreement, Beijing continued to provide Hanoi with aid, reaching a new high in 1974.
- ❖ Stability in Indochina was paramount for China.
- ❖ They felt no longer threatened by the US and the Soviets.
- ❖ China tried to treat the provisional south Vietnamese communist government as a separate entity but Hanoi protested.
- ❖ Between 1974 and 1975 North Vietnam retook the south and won the war.





# Conclusion

- ❖ China's aid always had an ulterior motive.
- ❖ Fluctuations in said aid over the years proved that it depended on China's pleasure or lack thereof with North Vietnam's actions.



# Notes on the Author

- ❖ The paper was precise and direct to the point.
- ❖ It was supported by lots of details and evidence.
- ❖ It covered the topic very well.
- ❖ However convincing the arguments may be, his wording was unsure and relied more on probability and opinions.



**Thank You!**