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A COUNTRY
STAYS ALIVE
WHEN ITS
CULTURE IS
ALIVE.

HOPE NEVER
DIES IN THE
INDOMITABLE
VIETNAMESE
MIND.

- **SACEI Newsletter** updates you on the latest news about Vietnamese-America.
- It serves as a link between **SACEI** members and those who are interested in the Vietnamese or Vietnamese-American culture.

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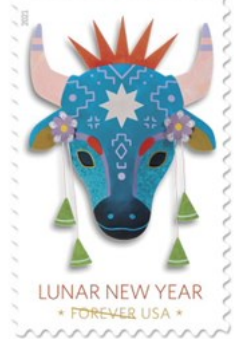
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HAPPY NEW LUNAR YEAR

Year of the Ox: Feb 12, 2021



The Ox is the second of all zodiac animals. According to one myth, the Jade Emperor said the order would be decided by the order in which they arrived to his party. The Ox was about to be the first to arrive, but Rat tricked Ox into giving him a ride. Then, just as they arrived, Rat jumped down and landed ahead of Ox. Thus, Ox became the second animal.



Oxen are honest and earnest. They are low key and never look for praise or to be the center of attention. This often hides their talent, but they'll gain recognition through their hard work. They believe that everyone should do what's asked for them and stay within their bounds. Though they are kind, it's difficult for them to understand persuasion using pathos. Rarely losing your temper, they think logically and make great leaders.

Men born in the Ox year are reliable and trustworthy. They put their entire heart into everything they do. They feel great responsibility towards their family as well. However, due to their confidence (almost arrogance), they don't allow anyone to go against their rules. They hold your children to high expectations, even though it might be unrealistic.

Women born in the Ox year are calm and gentle. They will never surrender to fate and rarely think of choosing an alternative. This no doubt leads to a life of struggles. But no matter what, they will walk down the road they choose until the end. Despite this stubbornness, they think and react quickly.

Element	Year	Fortune
Metal	1961, 2021	These Oxen face obstacles early on, although there are no financial worries. Friends and family aren't much help, but they will be able to enjoy a comfortable retirement.
Water	1973, 2033	These Oxen have a comfortable early life and are respected their entire life. They will have a loving family, but it's recommended to marry late.
Wood	1925, 1985,	These Oxen are multitalented and live like a breeze. There are some difficulties in the beginning, but everything smooths out.
Fire	1937, 1997	These Oxen are friendly and social. There are no financial worries their entire life.
	1949, 2009	These Oxen are detailed and like being the leader. They're usually are make a lot of money, but can't seem to hold onto it. However, they are able to slow down and enjoy their later years.

Communist Vietnam *by Bill Laurie*

The Legatum Group is international organization dedicated to improving people's well-being through increasing prosperity and socio-economic justice. It has no professed ideological bias and is dedicated to rational development and improvement of people's lives. It publishes an annual "prosperity Index" based on compilation of 12 separate indices of social and economic well-being, including health, education, income, governance, freedom, etc. The index reports results of 167 countries worldwide, ranking from best to worst of the 167 nations surveyed.

Details on Legatum, and complete table of its prosperity index, are included below, following the comparison between the 3 Hanoi-controlled/dominated/sired countries of SE Asia with 4 non-communist neighbors. Lower the number the better: "1" is best, "167" is worse.

Overall, after what is presumed to be 45 years of "peace", the communist countries had not delivered well-being, health, prosperity to their subjects.

Hanoi controlled/dominated countries fail to provide their citizens as decent a living economic environment as the 4 nearby non-communist countries.

In 1950 (one-nine-five-zero), in midst of war for independence, Viet Nam's per capita income was 80% of Thailand's. In 2020, after 45 years of communist "peace", Viet Nam's per capita income is 40%, repeat FOUR-ZERO PER CENT, of Thailand's. That is not what was promised.

	Communist/Hanoi	Non-Communist	
Rankings		Malaysia	40
	Viet Nam	Indonesia	57
	Laos	Thailand	64
	Cambodia	Philippines	83
Average	102		61

In the 45 years Hanoi's imposition, by force of arms, a communist dominated federation in SE Asia, from 1945 to 1990, over **8 million people**, military and civilian, both sides, died violent deaths. Nothing was achieved and overall setback in socio-economic countries will never be remedied in our lifetime. The 8 million violent death toll does **not** include higher infant and maternal mortality rates, as well as civilian death from inadequate medical care, malnutrition, disease (otherwise preventable).

This data took 40 minutes to gather, tabulate, yet it cannot be found in ANY "reporting" by the "news". What do reporters do all day to earn their salaries? In contrast, a very well-known reporter and author visited Viet Nam 5 years ago and returned saying people were prosperous, happy, etc. He offered no evidence other than anecdotal visual impressions of "happy people". He did not speak Viet Nameese.

The reporter gave a brief talk, citing the above (happy people) to a large audience. He could not answer the following questions:

1. If VN people are so prosperous and happy, why have over 120,000 young VN women taken husbands from Republic of Korea and Taiwan, to escape crushing poverty in rural areas, and earn money for their families?
2. If everyone in Viet Nam is so happy why is Hanoi ranked 176th out of 180 countries, worldwide, in terms of press freedom? Why are there over 250 jailed political prisoners?

Reporters do as poor a job of reporting (?) on Viet Nam as Hanoi's ideological druids do a poor job of running a country.

Legatum

The Legatum Group: Legatum Limited
Legatum Prosperity Rankings (of 167 countries)

<https://www.prosperity.com/rankings>

Iridescent Snakes with Shimmering Scales in Vietnam

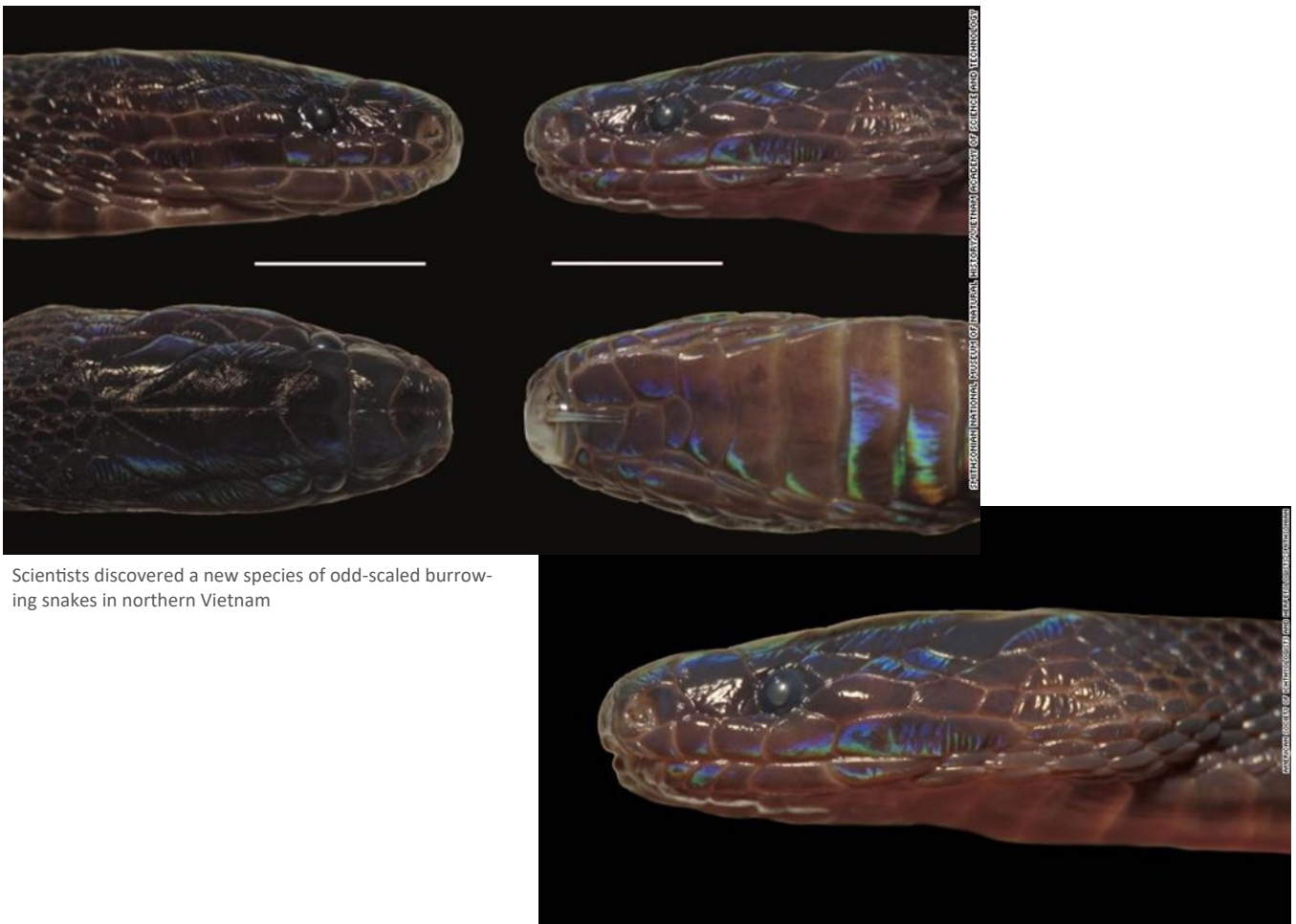
Iridescent snake with shimmering scales discovered in Vietnam - CNN

(CNN) In 2019, American and Vietnamese scientists were researching biodiversity in the jungles and mountains of Vietnam when they stumbled upon a strange-looking snake.

It was dark and iridescent, its scales shifting through blues and greens in the light. The scales were small, ridged, and oddly patterned. The seasoned scientists had no idea what it was -- and soon realized they were looking at an undiscovered species. "That was a really exciting moment," said Aryeh Miller, one of the researchers and a fellow at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, on [the Smithsonian's blog](#). "The specimen looks very different. So different, in fact, that we didn't know immediately what it was."

The researchers, from the Smithsonian and the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology, published their findings in [the journal Copeia](#) on Monday.

They spotted the snake in Vietnam's northern Ha Giang province, which borders China. There were a few physical clues in the mystery snake's appearance: notably, it didn't have bright-light photoreceptors in its eyes, suggesting it burrows underground or beneath leaves. These types of snakes are particularly hard to find due to their life beneath the surface. They also soon realized it was a species belonging to the rare genus *Achalinus*, also known as "odd-scaled snakes" because their scales spread out instead of overlapping like most snakes. Until now, there were only 13 known species within the genus, six of which are from Vietnam.



Scientists discovered a new species of odd-scaled burrowing snakes in northern Vietnam

DOWN AND OUT IN SAIGON

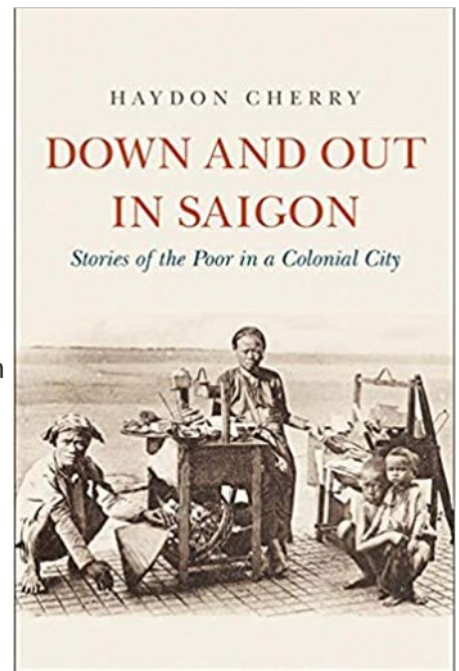
Haydon Cherry

Historian Haydon Cherry offers the first comprehensive social history of the urban poor of colonial French Saigon by following the lives of six individuals—a prostitute, a Chinese laborer, a rickshaw puller, an orphan, an incurable invalid, and a destitute Frenchman—and how they navigated the ups and downs of the regional rice trade and the institutions of French colonial rule in the first half of the twentieth century.

“*Down and Out in Saigon* is marked by three qualities that endow it with unusual value: the originality of its subject matter, as the first and only history of colonial Saigon’s poor population, the excellence of its research, and Cherry’s elegant prose.” —Peter B. Zinoman, University of California, Berkeley

Available on Amazon

<https://www.amazon.com/Down-Out-Saigon-Stories-Colonial/dp/0300218257/>



Catholic Vietnam

Charles Keith

In this important new study, Charles Keith explores the complex position of the Catholic Church in modern Vietnamese history. By demonstrating how French colonial rule allowed for the transformation of Catholic missions in Vietnam into broad and powerful economic and institutional structures, Keith discovers the ways race defined ecclesiastical and cultural prestige and control of resources and institutional authority.

This, along with colonial rule itself, created a culture of religious life in which relationships between Vietnamese Catholics and European missionaries were less equal and more fractious than ever before. However, the colonial era also brought unprecedented ties between Vietnam and the transnational institutions and culture of global Catholicism, as Vatican reforms to create an independent national Church helped Vietnamese Catholics to reimagine and redefine their relationships to both missionary Catholicism and to colonial rule itself. Much like the myriad revolutionary ideologies and struggles in the name of the Vietnamese nation, this revolution in Vietnamese Catholic life was ultimately ambiguous, even contradictory: it established the foundations for an independent national Church, but it also polarized the place of the new Church in post-colonial Vietnamese politics and society and produced deep divisions between Vietnamese Catholics themselves.

“This is more than a corrective of revolutionary historiography—it is a tour de force that brings marginal and forgotten lives into the story of modern Vietnamese history.” —Charles Keith, author of *Catholic Vietnam: A Church from Empire to Nation*

Available on Amazon

<https://www.amazon.com/Catholic-Vietnam-Church-Empire-Nation/dp/0520272471/>

