# Vietnam's Bamboo Diplomacy: Navigating Complex Geopolitical Landscapes



In recent months, Vietnam has strategically hosted high-profile visits from Joe Biden, Xi Jinping, and Vladimir Putin, reflecting its adept handling of complex geopolitical landscapes. With a foreign policy described as "bamboo diplomacy," Vietnam successfully balances relations with major global powers while attracting significant manufacturing investments.

Putin’s visit, his first since 2017, follows closely after meetings with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. This visit, amid global sanctions on Russia post-Ukraine invasion, has drawn criticism from the U.S. but highlights Vietnam's commitment to maintaining diverse international relations.

Vietnam has significantly upgraded its relations with the U.S., China, and Russia, while managing tensions and capitalizing on opportunities. This "actively neutral" stance, as described by scholars, enables Vietnam to reap benefits from all sides without committing to any single alliance completely.

Vietnam’s foreign policy, dating back to the end of the Cold War, emphasizes "bamboo diplomacy," promoting strength and flexibility. Under Party Chief Nguyen Phu Trong, Vietnam has forged comprehensive strategic partnerships with the U.S. and elevated ties with countries like Australia, Japan, and South Korea.

Economically, Vietnam has become a key destination for companies like Apple, looking to diversify away from China. Foreign direct investment reached $36.6 billion last year. Concurrently, Vietnam has maintained strong relations with China, its largest trading partner, and Russia, its leading arms supplier.

During Putin's visit, Vietnam aims to bolster cooperation in economics, trade, energy, and technology. While the trip is anticipated to be more beneficial for Putin by demonstrating continued international engagement, Vietnam remains cautious not to jeopardize its standing with Western allies.

Despite domestic political upheavals, including a widespread corruption crackdown, Vietnam’s foreign policy remains steadfast, emphasizing a pragmatic approach to international relations to bolster its position as a crucial manufacturing hub.