

HISTORICAL EVIDENCE AFFIRMING VIETNAM'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE HOANG SA AND TRUONG SA ARCHIPELAGO***Dr. Nguyen Thanh Minh**

km 1, Ha Cau Street, Ha Dong District, Hanoi City, Vietnam

Received 10th September 2025; **Accepted** 14th October 2025; **Published online** 28th November 2025

Abstract

Vietnam's sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagos was inherited from the Champa period, officially established from the Nguyen Lords, continuously through the Tay Son and Nguyen dynasties and up to the present. However, to have a correct understanding of sovereignty, there must be specific, correct historical evidence and a legal basis appropriate to each historical period, especially in the 17th-18th centuries, when there were no international conventions on sovereignty over seas and islands.

Keywords: Vietnam, Hoang Sa, Truong Sa

INTRODUCTION**Document system of the Vietnamese State**

During the reign of Lord Nguyen (1558-1777), the issue of Vietnam's sovereignty over the two archipelagos of Hoang Sa and Truong Sa was recorded relatively fully and honestly in many domestic and international documents, along with field survey sources, which are strong evidence to affirm Vietnam's sovereignty over these two archipelagos.

Han Nom documents

Based on the name Bai Cat Vang in the Hong Duc map collection made under the reign of King Le Thanh Tong (1460-1497). It is stated that: "At the latest in the early 90s of the 15th century, the Vietnamese people discovered that the archipelago was ownerless"[1] and "The name Bai Cat Vang in Vietnamese clearly states: It was the Vietnamese working people who discovered that new land, using their own language to name it. When the Vietnamese State claimed sovereignty over the territory, Bai Cat Vang was Sino-Vietnameseized into Hoang Sa"[2]. Bai Cat Vang is the Nom name, the common language of fishermen in Central Vietnam, because they worked, fished, and exploited this archipelago very early, so it was named and officially recorded in the Hong Duc map, the national map when the country expanded to Thua Tuyen Quang Nam, implemented by the policy of the Le Thanh Tong dynasty. Thus, Hoang Sa is a Sino-Vietnamese word named by the Vietnamese monarchies by converting the original meaning of the phrase Bai Cat Vang, which was previously a common name for fishermen, into an official document of the State, not originating from Chinese semantics and named by the Chinese for this archipelago as some people have falsely claimed. Inheriting the management of marine resources and the maritime tradition and exploitation of the marine economy of the Champa people, in 1558 and especially after 1570, when King Le assigned Nguyen Hoang to take charge of Thuan Hoa and manage the Quang Nam region

whose land border reached the land of Binh Dinh province, he began to pay attention to the archipelago to the East, that is Hoang Sa. Regarding the establishment of sovereignty in Hoang Sa, Ton That Duong Ky based on 7 documents of ancient Vietnamese literature such as Thien Nam Tu Chi Lo Do Thu by Do Ba, Phu Bien Tap Luc by Le Quy Don, Dai Nam Thuc Luc Tien Bien, Dai Nam Nhat Thong Chi by the National History Institute of the Nguyen Dynasty... analyzed the words: "Tien, Nguyen Thi" or "Quoc So", or "Thai Vuong Tuyet Che", or "Tien Vuong Lich Trieu" meaning Thai Vuong Nguyen Hoang had just come to guard and started to build Thuan Hoa (1558). The author asserts that "At the latest in the second half of the 16th century, with the Hoang Sa fleet, the Vietnamese State had sovereignty over the Hoang Sa territory, originally called Bai Cat Vang, which the West also had to call Con Vang, Cat Vang, Bai Cat Vang, along with the given names: Pracel, Parcel or Paracel..." [3].

There are also authors who believe that, during the time of Lord Nguyen Hoang, there were two characters "Vu Thi An, Vu Thi Trung and descendants of Champa origin who helped him conquer Hoang Sa". Japanese merchant Araki Sotarô married the princess of Lord Nguyen Phuc Nguyen, so he was given the Vietnamese name Nguyen Dai Luong, with the courtesy name Hien Hung, and oversaw trade with foreign countries, helping Lord Sai organize an annual fleet of boats to Hoang Sa to collect goods [4].

Thus, according to this document, the Hoang Sa archipelago was naturally taken over by Lord Nguyen Hoang from the previous owner, the Cham people, after the Champa kingdom weakened and withdrew to the other side of Cu Mong Pass (Phu Yen). Cristophoro Borri's document in 1621 said that during the reign of Lord Nguyen Phuc Nguyen, he sent soldiers and civilians to exploit the economy in Hoang Sa and harvested many important values, including 60 cannons to equip and protect Dinh Cat: "Then they became bolder when they were provided in a very short time, many large guns confiscated and collected from ships and warships that were sunk and drifted ashore, in fact, Portuguese and Dutch ships often crashed into rocks and were salvaged by the natives as seen today. In the Lord's palace, there were also up to sixty

*Corresponding Author: **Dr. Nguyen Thanh Minh**,
km 1, Ha Cau Street, Ha Dong District, Hanoi City, Vietnam.

(cannons) and some were very large” [5]. The rich resources on the Hoang Sa archipelago under the Nguyen lords were recorded very specifically by Le Quy Don in the book *Phu Bien Tap Luc* in 1776: “Quang Ngai prefecture, Binh Son district has An Vinh commune near the sea, to the northeast there are many islands, miscellaneous mountains of more than 130 peaks, separated by the sea, from one island to the other it takes a day or a few hours to reach. On the mountain there is a place with a fresh water stream. In the island there is a long golden sand beach, about 30 miles long, flat and wide, with clear water at the bottom. On the island there are countless bird nests; thousands and tens of thousands of birds, when they see people they perch around without avoiding. On the beach there are many strange objects. There are elephant ear snails as big as mats, with seeds as big as finger tips in their belly, sharp and opaque, not like pearls, the shell can be carved into playing cards, and lime can be burned to build houses; there are mother-of-pearl snails to inlay utensils, and there are also aromatic snails. All kinds of snails can be salted and cooked. Toadstools are very large. There is a sea turtle, commonly called white cotton, similar to a tortoiseshell but small, with a thin shell that can be used to inlay utensils, and eggs the size of a thumb tip, which can be salted and eaten. There is a sea cucumber, commonly called a sea cucumber, which swims on the shore, take it home and rub it with lime, remove the intestines and dry it, when eating, soak it in freshwater crab water, scrape it clean, and cook it with shrimp and pork, even better [6].

The book *Dai Nam Thuc Luc* of the National History Institute of the Nguyen Dynasty was compiled in 1844, the time when the Nguyen Dynasty established complete sovereignty over the Hoang Sa archipelago, also stated: “Out at sea, towards An Vinh commune, Binh Son district, Quang Ngai province, there are more than 130 sandbanks, separated by a day's journey or a few hours' journey, stretching for an unknown number of thousands of miles, commonly called “van ly trung sa”. On the bank there are fresh water wells. Products include sea cucumbers, tortoise shells, flower snails, turtles, soft-shell turtles...” [7].

The book “Vietnamese History Summary” by Nguyen Thong (1827-1884), compiled in 1877, wrote: “In the past, our Dai Viet country often selected young men from the two villages of An Hai and An Vinh to form the Hoang Sa team to collect marine products. Every year, they left in February and returned in August. The sandbank stretched from the East to the South, some places emerged, some sank, for an unknown number of hundreds or thousands of miles. Inside there were deep coves where boats could dock. On the beach there was fresh water, and there were many species of seabirds whose names were unknown. There was an ancient temple, roofed with tiles, with a signboard engraved with the four words “Van Ly Ba Binh”, which was built in an unknown period. Soldiers who came here often brought seeds of fruit trees from the South to plant inside and outside the temple, hoping that the trees would grow to serve as a mark for recognition. Since the Hoang Sa team was abolished until recently, no one asked about that temple anymore” [8]. Thus, during the Gia Long period, the Hoang Sa fleet was abolished and assigned to the navy of the Nguyen Dynasty, so this ancient temple was not cared for or worshipped. Therefore, it is very likely that this temple was built by the Hoang Sa fleet during the Nguyen Dynasty, a document proving that Hoang Sa is Vietnam's territory.

A record by Do Ba, whose alias is Cong Dao, in the *Toan Tap Thien Nam Tu Chi Lo Do Thu*, a book compiled under the order of Lord Trinh Can in the 7th year of Chinh Hoa, or 1686, corresponding to the reign of Lord Nguyen Phuc Tan (1648-1687), 14 years after the end of the Trinh-Nguyen war, confirmed that the exploitation and enforcement of sovereignty over Hoang Sa belonged to Lord Nguyen. The book says: “In the middle of the sea there is a long sandbank, called Bai Cat Vang, about 400 miles long, 20 miles wide, standing upright in the middle of the sea, from Dai Chiem estuary to Sa Vinh estuary. Every time there is a southwest wind, merchant ships from the countries going inland drift there; when there is a northeast wind, merchant ships going inland also drift there. All starve to death. All goods are abandoned there. Every year in the last month of winter, the Nguyen family [referring to the Nguyen lords in Dang Trong] sends 18 ships there to collect goods and wealth, mostly gold, silver, currency, guns and ammunition. It takes a day and a half to cross the sea from Dai Chiem estuary to there, and half a day from Sa Ky estuary to there. There are also hillsides on that long sandbank” [9].

The investigation of the situation in Dang Trong, including Hoang Sa by Do Ba to report to Lord Trinh, has points that need to be compared with other historical sources, such as the distance calculated by sea time from the seaports of Thuan Quang to Hoang Sa, the fact that Lord Nguyen waited until the last month of winter to send 18 boats to Hoang Sa to collect goods from shipwrecks during the year, or this was the mission of the Hoang Sa team sent by Lord Nguyen from Ly Son island to perform a mission in Hoang Sa for 6 months, leaving from the second lunar month and returning in August, before the rainy and stormy season came. But what is certainly true is Do Ba's confirmation that Lord Nguyen Phuc Tan and before that, Lords Nguyen Phuc Lan, Nguyen Phuc Nguyen, and possibly Lord Nguyen Hoang, had carried out the task of sovereignty and economic exploitation in Hoang Sa. After the Trinh - Nguyen war (1627-1672), the Nguyen lords paid more attention to activities of expanding and defining territory from Ninh Thuan - Binh Thuan to the Eastern and Western regions of the South; continuing to reclaim, establish and exercise sovereignty over the sea and islands in the South and Southwest from Truong Sa, Phu Quy, Con Dao to Phu Quoc... The book *Dai Nam Thuc Luc* states that in 1711, Lord Nguyen Phuc Chu received and rewarded Mac Cuu - General of Ha Tien (including Phu Quoc island). Then the lord: “Sai (Mac Cuu) to measure the length, width and narrowness of the Truong Sa sandbank”.

This is the latest time when Lord Nguyen established sovereignty in Truong Sa. Before that, Lord Nguyen Hoang and his successors established sovereignty and sent people to live and manage the islands of Cu Lao Cham and Ly Son in 1603, Phu Quy island from the 17th century, Con Dao and Phu Quoc from the beginning of the 18th century. The book *Dai Viet Su Ky Tuc Bien* is more accurate when confirming that the lord who received the eight boat people of the Hoang Sa team that were rescued was Lord Nguyen Phuc Khoat, as follows: “Eight people from the Hoang Sa team, An Vinh commune, Binh Son district, Quang Ngai prefecture, went by small boat to Hoang Sa beach in the middle of the island to look for goods, and were blown by the wind to the mouth of Thanh Lan river, Van Xuong district, Lo Chau prefecture [of the Qing Dynasty]. The local authorities questioned the truth and then sent them back to their hometown. Lord The Tong [Nguyen Phuc Khoat] ordered Cai Ba Thuc Luong Hou to

write a letter in response to the Qing Dynasty” [10]. The book *Dai Nam Nhat Thong Chi*, compiled by the National History Institute of the Nguyen Dynasty under the reign of Tu Duc, written about Quang Ngai province, said: “Hoang Sa Island: Located to the east of Re Islet, Binh Son District. From the coast of Sa Ky, if the wind is favorable, it can take about three or four days and nights to reach the place. There are more than 130 small islands, separated by a day's journey or several hours of sleep. In the island, there is a golden sandbank, continuously stretching for thousands of miles, flat and spacious, commonly called “Van Ly Truong Sa”; the water is very clear, on the bank there is a freshwater well, where countless seabirds gather. There are many flower snails, sea cucumbers, tortoise shells, turtles, and goods of the Qing people that were washed ashore by storms”. “In the early Gia Long period, the old custom was to set up the Hoang Sa fleet, but later it was abandoned. In the early Minh Mang period, people were often sent by public ships to explore the sea route. They found a place with a white sandbank with a circumference of 1,070 truong, with lush green trees. In the middle of the sandbank was a well. To the southwest of the bank was an ancient temple, it was not clear when it was built. There was a stele engraved with the four words “Van ly Ba Binh” (Thousands of miles of calm waves) [12].

Archaeological and field documents

The Hoang Sa team recruited militiamen from Ly Son to almost control the East Sea, mainly to search for products from shipwrecks in Hoang Sa. In addition, the people of Cu Lao Re ward, An Vinh commune in Ly Son were also the main force to participate in the cinnamon and seafood exploitation teams called the Que Huong Ham and Dai Mao Hai Ba teams, which were shown in a petition of Cai Hop Ha Lieu, Cu Lao Re ward, submitted to the Tay Son government in 1775, as follows:

“On January 17, the 36th year of the Canh Hung era, I am Ha Lieu, Cai Hop of Cu Lao Re ward, An Vinh commune, Ha Bac, Binh Son district, Hoa Nghia prefecture, hoping to receive the grace from above: Our commune has long had the Hoang Sa and Que Huong teams. In the year of Tan Mui (1631), the Commander Vo He submitted a petition to establish two more teams, Dai Mao Hai Ba and Que Huong Ham, with a staff of 30 people. Every year, they usually pay taxes of 10 stone of tortoise shell, sea turtle, and five taels of cinnamon. In the year of Quy Mao (1723), obeying the order: The people in Ha Silver, whoever has a Chau Bang or Chau Thi can pay special tax and bring along the books. So our people have to add more militia. Up to now, the number of soldiers in our commune is 23 people, we have to add more people and pay for travel expenses as before, so the Captain has been able to supervise the work from then until now. Now we have established two teams Hoang Sa and Que Huong as before, including foreigners, how many names please register and pay, to sail to the islands and islets in the sea, to search for and collect precious objects, copper, tin, sea turtles, and tortoise shells, how much please pay. If there is a notice of war, we will firmly fight against the invaders. After finishing the work, we will ask for a dispatch to search for treasures and pay taxes to the customs. We will wholeheartedly follow our wishes, not daring to complain. We bow our heads and express our gratitude, please approve it” [12]. The content of the above petition affirms that Lord Nguyen had allowed the people of Cu Lao Re ward to establish Hoang Sa and Que Huong teams before. In 1631, the new Military Commander requested to

establish two more teams, Dai Mao Hai Ba and Que Huong Ham.

DOCUMENTS FROM COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD

Documents from China

Regarding the enforcement of sovereignty and exploitation of Hoang Sa, the Vietnamese state officially carried out through the recognition of monk Thich Dai San from Guangdong (China) to Phu Xuan in 1695, under the reign of Lord Nguyen Phuc Chu, on his way back home, he recorded about Hoang Sa archipelago: “In the previous King's time, every year, people were sent to send fishing boats along the sandbank to collect gold, silver, and tools from broken boats” [13].

In the archives of Lord Nguyen in the capital city of Phu Xuan in 1757, when Nguyen Phuc Khoat was approached by Le Quy Don, it was said: “Hoang Sa is right near the Lien Chau prefecture, Hainan island, people on boats sometimes meet fishing boats of the Northern country asking each other in the sea. I have seen an official document from the district magistrate of Van Xuong district, Quynh Chau sent to Thuan Hoa saying: In the 18th year of Can Long [ie 1757], there were 10 soldiers from An Vinh commune, Cat Liem team, Chuong Nghia district, Quang Ngai prefecture of An Nam country, on the 7th month, went to Van Ly Truong Sa to search for things, 8 of them went ashore to search, only 2 of them kept the boat, the wind broke the rope, drifted to Thanh Lan port, the official there examined the boat, and sent it back to its original place. Nguyen Phuc Chu ordered the Thuan Hoa port magistrate, Thuc Luong Hau, to write a reply letter”. Regarding the above event, the book *Dai Viet Su Ky Tuc Bien* is more accurate when confirming that the lord who received the eight boat people of the Hoang Sa team that were rescued was Lord Nguyen Phuc Khoat, as follows: “Eight people from the Hoang Sa team, An Vinh commune, Binh Son district, Quang Ngai prefecture, went by small boat to Hoang Sa beach in the middle of the island to find goods, and were blown by the wind to the Thanh Lan river mouth, Van Xuong district, Lo Chau prefecture [of the Qing country]. The local authorities questioned the truth and then sent them back to their hometown. Lord The Tong [Nguyen Phuc Khoat] ordered Cai Ba Thuc Luong Hou to write a letter in response to the Qing Dynasty”.

The book *Dai Nam Thuc Luc*, recorded that this event happened in July 1754, is more accurate about the time of the event: “In the fall, the 7th month, the Hoang Sa team in Quang Ngai went by boat to Hoang Sa island, and were blown by the wind into the waters of Quynh Chau, of the Qing country. The Qing governor gave them a rear guard and then sent them back”.

Due to the long-standing exploitation process, Hoang Sa and Truong Sa naturally became the territory of Dang Trong, which was respected by the Qing Dynasty. This important diplomatic document provides a very noteworthy historical value, which is that the Qing Dynasty recognized the sovereignty of Hoang Sa island region as belonging to Lord Nguyen. The Qing Dynasty only participated in humanitarian activities of rescue and relief when boat people were in distress and returned them to the host country without demanding any conditions.

Western documents

Through the documents of the Batavia diary of the Dutch East India Company (VOC), the details of the shipwreck incident in Hoang Sa in 1634 are as follows: "On July 20, 1634, 3 merchant ships registered in the Netherlands, Vechuizen, Schagen and Grootenbroeck from Batavia arrived at Touron (now Da Nang), and weighed anchor to Taiwan. On the 21st, while on the sea route at coordinates about 150 North latitude and 1150 East longitude, they encountered a storm offshore and lost their way. The Grootenbroeck ship sank near the above coordinates, where the Hoang Sa archipelago is located. All the goods and 9 sailors were missing. The remaining goods were then hidden on Hoang Sa island. Captain Huijch Jansen and his sailors took a small boat to the sea of Dang Trong, hoping to reach the mainland to rescue the 50 sailors on the island. The captain brought some silver, but when he reached the mainland, he had confiscated by a customs official in Hoi An whom the Dutch called "Onganming". The crew and captain stayed in Hoi An for a while and were then allowed to return to Hoang Sa on the Japanese ship Kiko which they had bought at the port to pick up 50 sailors, along with the silver hidden in Hoang Sa. Arriving at Hoang Sa, the captain and crew were transported back to Batavia by 3 ships Bommel, Goa, Zeeburg (which were taking shelter from the storm on the coast of Dang Trong" [14]. The above document confirms that Hoang Sa is a place where ships of many countries must pass to reach Dang Trong and other countries and is an island area under the sovereignty of Vietnam since the time of Lord Nguyen Phuc Nguyen (1613-1635).

Surveying the Western historical sources related to the sinking of the Dutch ship in Hoang Sa during the time of Lord Nguyen Phuc Nguyen mentioned above, author Nguyen Quang Ngoc cited a document about the content of the complaint of Abraham Duijcker, in charge of the Dutch trading post in Hoi An, submitted to Lord Nguyen Phuc Lan as follows: "Duijcker sent a complaint to the lord. That was the ship named Grootenbroeck that sank off the Paracels sandbank, the crew was rescued by the Vietnamese from Dang Trong, but at the same time, they also took away a total amount of money of 25,580 réaux, so the head of the Duijcker post had the duty to request compensation for that money. He was told that those things had happened during the previous lord's reign (that is, Lord Nguyen Phuc Nguyen), and should not be mentioned again. On the contrary, from now on, the Dutch would be completely free to bring goods to trade, exempted from taxes, and in the future, if a Dutch ship sank offshore, there would be no more confiscation of the rescued goods" [15].

After the Trinh - Nguyen war, the scope of the Bac Hai team's activities extended to Truong Sa, Con Dao, and Phu Quoc. However, the Hoang Sa team continued its mission of collecting goods, products, and rescuing in the Hoang Sa archipelago and was considered by Lord Nguyen as the responsibility of the court, not only through the policy of assigning the Hoang Sa team to exploit, but also to be responsible for rescuing and providing humanitarian aid to foreign ships that sank in this island area. This was recorded by many Western missionaries and merchants, including the event of a Dutch ship sinking in Hoang Sa in 1714, under the reign of Lord Nguyen Phuc Chu: "A Dutch ship returning from Japan to Batavia loaded with goods sank at the end of November 1714 on the reefs of Hoang Sa (Paracels) only about 15 or 20 miles from the coast of Nam Ha (Dang Trong).

Except for 17 prisoners who drowned, all the crew escaped to the highest points of these sandbanks and they made a large boat from the debris of their sunken ship. On this boat, 84 people crossed to Nam Ha, following from a distance the fishermen of Nam Ha who were returning to port after a fishing trip... Three or four days later, when the Dutch had an audience with the king, a military officer in the palace ordered Mr. Heutte to lead the Dutch to attend the audience where the king had held court that morning at a large courtyard in front of the king's palace... They asked to be released, given ships and food to return, then were approved, sent to Hoi An to wait for the day to return to Batavia" [16].

Conclusion

Up to now, Vietnam has sufficient historical evidence of sovereignty over the sea and islands during the Nguyen Dynasty, including: Contemporary documents at home and abroad by Le Quy Don, Phu Bien Tap Luc (1776), Do Ba, Thien Nam Tu Chi Lo Do Thu (1687), Thich Dai San, Hai Ngoai Ky Su (1695), many records of the Dutch East India Company. The Hong Duc National Atlas was made under the reign of King Le Thanh Tong (1460-1497), maps drawn by the Portuguese and Dutch in the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries; the official history of the Le Dynasty has Dai Viet Su Ky Tuc Bien. The official history of the Nguyen Dynasty has Dai Nam Thuc Luc, Dai Nam Nhat Thong Chi... These are official, public sources of documents that have been widely circulated for many centuries. Field documents are the petition of Cai Hop Ha Lieu at Cu Lao Re in Canh Hung year 36 (1775) and the Directive dated 14-2 Thai Duc year 9 (1786) of Thai Pho Tong Ly Quan binh dan chu vu Thuong Tuong Cong to send to Cai Doi Hoang Sa to see the long-term effects of Hoang Sa team.

Compared with the criteria for establishing sovereignty over seas and islands, in the early days, the Nguyen lords were the only subjects, Vietnamese workers were the true owners and the only force carrying out the task of exploiting and protecting sovereignty in Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagos with two units carrying out the task of carrying the State's brand for the specific sea area of Vietnam, Hoang Sa team and Bac Hai team, which were consistent throughout the history of Vietnam's sovereignty in the East Sea under the Nguyen lords. During the French colonial period, as the representative of Vietnam in foreign affairs according to the Patenôtre Treaty (1884), the French colonial government carried out many activities to consolidate Vietnam's sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagos. From 1925 to 1927, France conducted climate and soil surveys, mine research and maintained patrols on the Hoang Sa archipelago.

During the years 1930 to 1933, France continuously sent troops to garrison the Truong Sa archipelago. For ease of management, in 1933, France annexed the Truong Sa archipelago to Ba Ria province (Cochinchina); established an administrative unit in Hoang Sa under Thua Thien province (in 1938). Also during this time, France also placed landmarks, built lighthouses and stations: meteorological, radio on the two archipelagos. In international relations, France has repeatedly voiced its opposition to China's sovereignty claims over the Paracel Islands. On October 14, 1950, France officially handed over the management of the Paracel Islands to the Bao Dai government.

In particular, in front of representatives of 51 countries, including China, at the San Francisco Conference (1951), representatives of the Bao Dai government as a member of the French Union, the Vietnamese national delegation led by Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Tran Van Huu participated and spoke at the conference, once again affirming Vietnam's sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagos. That statement was recorded in the San Francisco Conference Minutes and did not encounter any reservations or objections from representatives of the countries attending the conference, which affirmed Vietnam's long-standing sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagos with any objections from the countries attending the conference.

In 1975, along with the process of completely liberating the South and unifying the country, the Vietnam People's Navy liberated the islands occupied by the Saigon army, such as Truong Sa, Son Ca, Nam Yet, Song Tu Tay, Sinh Ton, An Bang and so on, belonging to the Truong Sa archipelago. At the same time, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam issued a statement affirming Vietnam's sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagos.

Since then, the Vietnamese Government has continuously issued many legal documents stating that the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagos are inseparable parts of Vietnam's territory and that Vietnam has full sovereignty over these two archipelagos, in accordance with the provisions of international law and practice. Most recently, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Vietnam issued Circular No. 33/2024/TT-BTNMT dated December 15, 2024 on "List of place names of islands, rocks, shoals, reefs and some other geographical objects in Vietnam's seas", thereby asserting Vietnam's sovereignty over 5,774 islands, reefs, shoals, shoals and some other geographical features in Vietnam's sea, including islands, reefs, shoals and shoals in Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagos. Up to now, Hoang Sa Island District (from July 1, 2025 called Hoang Sa Special Zone) is an administrative unit of Da Nang city; Truong Sa Island District (from July 1, 2025 called Truong Sa Special Zone) is under Khanh Hoa province with one town and two island communes. Therefore, Vietnam has sufficient historical and legal evidence to affirm its sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagos, and is the only country that has actually occupied and managed these two archipelagos continuously, peacefully, and in accordance with the provisions of international law.

REFERENCES

1. Ton That Duong Ky (1979), Hoang Sa and Truong Sa, the territory of Vietnam, Dai Doan Ket Magazine, No. 40, pp. 12.
2. Man Khanh Duong Ky, Tran Xuan Cau (1981), From the golden sandbank to Hoang Sa and Truong Sa, the territory of Vietnam, History, No. 2, Issues of Historical Science Today, University and Vocational High School Publishing House, pp. 83-84.
3. The Thuy (1999), Hoang Sa archipelago and the Nguyen lords' fleet, Hue past and present, No. 29, pp. 19.
4. Cristophoro Borri (1621), Dang Trong region in 1621, Translation, 1998, Ho Chi Minh City Publishing House, pp. 82-83.
5. Le Quy Don (1964), Miscellaneous Records of the Frontier, Science Publishing House, Hanoi, pp. 123.
6. Quoc su quan Trieu Nguyen (2007), Veritable Records of the Great South, Education Publishing House, Hanoi, pp. 1, 164.
7. Nguyen Thong (1877), General Book of The Imperially Ordered Annotated Text Completely Reflecting the History of Viet, Volume 4, pp. 47a, 48a-b.
8. Map of the Four Boundaries of Tiannan and Map of the Southern Conquest in the Year of the Horse (2014), Journal of Research and Development, No. 2 (109), Hue, pp. 40-41.
9. Dai Viet History Continued (1991), Social Sciences Publishing House, Hanoi, pp. 243.
10. Nguyen dynasty's National History Museum (1992), The Comprehensive Encyclopedia of Dai Nam, Vol. 2, Thuan Hoa Publishing House, Hue, pp. 423.
11. Nguyen Quang Ngoc (2001), The value of historical documents written about Hoang Sa and Truong Sa in the book "Miscellaneous Records of the Frontier", Journal of Historical Research, No. 5, pp. 33-34.
12. Thich Dai San (1963), Overseas Chronicles, Vietnam Historical Document Translation Committee - Hue University, p. 125.
13. Buch T.M. (1936), La Campagne des Indes Néerlandaises et L' Indochine, BEFEO, pp. 134-135.
14. Ch. Maybon (1916), Les marchands européens en Cochinchine et au Tonkin (1660-1775), Revue Indochinoise, Bulletin de L' Ecole Francaise d' Extreme Orient, V.16 (1), pp. 20-21.
15. Nguyen Van Kim (2020), Vietnamese people with the sea, The World Publishing House, Hanoi, pp. 484.
