

FOREWORD

Vietnamese cultural studies is a science that is older than other social sciences and humanities in Vietnam. However, over the past 200 years, Vietnamese cultural studies have achieved great achievements. A number of scholars have written research works on Vietnamese culture, marking the scientific study of Vietnamese culture. In addition to studying cultural issues in general, there should be works on specific topics. With this principle, from the years working in the South and then working at the Journal of Culture and Arts (formerly the Ministry of Culture and Information) and the Vietnam National Institute of Culture and Arts (now the Institute of Culture, Arts, Sports and Tourism under the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism) Ho Chi Minh city University of Culture (Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism) for more than 40 years, I have researched a number of areas and elements of Vietnam culture. My essays have been published in books, magazines or announced in national and international scientific conferences. My book "*A Study of Vietnam's Culture*" published this time includes 22 essays on Vietnamese culture, including 15 essays that I had published in the book "*A Study of Vietnam's Folklore*" by World (The Gioi) Publishing, Vietnam in 2007. During the research process, I received objective, frank, and sincere guidance and comments from scientists such as associate Professor Nguyen Tu Chi (1925-1995), Professor Dinh Gia Khanh (1924-2003), Professor Tran Quoc Vuong (1934-2005), Professor doctor of science To Ngoc Thanh (1934-2024), Professor doctor Ngo Duc Thinh (1944-2020), associate Professor doctor Ho Si Vinh(1933-2024), Professor doctor of science Luu Tran

Tieu, Professor doctor Nguyen Xuan Kinh, Professor doctor Kieu Thu Hoach, associate Professor doctor Tran Lam Bien, associate Professor doctor Ngo Van Doanh, associate Professor doctor Nguyen Ngoc Tho, doctor Tran Doan Lam, doctor Nguyen Thi Thu Huong, etc.

For words and sentences that may be unfamiliar to the reader, the author has included the original Vietnamese words and sentences alongside the English words and sentences. In other cases, the author has not included them in this way.

On the occasion of the book's introduction to readers, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the scientists. I hope that my book will contribute a small part to the work of cultural research and make some cultural issues more comprehensive. In my opinion, the study of Vietnamese culture is a great and complicated work. My articles in this book are only sketch studies, which are certainly not complete and may still have shortcomings. Therefore, I look forward to receiving comments from scholars at home and abroad so that the next reprint can be better.

Hanoi, Autumn 2025