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“Beat the revisionists up!” – North Vietnam and the Soviet Union before the Vietnam War”

This paper presents developments in North Vietnam in the prewar years (1960-1964) on the background of Vietnamese-Soviet relations. It will show in which way the domestic debate in DRV on the correct strategy for reunification and socializing the country was influenced by the Sino-Soviet conflict. The focus is on 1963 and 1964 when the debate between contending factions in Hanoi reached its climax and the Le Duan-Le Duc Tho started a campaign against “modern revisionism” in North Vietnam which also targeted the influence of the relatively liberal Soviet policy under Khushchev (“peaceful coexistence”) among North Vietnamese intellectuals and Party cadres. The paper relies on documents from the former East Germany, Vietnamese newspapers and journals and interviews.