

Viet Nam

1000 BC - occupied by Indochinese ~~people~~ aborigines into mountains -
Chinese elements: Mongolians & Thais descended from North (2000 BC)
Sedentary Indians to central Vietnam (1000 BC)

200 BC - bronze age culture in N Viet Nam - invaded by Chinese, ruled for 100 years -
implanted social, philosophical, economic patterns - 200 BC → 965 AD - Chinese rule -
- ousted by N. Vietnamese (965 AD) - still 1,000,000 Chinese dominating Vietnamese
- Viet Nam protects them versus Cambodians & Indians of 'Champa' region ^{enemy}
in Viet Nam - slowly expanded southward, virtual genocide of N. Vietnamese vs.
Indians - obliterated original Indian empire - conquest completed by 1750,
a 600 year conquest - down to southern tip of peninsula, leaving only Indonesians
& aborigines in central highlands. Vietnamese occupying lowlands

Vietnamese gave no depth to culture - left a base untroubled - these retreated,
withdrew into primitive mountain culture ('Montagnards') - isolated for 1000 yrs
- till 1750 a single hegemony over country - then period of faction & civil war began -
Dutch, British, Portuguese fought part wars - French took penetrating interest

2 dominant families in Vietnamese civil war - South vs North -

1795: alliance between southern family & French missionary who sought
military aid to help unify S. Vietnam - refused by Paris,
recruited local army of 300 men which consolidated country &
set up emperor -

- by now many Catholics (missionaries there since 1515) ~ 2,000,000
Catholics favored by new emperor - later emperors discriminated against
killed off Catholics - this provoked French - returned w army in 1850s
subjugated VNam - captured Saigon 1859 - Cambodia 1864 - Annam 1883 -
this constituted 'French Indochina'

Tonkin

Annam

Cochin

Laos

Cambodia

French Indochina -
consolidated 1883

- Fr. a good colonizer - but - motherland's govt destabilizing
was reflected in severe instability of VNam -
- extreme fertility → income from rubber pos. for France -
(today 85% possessions) - lack of French leadership -

[FDR's conviction that French had been aggressive - what bases?]

1940: At start of WWII French had 15 planes & 1 cruiser to defend 1200 mi of coastline

1. De Gaulle as leader of Free French - requested US force as taken opposition vs. Japanese - refused by US.
2. Cordell Hull informed De Gaulle U.S. would not support French resistance
3. FDR cancelled US arms order to French in Indochina for fear of Japan

Ho Chi Minh rose as opposition leader vs. Japanese - moved base to China - founded
Viet Minh gov't to oust both Japs & French -
Ho backed by OSS funds - the Geo. Washington of Viet Nam

University of Pennsylvania
Department of Anesthesia
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Robert D. Dripps, M. D.

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