

NGUYEN THAI HOC (1904-1930). Radical Vietnamese patriot and founder of the Vietnamese Nationalist Party (VNQDD). Born in a peasant family in Vinh Yen Province in the Red River Delta in 1902, he studied Education and Commerce in Hanoi. At first Nguyen Thai Hoc was inclined toward moderate reform, but when

his letter to Governor-general Alexander Varenne was ignored, his political persuasions turned more radical. Using a publishing firm as a front, Nguyen Thai Hoc founded a new political party, the Vietnamese Nationalist Party (Viet Nam Quoc Dan Dang, usually known as VNQDD for short) in the fall of 1927. The new party was modelled after Sun Yat-sen's political party of the same name, the Chinese Nationalist Party, (Guomindang), and had as its objective a violent revolution to overthrow French rule and restore Vietnamese independence.

During the next two years the VNQDD organized among radical youth, workers, and soldiers in Central and North Vietnam. In December 1928, Nguyen Thai Hoc was replaced as chairman, while the party suffered badly from French repression. In the summer of 1929 Nguyen Thai Hoc called for an insurrection based on revolts staged at military posts in the Red River Delta in early 1930. The so-called Yen Bay revolt broke out in February 1930 as scheduled, but arrangements were faulty and many of the troops were reluctant to follow the militants. After a few days the uprisings were put down and Nguyen Thai Hoc was himself arrested. He and several top leaders were executed by the French in mid-June. (See VNQDD; Yen Bay Revolt)