

VIETNAM SPECIAL COURSE
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SUPPLEMENTARY SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL EVENTS IN VIETNAM* 1920-1950

1920-1930 -- The Seeds of Revolt from the West are Sown:

(1915, 16, 17, each saw military revolts, that of 1916 led by the emperor. All were defeated.)

- 1923 Constitutional Party of Cochinchina, first western type political party was formed.
- 1924 Revival of clandestine groups. Student attempt (in China) to assassinate the Governor-General
- 1925 Formation (in Canton) of Revolutionary Youth League of Viet Nam by Nguyen van Cung, alias Nguyen Ai Quoc, alias Ho Chi Minh, "because political enlightenment not sufficient to justify formation of Communist Party."
- 1926 Foundation of Cao Dai religion. Nationalist groups began to rally to it, seeking to make it political.
- 1927 VNQDD (Viet Nam Quoc Dan Dang, Vietnamese Nationalist Party) formed in Tonkin. Combined features of political party and revolutionary conspiracy. Supported by Chinese Kuomintang.
- 1929 Revolutionary Youth League first Congress held in Hongkong. Attempts to change name to Indochinese Communist Party. Abortive uprising led by portion of the VNQDD, suppressed.

1930-1940 -- The Western Seeds of Revolution begin to Sprout:

- 1930 January- VNQDD-led uprising at Yen Bai, garrison mutiny. Bloody suppression by French, rumored betrayal by Commies.
May Day - Communist-led riots and uprisings began. "Soviets" established in two provinces. (Viet Nam Communist Party formed in January, renamed Indochinese CP in October.)
June - Execution of founder of VNQDD, years of repression of Vietnamese nationalists began.
- 1932 "Provisional Indochinese Government" established by VNQDD and others in Canton, under KMT protection, border war. Trotskyite (Fourth International) party formed. Bao Dai assumed duties of emperor.
- 1933 Ngo Dinh Diem appointed Minister of Interior, resigned because of French interference.
Indochinese Communist Party again became active, peasant organizational work intensified, coalition with some trotskyites.

* See "Summary of Principal Events in the History of Vietnam", Research Memorandum of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State, dated 10 January 1962, to which this is an unofficial supplement prepared for instructional purposes within the Orientation Branch of AID.

- 1936 Political party activity permitted on limited scale, thanks to Communist-influenced Popular Front French government. Trotskyites emerged as major force in Cochinchina.
- 1938 Hoa Hao sect formed by Huynh Phu So, began attracting nationalist attention.
- 1940 June - Fall of France, Japanese demanded concessions in Vietnam. Phuoc Quoc (old pro-Japanese party) staged widespread troubles, but received no Japanese support. Stringently treated by French.
- September - Japanese occupation began. Communist uprisings during rest of year all suppressed by French with at least tacit Japanese assistance. French remained in control of civil government, with Jap "advisors".
- 1941 Viet Nam Doc Lap Dong Minh -- the "Viet Minh" - organized in China by coalition of nationalist and communist elements. Communists quickly gained control.
- 1942 Chinese and Japanese recognized value of nationalist groups, danger of Communists. Ho jailed in China. Vo Nguyen Giap began organizing guerrilla forces in North. Trotskyites and Catholics began organization in South.
- Dong Minh Hoi, coalition of all nationalist elements, organized under KMT patronage.
- 1943 Ho released, to work with DMH, actually devoted everything to building up Communist influence and the Viet Minh.
- 1944 Viet Minh began receiving US support, started attacks on separate non-Comm nationalist elements.
- F D Roosevelt and Chiang Kai Shek agreed France must go.
- 1945 March- Japanese "deposed" French. "Independent" Viet Nam under Bao Dai proclaimed. Non-Communist nationalists sought to form coalition in Saigon; Dai Viet party founded in Annam.
- August - War ended. Viet Minh formed government in Hanoi, later took over coalition in Saigon. Bao Dai abdicated.
- September - Proclamation of "Democratic Republic of VN, Ho Chi Minh, President." British troops landed in south to disarm Japanese, restore French rule. Chinese entered to occupy north. Outbreaks violent fighting in Saigon.
- October - French began reconquest of South.
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- 1954 - Nov. "The odds were considered at least eight to one against Diem and the free world." - Carl T Rowan.
- 1955 - May - The Binh Xuyen disappeared as a significant force.

Notes on Vietnam and 1956 period Russo-British Conferences

1956 - 29-30 April, state visit by Khrushchev & Bulganin to London. FoF does not report any statements from this visit about I Vietnam. This was the visit during which Cmdr Crabbe disappeared.

There are no references in 1956 FoF to any Russo or Russo-Brit statements on the elections in Vietnam.

1955 - 22 July: US, GB, France recommend that there be preparatory talks initiated between N & S Vietnam, looking toward a plebiscite. No other significant policy statements recorded for the year, on this topic.

1957 - 19 July: Pham van Dong sent letter to Diem proposing discussions on a plebiscite. No other significant info for that year, on this topic.

Page 53 of the 1955 FoF index is excellent chronology of events.

Bound volumes of FoF may be obtained at \$30 each from

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