

SUNY BROCKPORT VIETNAM PROGRAM
VIETNAMESE HISTORY

Introduction

Vietnamese history is an over four-thousand-year history of constructing and struggling for its dependence. Vietnamese history is woven by great deeds made with the deep patriotism, the undauntedness and the whole-hearted dedication of Vietnamese people. These above characteristics have been conserved and will be improved for good. While studying Vietnamese history, the students not only have chances to understand how Vietnamese people lived in the wartime or how they could gain such glorious victories in spite of challenges they were facing but also touch Vietnamese people's beauties in the peacetime. Since Vietnamese history does not simply record historical events, it is also a place in which Vietnamese people's characteristics are kept. A full understanding of Vietnamese history will help the students understand their clients who vary in age and gender more clearly and facilitate their integration during their four-month-stays in Vietnam. This is a three-credit course.

Course objectives

Students who successfully complete this course are expected to:

1. distinguish the four periods of Vietnamese history and state the characteristics of each period.
2. analyze the process of construction and defense of the country.
3. describe the Vietnamese people's struggles against Chinese invaders.
4. demonstrate their knowledge of a nearly 100-year struggle against the French invaders.
5. demonstrate the Vietnamese people's 21-year struggle against the US invasion.
6. illustrate the leadership of the Vietnamese Communist Party in fighting against foreign invaders.
7. describe Ho Chi Minh 's contributions to the Vietnamese People's Revolution.
8. demonstrate knowledge of socialism construction and illustrate the achievements and challenges of Vietnamese people after the reunification of the country on April 30th, 1975.

Course design:

Text and other learning materials will be provided.

Time: Monday morning from 8:00 to 11:30

Quizzes: The students must be ready for the these quizzes during the whole semester

Midterm and final papers: The students will have to prepare the written midterm and final papers. The students will have one week off to write their papers.

The students are required to study the following lectures:

WEEKS	LECTURES	OBJECTIVES	LECTURERS
1	Primary introduction of the ancient and medieval history of Vietnam (<i>from the very beginning to 1858</i>)	-understand the four periods of Ancient and Medieval history of Vietnam -demonstrate the characteristics of each period: formation, construction, protection and development.	NGUYỄN XUYÊN
2	Over 1,000-year struggle for independence and against the Han invaders (Chinese feudalists)	-demonstrate the savage domination and assimilation policies of the Han (Chinese) -explain armed and cultural-ideological struggles for independence and national identity	
3	People's war of resistance against invaders during the medieval period (<i>from tenth century to the time before 1858</i>)	- understand the struggles of Vietnamese people against Chinese invaders in this period - demonstrate the struggles of Vietnamese people in fighting for their national independence	
4	The preparation and invasion of French colonialism-the struggles against the French by Vietnamese people in the late 19 th century	-explain why and how Vietnam was invaded and occupied by the French colonialists. -understand the characteristics of the struggles in the late of 19 th century	NGUYỄN HỮU GIANG
5	The Vietnamese national salvation movement in the early of 20th century-The proletarian revolution -A guideline to liberate Vietnam	-grasp a full understanding of changes in Vietnamese society -understand the significance and characteristics of the struggles in this period -understand how the proletarian revolution become a guideline of Vietnamese revolution	

6	Preparing and launching the august general uprising in 1945 to gain back the independence	-demonstrate the preparation for the General Uprising in 1945 --understand its significance	
7	Midterm paper		
8	The resistance against the French colonialists and the American's involvement waged by Vietnamese people (1945 - 1954)	-have a comprehensive understanding of the situation of Vietnam after the August Revolution. -have an overall knowledge of the Vietnamese resistance against the French	NGUYỄN MẠNH HỒNG
9&10	The war resistance against the american imperialists for independence, freedom and unity of the country(1954 - 1975)	- explain reasons and purposes of the American invasion in Vietnam - demonstrate five stages of the war of resistance against the American imperialists	
11	Vietnam after the war-Achievements, difficulties and challenges	-understand situation of Vietnam after April 30, 1975 -demonstrate the construction of socialism and renewal in Vietnam -illustrate achievements the Vietnamese people have gained	
12	Ho Chi Minh in the Vietnamese history evolution (1911 - 1969)	- describe Ho Chi Minh's biography -demonstrate his great contributions to the Vietnamese Revolution	
13	Final Paper		

Reference books

- 1- **Far-sighted Sovereigns in Vietnam**, The Gioi Publisher, Ha Noi, 2004
- 2-**Ho Chi Minh -The man who made a nation**, The Gioi Publisher, Ha Noi 2005
- 3-**Ho Chi Minh Thought Will Light Our Path Forever**, The Gioi Publisher, Ha Noi, 2002

4-**How South Vietnam was liberated** by General Hoang Van Thai, The Gioi Publisher, 2005

5-**Lepers and Lunacy- An American in Vietnam today** by Kenneth J. Herrmann, Jr by Booksurge

6-**People 's War People's Army** by General Vo Nguyen Giap, The Gioi Publisher, Ha Noi, 2004

7-**President Ho Chi Minh's Testament** by The Central Committee of The Communist party of Vietnam, The Gioi Publisher, 2002

8-**The diaries of Dang Thuy Tram**, source: Texas Tech University

9- **The Maverick Guide to Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia** by Len Rutledge, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna 1993

10- **Understanding Vietnam** by Neil L. Jameison

11-**Vietnam On The Path Of Renewal** by Nguyen Trong Phu, The Gioi Publisher, 2004

12- **Vietnam - A long history** by Nguyen Khac Vien, The Gioi Publisher, Hanoi 1983

13- **Vietnam, Civilization and Culture** by Pierre Huard and Maurice Durand, translated from the French version by Vu Thien Kim, Ecole Francaise D'extreme Orient, Hanoi 1994

Grading

The students will be graded on an "A" (Excellent) to "E" (not acceptable or too poor) scale.

A: Outstanding performance: You demonstrated a thorough understanding of the Vietnamese culture. Your essay was written in an excellent manner.

B: Good performance: You demonstrated that you understood most of the lectures. Your ideas were clearly written.

C: Average performance: You did not demonstrate clearly that you understood the lectures. Your ideas were not clearly written.

D: Marginal. Just passing. You barely demonstrated an understanding of the concepts. There are numerous problems in your writing and ideas.

E: Unacceptable: You demonstrated no understanding of the Vietnamese culture

This grade is made through a combination of the following:

40%: Final: A ten-page essay (doubled space, font size: 12, margin: top: 1 cm, bottom: 1cm, left: 3.5 cm. right: 1.34 cm)

30%: Mid-term: A ten-page essay (doubled space, font size: 12, margin: top: 1 cm, bottom: 1cm, left: 3.5 cm. right: 1.34 cm)

20%: Quizzes

10%: Attendance and behaviors^(*)

If you successfully finish this course, you will earn four credits

^(*) Students must attend all sessions (indoor and outdoor activities) and are expected to participate actively in the activities scheduled for each session. Students' behaviors and attitudes in class are also graded.

PRIMARY INTRODUCTION OF THE ANCIENT
AND MEDIEVAL HISTORY OF VIETNAM
(From the very beginning to 1858)

Objectives: Students are expected to:

- understand the four periods of Ancient and Medieval history of Vietnam
- demonstrate the characteristics of each period: formation, construction, protection and development.

Vietnamese history from the beginning to 1858 is called the ancient and medieval period. The period lasted over a hundred thousand years since the first human beings appeared in this land, set up the state, constructed, defended the country, and developed the economy and culture.

The ancient and medieval history of Vietnam is divided into 4 periods as follows:

• **The primitive period: 400,000 - 500,000 years ago.**

This period dates back to the time when human beings first came into being until the establishment of the primitive state. It consisted of 2 stages: the stage of primitive men and the stage of clan commune.

• **The period of construction and defense: almost 4,000 years ago to 179 BC.**

This was the period of Hung Vuong constructing and An Duong Vuong defending the country. This period ended with An Duong Vuong's failure in the resistance against Trieu Da.

• **Chinese domination and defense period: from 179 BC to 938.**

This was the period of cruel domination of Northern feudalists (China). However, this was also the period when the Vietnamese people continuously revolted against the Chinese domination.

• **Independent feudalism period or Dai Viet period: from (10th) century to 1858:**

This was the period in which national construction was performed on a large scale with great achievements in all aspects: economy, politics, culture, education...etc.

I. The primitive period in Vietnam:

- Two periods: the primitive men and the clan commune:
- Vietnam, located in Southeast Asia, is a country with numerous mountains, woods, rivers and streams, a 3,000 km -

long coastline, and a tropical monsoon climate that is favorable for flora and fauna. Favorable conditions for human beings to live and develop have always existed in Vietnam, even during prehistory. Anthropoids' remains and tools have been found in Vietnam. In the caves of Thám Khuyã, Thám Háí (Lãng Sãn province), Thám ÄÖm (Nghãu An province) and Hang Huim (Yãn Báí province), we have found teeth having features of both human beings and gibbons in sedimentary rocks dated from 400,000 to 500,000 years ago. Tools have also been found in many other areas in Vietnam. They are roughly-chipped stone splinters in Äöu mountain (Thanh Hoĩa province), Xuãn Lãüc (Ääöng Nai province), Lãüc Ninh (Bçnh Phæãic province).

- Because of their limited awareness, rudimentary tools, and wild and severe life; human beings had to live in what were called primitive herds. Each herd consisted of from 20 to 30 persons of different generations. They lived by hunting and gathering food and had no fixed settlement.
- In the late stone age - Paleolithic period, there were many tribes living by hunting and gathering food in Vietnam. The tribes' culture was called Sãn Vi. The Sãn Vi culture's traces are found in many places such as: Sãn La, Lai Chãu, Laõ Cai, Vãn Phũic, Phũ Thoũ, Bãõc Giang, Thanh Hoĩa, Nghãu An, Hà Tãn, Quãng Bçnh and Quãng Trẽ. The Sãn Vi culture's generations arrived from 10,000 to 18,000 years ago and perhaps even as early as 30,000 years ago. The Sãn Vi culture's practitioners made knives and scrapers from stone. Characteristics of the Sãn Vi culture 's tools were roughly-chipped stones with stable types.
- The Sãn Vi culture's arrival ended the anthropoids' stage in Vietnam and began the transitional stage to a higher period - the period of commune clan and tribe.
- Through labor, Sãn Vi culture's tribes gradually improved their tools and stepped into a new, higher stage of culture: the development of the Hoĩa Bçnh culture. The Hoĩa Bçnh culture's inhabitants expanded their residence to numerous areas from the Northwest Mountains to the Central plains. They lived near caves, rivers, and streams to lead a comparatively stable life. The tools of the Hoĩa Bçnh inhabitants were made from pebbles but varied in types and were more progressive: the stone was roughly chipped on the surface. The typical tools of the Hoĩa Bçnh inhabitants were rectangular axes. Hunting and food gathering were the main economic activities of the Hoĩa Bçnh inhabitants. They hunted wild beasts and caught fish and shellfish from the sea. Most importantly, the Hoĩa Bçnh inhabitants invented primitive agriculture. Therefore, the Vietnamese were one of the first peoples who developed agriculture over 10,000

years ago and Vietnam was one of the earliest centers where agriculture was practiced in the world. The Hoia Bçnh inhabitants may have been the first people in Vietnam to practice primitive religious beliefs. In the cave of Aãong Nãui (Hoia Bçnh) a drawing of a creature with the body of an animal body having 3 human heads with horns was found.

- The Bãoc Sãn culture came into being after the Hoia Bçnh culture. The Bãoc Sãn culture's practitioners lived in caves and under the roofs of limestone mountains in the provinces of Hoia Bçnh, . Ninh Bçnh, Thanh Hoia, Nghãu An, and Quaing Ninh. Gradually they went down to the midlands. The Bãoc Sãn culture's tools were similar to the Hoa Binh culture's but they were more progressive because their inhabitants knew how to polish them. They were axes of polished stone. Besides axes, the people could make other tools from stone, such as chisels and knives. With axes of polished stone the Bãoc Sãn inhabitants easily made other tools from bamboo and wood, and improved the Hoia Bçnh primitive agriculture. They, however, still lived on hunting wild beasts and animals, catching fish in the rivers and sea, and gathering food. Pottery with a bell-top and a round bottom made its appearance in the Bãoc Sãn period. It was crude pottery heated at a low temperature in a small quantity. However, in some localities such as Nghãu An province, during the Bãoc Sãn period, the Quyinh Vãn tribe used progressive techniques to make pottery but did not know how to polish stone.

- In their social structure, Bãoc Sãn and Quyinh Vãn inhabitants lived in matriarchal clan communes.

- The spiritual life of the Bãoc Sãn inhabitants was richer and more progressive than that of the Hoia Bçnh inhabitants. Their adornments varied in types and sizes. They included necklaces made of shells, adornments made of stones with holes to dress, and chains of terracotta. The Bãoc Sãn inhabitants showed their knees bent, along with a few tools and adornments made of shells, bones and stones. Their tombs were near their residences. Dead people were buried with their adornments and tools.

- At the end of Neolithic Era about 5,000 - 6,000 years ago, thanks to the development of stone polishing techniques, the primitive inhabitants in Vietnam made great progress and the "*Neolithic Revolution*" was a particular achievement. Primitive cultivation became popular and developed into wet rice cultivation, a main occupation at that time. In the mean time, people polished stone on both sides of their tools. They also knew how to drill and saw stones. The tools

in this period included roughly chipped and rectangular axes and shoulder axes. There were also well-polished chisels, knives, and hoes with handles. Hunting and food-gathering still existed, but they were not vital occupations. Fishing developed in the coastal areas while livestock -breeding appeared and developed with several kinds of animals such as buffaloes, cows, pigs, chicken, ducks, and dogs. Rice was considered the main source of food for human beings. Primitive agriculture became the main production sector of the society. Handicraft also developed, especially in making stone and pottery. Weaving also came into being.

- The society in the "*Neolithic Era*" was divided into clans as it had been in the previous period. All clan members were bloodline relatives. Men were created equal, and the elderly was highly respected. Women were more respected than men. Healthy and well-experienced elderly women led their clans. Division of labor was implemented between genders. There was no human exploitation. Around the same time as hoes appeared in agriculture, the clan communes became progressive matriarchies.

- The inhabitants also improved their spiritual life. Adornments were abundant, and the aesthetic standard was also improved. This could be seen on decorated pottery of various sizes with geometrical drawings. Their conception for the other world became more sophisticated, and the dead were buried in different ways.

-At the end of the Neolithic era, about 4,000 years ago, on the basis of the development of pottery and stone manufacturing, the inhabitants of the Phung Nguyen tribe residing in the Red River delta discovered bronze and techniques to refine bronze that formed the Hoa Loc culture. The inhabitants here started entering the early Bronze Age. Simultaneously, the residents in the delta of the Ma, Ca, and Dong Nai rivers also began to enter the Bronze Age.

- Wherever the inhabitants lived, they all grew rice with the assistance of stone hoes. The techniques for making stone tools made great progress. Sawing, drilling, turning and being roughly chipped were popular and eventually improved. Besides rice cultivation, the inhabitants raised livestock such as buffaloes, cows, pigs, chickens, ducks, and dogs. The Phùng Nguyễn's handicraft vigorously developed. Pottery's decorative styles and types were plentiful. Bronze metallurgy appeared, and other professions were also improved. Hunting and fishing continued to exist, but their development was different in each area.

- The spiritual life of the Phùng Nguyển inhabitants was very rich. Tools were well shaped, well polished and nice-looking. Pottery was well adorned. Adornments were made of different materials. Statues of chickens and cows were made of baked clay. The dead were normally buried in communal graves together with working tools, ornaments and pottery.

- The social structure of the Phùng Nguyển period gradually shifted from the matriarchal clan communes to the initial patriarchal ones.

II. The first period of construction and protection of the kingdom in the Vietnamese history.

- To date, scientists presume that construction of kingdoms in Vietnam has gone through four successive periods of development. The later periods were more advanced than the earlier ones: From the early bronze era to the iron era (Phùng Nguyển and Ấng Ấu period) then to Goì Mun period and finally reaching its peak with the Ấng Sủ culture. In 2,000 BC there was a drastic change in the fields of economy, society, politics, and culture, leading to the arrival of the first kingdom in the Vietnamese history. This is also the first development of an ancient civilization the - Vủ Lang - Ấu Laủ civilization.

- In the early bronze age (of Phùng Nguyển culture), bronze tools were rare while stone ones were in common use. Thus, the economy was primitive. In the Ấng Ấu and Goì Mun periods, especially in the Ấng Sủ age, several types of bronze tools such as ploughshares, scythes, arrows, axes and shovels first made their appearance and became popular. Each type of tools had different models and sizes.

- The development of production tools improved the economy with a number of occupations, especially wet-rice cultivation that played the key role. Manufacturing ploughshares and using them in agriculture instead of hoes led to a drastic improvement in the economy. The Ấng Sủ inhabitants also knew how to use buffaloes and cows to plough land. Agricultural development required more and more irrigation work and land-reclamation, both of which the inhabitants were very good at.

- With metal implements, the Ấng Sủ inhabitants expanded their area of settlement, promoted land-reclamation, and conquered the deltas of the North and North-Central regions. In addition to the wet-rice cultivation, people also developed gardening. They planted several kinds of tubers

and fruit trees. Farming, fishing, handicrafts and the raising of livestock developed substantially.

The economic development in several fields was a basic foundation for expanding overseas exchanges trade

- The drastic development in economy, the division of labor between agriculture and handicraft, the development of products and the materials exchanges (barter system) among localities in the *Âng Sãn* period encouraged the increase of social properties. Abundance of products led to social division. Property ownership appeared and gradually developed, which led to an important change in the society - a division between the rich and the poor. The social gap, caused by the social divisions, became more serious during the Dong Son Period, which resulted in the arrival of different classes in society such as: aristocrat, slave and free inhabitants of commune. These developments led to the formation of an upper class in the society that became richer and richer and ran the public affairs of the communes.

Therefore, these were the prerequisites for the kingdom-construction and the first kingdom of Vietnam in the *Âng Sãn* period.

a)The kingdom of *Vãn Lang*

- As a rule, the first kingdom is often established when there is irreconcilable class -contradictions in the society. But the construction of the first kingdom in Vietnam did not absolutely follow this path. It followed another pattern similar to the way many Eastern states were formed. Along with social division, irrigation work and self-defense also played important roles. The irrigation work and self-defense themselves could not shape the kingdom but they could speed up the advance of the kingdom's establishment and stipulate the kingdom's characteristics and functions.

- Irrigation work and self-defense played important roles in shaping a common territory and forming the first kingdom in the *Âng Sãn* period. Because of the demand for irrigation and territory protection, tribes living in the North and Central North regions voluntarily allied with each other (there were 15 tribes in the old history) to establish a general territory under the leadership of *Vãn Lang* clan. The alliance of *Vãn Lang* tribe with its counterparts was the first step in forming the first state in the Vietnamese history. The construction of common territory was also the construction of a general organization to manage and administer the society.

- In conclusion, Văn Lang kingdom came into being in the *Âng Sãn* period, about the seventh sixth centuries BC.
- Văn Lang kingdom's structure was under the three-level system of the ruling mechanism with three correlative mandarins. The head of Văn Lang kingdom was King Hung and the throne was hereditary. The King Hung named the kingdom *Văn Lang*, which was located in Baùch Haùc (Viãùt Trç, Vénh Phuï). The King often presided over religious ceremonies and also conducted military operations.
- The King ruled through Laùc Háõu (civilian chief) and Laùc Tããng (military chief). The military chiefs managed tribal affairs. The Văn Lang kingdom was made up of 15 tribes. Military chief positions were also hereditary. The tribes ruled rural communes. The heads of each commune were Bãu Chênh (subaltern officials). Additionally, there may have been one more communal committee elected by commune members.
- A regular army (as well as the kingdom's dictatorial implements) did not develop. Whenever wars happened, the communes' armed forces played a key role. In the legal aspect, laws were not written down yet.
- Although the Văn Lang kingdom was primitive, simple, and comparatively early, it marked an important development stage in the Vietnamese history. It opened the first era of the kingdom's construction and defense of the Vietnamese people.

b) The resistance war against the Ch'in and the Áu Laùc kingdom construction:

The war of resistance against the Ch'in dynasty:

- In the year 221 BC the Ch'in Kingdom annihilated the other 6 kingdoms, which put an end to the six-hero situation and united China. Ch'in King called himself Shih Huang-ti (Táun Thuý Hoàng) and established an absolute monarchy.
- Ch'in dynasty initiated several territory building campaigns, which established a massive empire in the North and mainly in the South. In the year 218 BC, Ch'in dynasty mobilized a huge army of 500,000 soldiers to move down to the South and invaded Baìch Viãùt (the Hundred Yues) kingdom. With its vigorous army, the Ch'in occupied Lénh Nam and broke it up into 3 districts (Nam Háí, Quãú Lám, Tããng) to merge into Ch'in 's empire. Ch'in's aggressors moved impetuously to Áu Viãùt and Laùc Viãùt 's territory (Laùc Viãùt people were the main residents in Văn Lang, Áu Viãùt people lived in the Northern mountains, part of Văn Lang kingdom, and had a close relationship with the Laùc Viãùt people).
- Before Ch'in army invasion, the Áu Viãùt joined the Laùc Viãùt to defend their territories. The Ch'in army was so powerful that the Viãùt people had to retreat to the forests

to plan for a long resistance. Thuộc Phaïn - the Ấu Viãût chief, a young, brave and clever fighter - was elected to lead the struggle. During the daytime, the Ấu Viãût evaded their enemies so that at night they could attack. Their familiarity with the rural communes, and the enemy's lack of experience in the dangerous and risky mountainous areas helped the Ấu Viãût to fight for a long time, which wore down the enemy's strength. The prolonged, persistent, and clever war of the Ấu Viãût and Laúc Viãût troubled the enemy and drove them to despair. In the mean time, the Viãût organized their army to attack the Ch'in

- Finally, in 208 BC, Shih Huang-ti died and China encountered numerous difficulties that made the Ch'in cease their fighting and the Ấu Viãût and Laúc Viãût won. The Viãût's war of resistance against the Ch'in was the Vietnamese people's first victory over a Northern empire.

c) Ấu Laúc kingdom's arrival

- Before the war of resistance against the Ch'in, the Ấu Viãût had good ties with the Laúc Viãût. The war of resistance that lasted for five to six years gradually strengthened and enhanced Thuộc Phaïn 's prestige among the Ấu Viãût and the Laúc Viãût.

- Defeating the Ch'in army, Thuộc Phaïn merged the Ấu Viãût and Vãn Lang kingdoms to form the Ấu Laúc kingdom. He took the title of An Dẫng Vẫng.

- Ấu Laúc kingdom's arrival was a continuous development of Vãn Lang kingdom to a higher stage. The kingdom's machinery and administrative units were the same as those of the Vãn Lang kingdom's.

- An Dẫng Vẫng chose Cặ Loạ (Ấng Anh, Hài Nặi) to be the capital. The firm citadel of Cặ Loạ became the Central Administration of the Ấu Laúc kingdom.

- The first period of the kingdom construction plays a key role in Vietnamese history. After a long time of settlement, territory expansion, and developing economics, the society developed from a primitive one into the civilization of a ranked-society. The ancient Vietnamese simultaneously founded the first civilization- " The Van Lang- Au Lac civilization," a sound foundation of national characteristics, and a source of spiritual strength that encouraged the Vietnamese people to overcome later challenges. The appearance and existence of Van Lang -Au Lac state were vital prerequisites for the arrival and development of national conception, common cultural features, the root of patriotism, humanity, solidarity, and national self- reliance.

d) The material and spiritual lives of Văn Lang - Âu Lạc inhabitants:

- Material life:

+ The way the Văn Lang - Âu Lạc inhabitants dressed, lived and traveled reflected the life-style of agricultural residents planting wet rice on coastal areas with a monsoon climate.

+ The Văn Lang - Âu Lạc inhabitants considered rice, especially sticky rice, as their main food. Sticky rice was used to cook square cake (bánh chưng), and bánh dày. In addition to rice, the Văn Lang - Âu Lạc inhabitants ate agricultural products. People had rice with fish, shrimps, crabs, shellfish, tortoises, several kinds of vegetables and meat. Some spices made from natural herbs (ginger, leek...) were used. Food was processed in various ways such as: boiling, frying, preserving in salt, and eating raw.... Some fruits such as longans, litchis, apricots, plums, bananas, watermelon, oranges, and tangerines among the others became popular. The Văn Lang - Âu Lạc inhabitants had a custom of drinking wine and chewing betel.

+ Men wore loincloths while women used skirts. Several kinds of cloth were made from cotton yarn, hemp string, and silk thread.... Some were single-tied, the other were double-tied. Apart from being tied around their skirts, women wore breast-cloth (Vietnamese bras), blouses were split in the middle with ropes tied around their waist and towels were wound around their heads. On traditional holidays, women and men's costumes were more ornamented with feather hats, flared feather skirts, and several kinds of adornments.

People wore different styles of hair: short hair, chignon, braids and winded hair upside down the top of their heads.

+ Besides chewing betel, the Vietnamese had a custom of tattooing and had their teeth dyed black. The Vietnamese lived in houses on stilts built of wood or bamboo.

+ Household appliances were very plentiful such as: ceramics or bronze vases, shells, jars, trays and basins. There were containers made from bamboo, slender.

The main means of transport was boats. Animals such as buffaloes, cows, elephants, and horses, were used as means of transport.

- Spiritual life:

+ The ancient Vietnamese in Văn Lang - Âu Lạc period had a fairly high standard of thinking and aesthetics. The Vietnamese people's techniques for refining bronze reached the high level of development in Ấng Sãn period in constructing, smelting hearths, smelting patterns, blending materials, and decorating things. The standard of thinking

was also shown in the standard of refining iron and techniques for making porous iron.

+ The Vietnamese had a practice of ancestor worship, and respect for national heroes and leaders. Besides this religious belief, the Vietnamese also preserved the primitive religions.

+ Several traditions and customs were shaped expressing the variety and development of their spiritual life such as: marriage, engagement, funeral ceremony, and burying the dead.

+ Popular holidays played an important part in Văn Lang - Âu Lạc inhabitants' spiritual life.

- *Aesthetics:*

+ The ancient Vietnamese loved beauty and always tried to improve things in this direction. This was shown in the number of the adornments, working tools, household appliances and weapons.

+ Âu Lạc's art reached a high level of development.

+ Music developed with many musical instruments, especially the bronze drum.

DANANG UNIVERSITY

Teachers' Training College of Danang

Instructor: Nguyễn Xuyễn

OVER 1,000 YEAR STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE AND
AGAINST THE HAN INVADERS (CHINESE FEUDALISTS)

(From 179 BC to 938 AD)

Objectives: Students are expected to

- demonstrate the savage domination and assimilation policies of the feudal Han (Chinese)
- explain armed and cultural - ideological struggles for independence and national identity.

I. Domination and assimilation policies of the feudal Han :

1. Trieu Da's invasion:

-At the end of the 3rd century BC, the Ch'in dynasty weakened and collapsed and a former official of the Ch'in dynasty named Trieu Da occupied the three Northern districts of Nam Hai, Qu Lu and Tseung (present - day Kwangtung and Kwangsi of China) to establish Nam Viet kingdom. Then Trieu Da waged aggressive wars against the Au Lac kingdom. However, since the Au Lac had a strong army, good weapons, a solid citadel named Co Loa, and talented army chiefs, the Trieu Da troops were defeated several times. After many unsuccessful attacks, Trieu Da realized that he could not conquer the Au Lac kingdom through violent means; therefore, he adopted a more cunning approach.

- Trieu Da suggested reconciling with An Duong Vuong (Au Lac king) by arranging a marriage for Au Lac's princess My Nhat Chau and Trong Thu, his son. Trong Thu took the advantage of the Vietnamese custom of living with his wife's family. Trieu Da told Trong Thu to stay in Co Loa citadel. His stay was an opportunity to investigate the defense and military secrets of the Au Lac. Trong Thu used money to create hostility among the local administrators, weakened the fighting will of the Thu dynasty and made the Thu king unaware of his scheme. After living with his wife 's family and fulfilling his duties, Trong Thu went back to his country to join his father. Having mastered the situation and the national defense system of the Au Lac kingdom, Trieu Da suddenly attacked the kingdom. In 179 BC., the Au Lac's resistance against the invaders failed, and the kingdom was conquered.

2. Domination and assimilation policies of the feudal Han:

- The failure in the war of resistance against Triãûu Âaì 's aggression turned the independent kingdom of Áu Laûc into a dependent one. This event led to the domination of the Feudal Han over Áu Laûc for over 1,000 years. The domination policy of each dynasty of the Feudal Han was different, but they all aimed at turning Áu Laûc kingdom into a district of China to completely exploit and assimilate its people.

a/ The ruling machinery:

-After winning the war, Triãûu Âaì divided Áu Laûc kingdom into two parts: *Chiao Chih and Chiu Chen* and merged them into his Nam Viet kingdom. In 111 BC, the Han annihilated the Nam Viãût of Triãûu Âaì and also ruled Áu Laûc kingdom, which was divided into three districts. At that time in Chiao Chih there were nine districts that formed from the three districts of Au Lac kingdom and the other six of China.

-The Head of Chiao Chih was the vien thu su (minister); heads of districts were vien thai thu (chief). Each district was divided into communes. The West Han like the previous Triãûu dynasty, applied the same ruling measure: "*the Vietnamese rule the Vietnamese*". Military chiefs still ruled their localities as district chiefs. However, after the year of 43 AD, the Han re-established their domination. At the district level, there was a Chinese chief. Through dynasties of the Feudal Han, districts were merged several times Their administration and domination, generally, were getting harsher. In 618 the Duong took the Tuý 's place in China. They named Chiao Chih *the An Nam dominated district*. Under the district level, there were communes, villages...

- Along with establishing the ruling authority, the Han applied strict and savage laws over the Vietnamese people to maintain their domination and exploitation.

b/ Savage pillage and exploitation towards the native inhabitants:

- Relying on their forceful authority based on political oppression; the feudal Han exerted their utmost to exploit and pillage local residents. They occupied agricultural land to establish plantations, applied harsh policies, and imposed heavy head-taxes and tributes over the Vietnamese people.

c/ Cultural assimilation:

- In order to enslave the Viãût's ideological and spiritual life, the feudal Han promulgated Confucianism "open school to teach courtesy". The feudal Han popularized Chinese in Chiao Chih. It was considered an implement to assimilate the Vietnamese people. The dominated authority frenziedly embarked on immigrating the Chinese to live with the

Vietnamese, forced the Vietnamese to change their customs, and popularized the Chinese customs.

- Under the Han 's savage domination and exploitation, the Âu Lạc inhabitants were mistreated. They continually rose up to fight against the feudal Han.

II. Struggles for independence and against the feudal Han:

1. Armed struggles for independence:

-During the over 1,000 years of suffering from the feudal Han 's domination, the oppressed inhabitants in the three districts of Chiao Chih, Chiu Chen and Nhat Nam ceaselessly waged their insurrections for independence. In those armed struggles against the feudal Han waged by the Vietnamese, there were some large-scaled insurrections expanding throughout several localities with unanimous response of all population living in the three districts. Occasionally, they won and established their independent authority. The most important struggles for independence were as follows:

-In 40, Trưng sisters (Trưng Trắc and Trưng Nhẽ) launched a vast insurrection in Me Linh and the whole population of the three districts followed them and won. An independent kingdom was established for three years (40-43).

-In 248, Lady Triệu Thê Trinh launched a large-scaled struggle against the foreign domination throughout the districts of Chiao Chih and Chiu Chen.

-In 542, Lyĩ Băn (or Lyĩ Bê) revolted in Chiao Chih to establish Van Xuan kingdom in 544.

-In 722, Mai Thuĩ Loan led an insurrection throughout the three communes of Châu, Diãùn, and Aïi.

-In 905, Khuĩc Thạì Duũ led his people to defeat the Han and set up the national administration. He laid the important foundation for gaining the absolute sovereignty of the Âu Lạc kingdom.

-The Bach Dang victory in 938 put an end to the period of Chinese imperial domination and set up a new era - an era of the first prolonged independence and full development in all aspects.

2. Cultural - ideological struggles

-The Vietnamese cultural-ideological struggles protecting their traditional cultural heritage and apprehensively selecting and absorbing foreign cultural essences to enrich their own traditional culture. They were of great effect and a vital factor in promoting the Vietnamese armed struggles for independence during the Han domination period.

-Several good customs and traditions existing during the Văn Lang - Âu Lạc period were preserved

-The practice of ancestor worship, respect for grandparents, parents and harmonious family, etc of Vietnamese traditional culture was preserved.

-The national language - the Vietnamese language - was preserved and gradually enriched. Besides their persistent struggles for preserving their traditional cultural heritage, Vietnamese people also absorbed selectively cultural essences from other countries. Many syllables from Chinese language were used to make Vietnamese language more and more plentiful. The custom of pounding rice by hands changed into foot-operated mortar. Living in houses on the ground replaced living in houses on stilts. There was a variety kind of art and costumes, which was more plentiful and progressive than traditional culture.

3. ***Struggles to maintain life and improve production:***

-In spite of cruel exploitation, the Vietnamese kept advancing and struggling for a better life and improving their production in a ravaged economy.

-In agriculture, iron implements were more and more popularized to replace bronze ones. The use of buffaloes and cows as tractors was widely applied. The cultivated land was gradually enlarged, and irrigation works developed. In addition to big rivers such as Hãông and Mã, anti-flood dykes were built and reinforced. More canals and drainage systems were annually dug and dredged. Fertilizers were used; such technological measures applied to production played an important role in increasing the productivity and two crops of rice were grown a year. Besides growing rice, people planted various kinds of cereal crops. Industrial crops such as cotton trees, sugarcane, and mulberry trees were planted. Livestock breeding developed with buffaloes, cows, pigs, chicken, ducks, elephants, horses....

-Handicraft also made progress. Iron forging developed. Bronze molding still existed, but mainly in making tools for daily use. Pottery developed a lot and several items such as pots, vases, bowls, plates, and lanterns were made. Besides pottery, there was glazed pottery. Many kinds of bricks were used for construction. Silk weaving was a popular household handicraft in localities. Woodwork, weaving, and house building also developed. Jewelry and ornaments made of gold and pearl were manufactured and developed.

- Some new handicrafts such as making paper from seaweeds, barks, leaves and veined aloe-wood paper, which was sold to Chinese merchants, was its prominent products. In the late 3rd century, Roman merchants bought 30,000 pieces of this paper to offer to the Roman king because at this time this kind of paper could not be produced in Europe.

- Since the 4th century, on the basis of receiving Indian and overseas techniques for making glass, the Vietnamese made colored glass vases and plates.
- Woodwork; shipbuilding; pagoda, temple and tomb constructing developed drastically. Under the Ngo (Chinese dynasty) domination, several handicraftsmen were forced to go to China to build Kien Nghiep capital.
- Trade made much more progresses than before. Changes in agriculture and handicraft, rich natural resources and specialties of the tropical area attracted foreign merchants. Road systems were used to transport all exploited local precious resources and tributes home. Under Chinese domination, authorities objectively encouraged the development of trade.

DANANG UNIVERSITY

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WAR RESISTANCE OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE AGAINST INVADERS
DURING THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD

(From the century X to the time before 1858)

Objectives: Students are expected to

- *understand the struggles of Vietnamese people against Chinese invaders in this period.*
- *demonstrate the tradition of Vietnamese people in fighting for their national independence.*

By long and strong-hearted struggles over 10 centuries under domination of the feudal Han (from the North), the Vietnamese people gained their national independence and constructed the country in many fields from the 10th to 19th centuries. Yet the northern feudalists, affected by heavily expansionist ideology of the Feudal Han, remained their intention of occupying Dai Viet country in the South for the second time. Therefore, the Vietnamese people, while constructing the country, often waged wars for national defense. The history of Vietnam since the 10th century was a series of consecutive glorious victories over enemies: two times defeating Chinese Sung's invaders (in 981 and 1077); three times fighting back the Mongols (Mongolian) in the in the 13th century; Lam Sãn Insurrection (1418 - 1427) chased out the Ming, the Siamese (1785) and the Manchu (1789).

These struggles against foreign invaders then deeply influenced people's lives and created a heroic tradition of national defense and smart military arts of the Vietnamese people. In the process of national defense, many heroes imprinted in many Vietnamese people 's hearts and will never be forgotten: Lã Hoãn, Lyĩ Thắàng Kiẩút , Tráön Hạng Ấaũ, Lã Lẩũ, Nguyẩũn Traĩi, Quang Trung...

I. Resistance against the Sung (1075 - 1077)

- After their failure to conquer the Ấaũi Viẩũt in 981, the Sung dynasty did not abandon the intention for a second attempt. In 1068, Tẩũng Thắõn Tẩũng became the Sung's king and encountered many difficulties in domestic affairs (empty treasury, bad financial situation and internal conflicts) and foreign affairs (often threatened by the 2 Chinese kingdoms Lieu and Ha, these two Chinese kingdoms were among many kingdoms in China at that time). In order to resolve such problems, Tong Than Tong decided to invade the Ấaũi Viẩũt

kingdom. The Sung prepared and increased armed forces near the border, organized starting bases for the invasion, and selected aggressive mandarins who knew Âu Việt well. The Sung also instigated the Champa kingdom to attack Âu Việt from the Southern frontier.

- Facing the threat of being invaded by the Sung, the Ly dynasty decided to defend actively through the strategy: *"Better to attack and prevent the enemies before their start than to wait for them"*, and took the active status to attack the starting bases of the enemy before the Sung had finished their preparation.

- Ly dynasty activated approximate 100,000 soldiers, including the main force of the court and armed mountainous people to enter the Sung's territory by two directions. The inland army comprised of armed people was led by chieftains: Thân Cảnh Phúc, Tăng Án, Vệ Thuí An. The marine army was led by Ly Thằng Kiết.

- On Oct. 27, 1075, the first army led by Ly Thằng Kiết surrounded the Cờ Vên rampart, and then other troops led by chieftains attacked the ramparts on Vénh Bính, Thái Bính, Hoành Sơn along the border and Ung Châu rampart. After 42 days and nights, Ly's army conquered Ung Châu rampart. Ly Thằng Kiết ordered his troops to destroy drainage systems, burn food supplies. He eventually withdrew the entire army to prepare for a new struggle against the Sung invaders.

- Ly Thằng Kiết requested local authorities to prepare for a new resistance war by ambushing the Sung troops in the border areas. The major defense line was set up on the bank of Nhị Nguyệt River (Cầu river).

- The Sung dynasty activated 100,000 infantry soldiers, 10,000 horses and 200,000 servants led by Quaích Quy and Triệu Tiết. Ten thousand marine soldiers were also dispatched to assist.

- By the end of 1076, the Sung troops reached the Âu Việt border. On Jan. 8, 1077, Quaích Quy led all Sung armies to enter Âu Việt. Some armed forces fought against the enemies but failed to prevent their entry. On Jan. 18, 1077, Quaích Quy stopped at North of Cầu River and camped on a 30-kilometer line from Nhị Nguyệt to Núi Bỉ Mountain waiting for the marine army. They were not aware that their marine army had been heavily attacked in Quảng Ninh coast by the Âu Việt 's army (led Ly Kế Nguyên).

- Because the marine army did not come, Quaích Quy decided to build rafts over the river to attack Âu Việt's line of defense. Unfortunately, this failed. Feeling hopeless, they turned back and kept up their lines of defense. Quaích Quy declared to behead anyone who discussed about attacking.

- At the end of spring 1077, when the Sung invaders became tired, sick, and falling apart; Ly Thằng Kiết carried out

a severe attack against the enemy's lines of defense and camps. The Sung invaders fell into a precarious situation. At that time, Lyĩ Thæång Kiãût ended the war by reconciliation. Quaïch Quyì agreed immediately and withdrew all troops.

- The resistance against the Sung was completely successful and the national independence of Âaûi Viãût was maintained.

II. Struggles against the Mongols (the 13th century)

1. The first resistance against the Mongols (1258)

- After being formed in Northern Asian at the beginning of the 13th century, the Mongol's leaders continued to invade and conquer many countries. Âaûi Viãût was not out of reach for the Mongolian invaders.

- In 1257, the Mongol's king decided to open a massive attack to Southern Sung (Nam Tãúng). An army of 30,000 cavalries led by Uryang Khadai from Vãn Nam attacked Âaûi Viãût, then attacked the Southern area of the Sung.

- Before coming over the border, the Mongolian leader sent messengers to convince the Tráön's king of Âaûi Viãût to surrender, but Tráön's king put them in jail and sent an order for a nationwide resistance. At the beginning of 1258, the Mongolian army was divided into two directions and entered Âaûi Viãût along the Thao River. On Jan. 17, 1258, the enemies arrived in Binh Lãu Nguyãn (Tam Âaío, Vénh Phuïc) and a severe battle broke out. Facing a strong attack by their enemies, the Tráön's army withdrew to save the forces and Mongolian invaders followed and threatened Thàng Long rampart. Tráön's court left the capital and moved to Thiãn Maüc (Khoãii Châu, Hæng Yãn) after applying a strategy of "empty gardens and houses". When the invaders came, they saw terrifying motionlessness and their convoys in the jail. The Mongolians were embarrassed by such a strategy - empty imperial city, without food. Understanding the situation of the enemies, on Jan. 29, 1258 Tráön's army counter-attacked and defeated them in Âång Bãü Áãöu, forced the enemies out of Thàng Long. They retreated to Vãn Nam but at Quy Hoïa, the mountainous people led by Haì Bãöng attacked them. Many enemies died there, the rest rushed to the other side of the frontier.

- Âaûi Viãût's army and people completely defeated the horrible Mongolian invaders, who had conquered many other countries.

2. The second resistance against Mongols (1285)

- In 1260, Häút Táút Liãût (Kubilai) became the king of the Mongols and changed the national name to Nguyen (1271). In 1279 the Mongols defeated the Sung and occupied the whole territory of China. At the end of January 1285, 500,000 soldiers led by Thoãit Hoan (Toghan), Häút Táút Liãût, rushed to Âaûi Viãût. Severe fighting happened at the frontier.

Confronting with the enemy's strength, Tráön Hạng Ââu decided to withdraw his troops to Vaùn Kiăúp (Hái Dăng). After some fights to decimate the enemy's force, Tran 's major unit left Thàng Long and applied the same strategy "*empty gardens and houses*". Toghan and his troops eagerly entered Thàng Long then he sent another troop to attack the south. At the mean time, Mongolian general Toa Ăă (Gogetu)'s troop stationing in Champa next to Ââu Viăút frontier, advanced to Nghău An to form the two-pronged attack. Tráön Hạng Ââu withdrew and diverted the enemy's attention. They came to the Northeast (Hái Phôi, Quái Ninh). They sailed light boats to the south and reclaimed Thanh Hoă (April 1258). Unable to capture the King and destroy Tráön's major unit, the Mongols were in a bad situation: lack of food, sickness and diseases. Taking this chance, in May 1285, Tráön Hạng Ââu led his troops to the north and continuously attacked the enemies in Táy Kăút, Haim Tái (Khoăi Châu, Hạng Yăn), Chăng Dăng (Thăng Tê, Hài Táy) and then directed to Thàng Long and liberated it. On June 10, 1285, Toghan took his defeated troops to the north. Yet in Laùng Săn, they were suddenly attacked and Toghan (Thoăit Hoan) had to hide himself in a bronze tube that was carried back to their country by his soldiers. Mountainous people were led by Ââu Viăút's chieftains Hài Chăng and Hài Ăăc Toa Ăă in Thanh Hoă rushed to Thàng Long to link with Thoăit Hoan's troop, also heavily attacked other troops retreating to the northwest. They were stopped in Táy Kăút (the second fight there) and Toa Ăă was killed. Ă Maì Nhi (Omar) escaped to the sea.

- Ââu Viăút 's army and people defeated over 500,000 Mongolian invaders, the strongest and most experienced troops in the world at that time.

3. The third resistance against the Mongols (1287 - 1288)

- After such a heavy and humiliating defeat, Häút Táút Liăút (Kubilai) felt so angry that he cancelled the expedition to invade Japan in order to focus all his efforts on conquering Ââu Viăút. In 1287, the Mongols quickly activated forces. About 300,000 soldiers and 600 warships were led by Thoăit Hoan (Toghan), Trênh Bằng Phi, Ă Maì Nhi (Omar)... Trăng Vàn Hăö directed 70 ships carrying food. In Dec. 1287, the Mongols rushed to Ââu Viăút. The inland army led by Thoăit Hoan attacked Laùng Săn and then was stationed at Vaùn Kiăúp in the South, built up firm bases. The marine army led by Ă Maì Nhi sailed to Băch Ăằng river. Ââu Viăút's troops, led by vice-leader Tráön Khaình Dă, attacked Ván Ăằn but failed. Ă Maì Nhi guided his troops to Vaùn Kiăúp to meet Thoăit Hoan's troops. Tráön Khaình Dă ambushed and destroyed the food boats of Trăng Vàn Hăö. Discovering no food boats coming, in Jan. 1288, Thoăit Hoan (Toghan) continued on to Thàng Long.

The Imperial city was almost empty. They seized neighbor villages but soon encountered people's counter-attacks. They faced a dilemma: they didn't have food and were not accustomed to the climate of Vietnam. Thoait Hoan decided to withdraw both inland and by sea. Traoñ Hạng Âuô and Traoñ's king knew the enemy's plans and then prepared an ambush. At the beginning of April 1288, when boats led by A Maî Nhi and Phan Tiãûp reached the Baûch Aầông port, Tran's people provoked and pretended to fail. The enemy's boats followed and jumped into an ambushed battle. The rapidly retreating tide made their boats destroyed by iron-tipped stakes. Tran's army turning back to attack and fire rafts from the upper reaches flowing down made the enemies frightened and disordered. A number of enemies were killed. A Maî Nhi and Phan Tiep were captured alive. Inland troops were also heavily defeated.

- Three times of fighting against the Mongols in the 13th century brought great victories. Such victories retained Âuûi Viãût 's national independence and also directly prevented the Mongols from invading Japan and southern countries.

III. Resistance against the Manchu (1788 - 1789)

-With previous intentions to invade Âuûi Viãût, upon a requirement for help from Lã Chiãu Thãúng, Manchu king - Cain Long (Kien-lung) decided to invade Âuûi Viãût. He mobilized 290,000 soldiers and servants, selected Tân Syî Nghê (Soun Che-y) to lead them and invaded Âuûi Viãût with four units. Âuûi Viãût's army, led by Táy Sãn generals, came back to Kinh Bầôc without any fights against strong invaders and informed Thàng Long. This is the strategy of *'let them stay one night and then chase them away'*. Âuûi Viãût 's withdrawal was for saving the forces. Âuûi Viãût 's general Ngã Vãn Sãi led his troops to Tam Aỉãûp (Ninh Binh) and Biãn Sãn (Thanh Hoĩa) to form the Tam Aỉãûp - Biãn Sãn defense line. Furthermore, he also sent a messenger to inform Nguyãùn Huãû in Phủ Xuãn (Huãú) of the situation. Tân Syî Nghê occupied Thàng Long easily and became careless.

- On Dec. 22 1788, Nguyãùn Huãû became the emperor named Quang Trung, then led the Âuûi Viãût 's troops to the North. Arriving in Nghãû An and Thanh Hoĩa provinces, Quang Trung stopped and recruited more soldiers. The total number of the Táy Sãn 's troops was over 100,000. In Jan. 1789, Quang Trung led his troops to Tam Aỉãûp Mountain to meet with Ngã Vãn Sãi's troops. Quang Trung divided the troops into 5 groups. He led the main troops to destroy Hài Hãôi station (Ngoũc Hãôi). On Jan. 25, 1789, the main force troops crossed the Giaỉn Khãu River (Aỉy River) and quickly destroyed front stations. On the night of the 3rd of the Lunar New Year, Quang Trung 's troops surrounded Hài Hãôi station (in Thằng

Tên, Hải Tây) and won. In the early morning of the 5th Lunar New Year's Day, Quang Trung 's unit attacked Ngọc Hoi station (Thanh Trç, Hải Nãi). Facing strong attacks of Tây Sơn 's army, the enemies ran away. When reaching Ấm Mâu (Quyên Ấm hamlet, Thanh Trç), they were killed by an ambushing force. Another Tây Sơn 's unit led by the Tay Son's commander Ấng attacked Khảng Thẩng station (Ấng Hải, Hải Nãi). The enemies were heavily defeated. The enemy's leader Sầm Nghi Ấng hung himself. Tây Sơn's troops continued on to Thành Long. Tần Sĩ Nghê did not wear any armour, running over the Nhê River. Manchu's soldiers followed their commander over the bridge. When the bridge broke down, thousands of soldiers died.

- Within 5 days of continuous fighting, Tay Son's army, led by Nguyen Hue - Quang Trung, had killed and chased away 290,000 Manchu invaders. This victory enriched the national creative and heroic tradition of fighting and defending the country.

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**THE PREPARATION AND INVASION OF FRENCH COLONIALISM-THE
STRUGGLES AGAINST THE FRENCH BY VIETNAMESE PEOPLE IN THE LATE
19TH CENTURY**

• **Objectives: Students are expected to:**

- explain why and how Vietnam was invaded and occupied by the French colonialists.
- understand the characteristics of the struggles in the late of 19th century

I. Nguyen dynasty- The responsibility of Nguyen dynasty for the country

1. The foundation and policies of Nguyen dynasty

-The foundation of Nguyen dynasty was originally based on the outsiders to take revenge of Tay Son dynasty. Its shortcomings and crisis were; therefore, clearly manifested from the very beginning.

Politics:

-Nguyen Kings endeavored to establish a centralized government. The power of the central government was demonstrated through its control over the grassroots. The centralized government was consolidated and simultaneously encouraged the authority in localities to work more effectively.

-These policies; however, were no longer suitable to the new trend. This was the time when the development of capitalism was flourishing. There came a new economics- the commodity one. Vietnam needed developing and Western capitalism was in a rush preparation for its invasion on Vietnam. Consequently, Nguyen Dynasty's policies and political measures neither met the demand of the country nor resulted in serious problems such as: people's disbeliefs, stagnancy and backwardness, the restraint of national development, inability to consolidate the national solidarity.

-These were the fundamental shortcomings of the Vietnamese feudalism under Nguyen dynasty that worsened its current situation.

-In addition, Nguyen dynasty ruled the country and people with its harsh law system. No longer could the progressive and positive articles of Hong Duc law be found in Gia Long law. The law system under Nguyen dynasty was mainly duplicated from the law of Ch'ing dynasty.

-Such a harsh law made the conflicts between social classes and the court grow dramatically.

-In short, an autocratic and harsh political system accounted for the dramatic crisis of Nguyen feudalism.

Economics:

-Under Nguyen reign, land occupation became so popular. Additionally, tax on national land was raised while tax on private land was reduced. Consequently, the rich owned more land whereas farmers had to leave their home since they did not have enough land to cultivate.

-Some foreign missionaries wrote that tax and drudgery increased three times more than these of Tay Son dynasty.

-All these above factors made the people live in misery. Famine consecutively happened. (six times under Gia Long reign, ten times under Minh Mang and Thieu Tri reign) Moreover, epidemic threatened the whole nation.

-Social conflicts grew dramatically. The resistance led by farmers continuously broke out and lasted. There were over 300 resistances led by farmers breaking out within four reigns (Gia Long, Ming Mang, Thieu Tri, and Tu Duc). The crisis and collapse of Nguyen feudalism was obviously manifested through these above issues.

Diplomatic field:

-Nguyen dynasty narrow-mindedly implemented wrong policies such as: applying a blind obedience to the Manchu without taking national traditions and strength for granted; creating conflicts with other neighboring countries, they are unable to call for the solidarity to fight against the risk of being invaded by Western capitalism. Nguyen dynasty endeavored to terminate the relationship with Western countries as soon as possible. They dismissed all foreigners especially missionaries. "Closed-door" policies were implemented.

-In short: Owing to these above harsh policies Nguyen dynasty laid Vietnamese society in a precarious situation. They was unable to call for the national solidarity to fight against the French's invasion.

2. Vietnam lost its independence-Nguyen dynasty assumed responsibility for this loss

It was the domestic and diplomatic policies of the Nguyen dynasty that led Vietnam to the edge of a severe crisis and critical recession. The domination of Nguyen dynasty spiritually and materially destroyed all the forces of the Vietnamese people. This was a good chance for Western capitalism's invasion.

The only way the country could be saved was through development such as increasing the spiritual and material forces of the country (adjusting the relationship between landlords and peasants; feudal class and new economic classes, adjusting the military system, and implementing the national unity through reforms that could possibly resolve this problem.

-The Nguyen dynasty was helpless in such imperative problems. Several proposals submitted to the dynasty to reform the country were ignored. The contradiction between the dynasty and the

people became serious, mainly between peasants and feudal landlords. (*Several struggles against the feudalism occurred*).

-When the French capitalists began their invasion in Vietnam, Nguyen dynasty quickly lost its leadership role in the struggles and continuously compromised with the French and completely lost their independence when they surrendered in 1884.

- The Nguyen dynasty failed in its largest responsibility to the people by allowing the country to lose its independence

II. Vietnam faced the threat of armed aggression from French colonialists:

1/The conspiracy and purposes of the French's invasion in Vietnam:

- The initial purpose of the French invasion in Vietnam was economic; they wanted to make profits during the stage of free-competition capitalism, turning to the monopoly capitalism, materials, markets and the labor force were the vital matters.

- Vietnam, with its large market, abundant and rich natural resources became "*the eyeshot*" of the French Capitalists as they admitted, "*Don't cheat and deceive. What do we make up the truth for? The capitalist cause at the beginning was not a civilizing action or will but mercenary violent action...*"

- The invasion by the French capitalists was the result of a prolonged preparation. Their preparation began in the early 1880s in the 17th century with:

+ secrete and continuous activities of Western missionaries.

+ commercial activities of Western merchants.

- Both religious and commercial activities were aimed at political purposes for the invasion. The three-side relationship of "*mission-trade-politics*" was clearly manifested in the report submitted to the French Parliament in 1790: "*The missionaries never forget their country's benefits... They have been notifying the State the latest news through mission or trade. They facilitated the French trade in Eastern countries and they themselves established the first Eastern - Indo Company... the missionaries believed that they would be protected by the State*".

- Under Minh Mang King dynasty (1820 - 1840), the aggressive scheme of the French colonists was clearly manifested. Officials and missionaries reported important information to the French government. A couple of missionaries followed warships to enter Vietnam.

- In order to deal with this situation, the attitudes of The Hue administration was as follows: In 1832, the King Minh Mang promulgated the first resolution against all religious missions. (*In 1832, after Le van Khoi 's military revolt in Gia Dinh with the active participation of the French missionaries, the King Minh Mang promulgated the second resolution against missions*

which considered Western missionaries as 'foreign spies seeking domestic information and must be beheaded').

- All in all, French invasion was a persistent and desperate process. (The event on September 1st, 1858, when the French aggressive troops first landed in Danang and the Vietnamese people's resistance against the French aggressors was launched, marked the final result of the three-side relationship of "mission - trade - politics").

2/ The French's direct attacks on Viet Nam

-The French implemented the policy "small parcel" which meant they gradually occupied small parts of the territory then completely invaded the whole country thanks to a series of assaults.

-Meanwhile, the Nguyen dynasty compromised with the French and completely surrendered eventually. This was clearly manifested through the Nguyen court's attitude toward struggles against the French and the agreements signed with the French.

-The Harmand (1883) and Patenâtre (1884) agreements marked the absolute fall of an independent feudal state of Vietnam. The French had basically succeeded in invading Vietnam. Vietnam technically became a French's colony. The Vietnamese's wars of resistance against French turned to a new period - the period of national liberation resistance against the French colonialist.

III. Struggles against the invasion of the French colonialists (1858 - 1884)

1. Struggles for national sovereignty of the Vietnamese from 1858 to 1884

- During the process of national construction and development, the Vietnamese people's spirit of fighting against foreign invaders was confirmed to be a valuable tradition. In this period, facing a new enemy (Western imperialism), it was challenging and seemed to be unable to conquer. However, the Vietnamese people waged the resistance and won.

- During the struggles against the French colonialist in the first half of 19th century, Vietnamese people proved to be patriotic, brilliant and brave. Under the leadership of the dynasty, they voluntarily ignored their class hatred to defend their country.

- The struggles against the French colonialist of the Vietnamese deeply expressed *the people's character* especially in the first days in the battlefield of Da Nang (1858 - 1859) and Southern battlefield (1859 - 1874).

- The Vietnamese struggles against the French colonialist, especially the struggles of the Southern compatriots with rudimentary weapons, creative and brilliant tactics, created large-scale struggles of the people for almost 20 years.

- After the 1862 agreement, the Nguyen dynasty lost their role of leadership and gradually compromised with the enemy. From that time on, the coordination between the people and the dynasty in

the struggles became loose. The Vietnamese people carried out the "Tu Dia" movement for resistance. The movement, therefore, did not stop but developed more. Even though the dynasty neglected or deliberately blocked the uprisings and the colonial French violently suppressed the movements, the Vietnamese people's struggles were still going on. *The people character* was gradually expressed.

-After the first attack of the French colonialist to the North and the second attack to Thuan An (Hue), the entire country waged the wars of resistance.

- In spite of the indecisive, tentative, and reluctant attitude of the Nguyen dynasty, the people nationwide were eager to join the struggles to deliver a telling blow to the enemy when the French attacked North of Vietnam for the first time (1873) and the second time (1883). With the great support from the people, the regular force of the court in Tay Son won two notable victories in which two French General commanders, Francis Garnier and Henri Rivieire, were killed in Cau Giay.

-In Central Vietnam where the French colonialist had not invaded, people established the voluntary army with the target "*anti-French colonialists and dynasty*".

-The 1883-1884 agreement marked an absolute fall of the feudal state of Vietnam, but the Vietnamese people's struggles against French colonialism continuously grew and turned into the period of national defense in which anti-French and anti-feudalism tasks were considerably focused. It was "Can Vuong movement".

2. The armed struggle against the French in the late of 19th century

a) An overview

-The situation of Vietnam after the 1884 agreement.

-The uprising of "the anti-French" group in Hue Citadel. Ham Nghi King left the country and called for the people to fight against the French

-All the uprisings at that time were for national liberation instead of for national independence as before

b)The Can Vuong movement in the late of 19th century

- Some typical struggles represented for the characteristics of the Can Vuong movement.

- Some comments on the Can Vuong movement

-The Can Vuong movement, to some extents, still confined itself to feudalism. It aimed at reestablishing an independent feudal regime. In nature this movement was against the French, against surrendered feudalists, and for national salvation

As a result, the movement kept developing even though Ham Nghi was captured in November 1888. At that point, characteristics of the Can Vuong movement were clearly manifested.

-The struggles against the French led by patriotic scholars and intellectuals in the late of 19th century occurred and developed vigorously for a while in spite of their own shortcomings. The

restrictions in their leader class status, the feudal age they were living in, and their goals gradually made all the struggles weaker then faded. It's impossible for them either to spread nationwide or to defeat the French and surrendered feudalists.

-The movement led by patriotic farmers simultaneously broke out besides those led by scholars and intellectuals. Among of which was the prominent Yen The movement led by Hoang Hoa Tham. The arrival of this kind of struggle could be accounted for these following reasons. Above all, the Vietnamese feudalists absolutely lost their leadership. Meanwhile, patriotic scholars and intellectuals were incapable of unifying all resistance for national salvation under their leadership. Consequently, there came another type of struggle that was out of their control.

-The significance and the traditional values of Can Vuong movements were very great in spite of its failure. It was sometimes assessed that Can Vuong movements "came back to the past which never repeat itself"; it was simply a final resistance of an "obsolete and slavish" ideology. In fact, the movements had great traditional values.

Historian, David Marr emphasized that: *"It is convenient for some researchers, especially for those who would not like to acknowledge the Vietnamese people's pride on themselves and their own history to deny the Can Vuong movements, to simply consider them the final resistance of an obsolete and slavish ideology. However, it was continuity, a line to link this" obsolete struggle" with several more successful efforts in the early XX century"* [David Marr (D.G), Vietnamese Anti-colonialism(1885-1925). California, 1971]

DANANG UNIVERSITY

Teachers' Training College of Danang

Instructor: Nguyãùn Hãìu Giang

THE VIETNAMESE NATIONAL SALVATION MOVEMENT IN THE EARLY OF 20th CENTURY-THE PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION A GUIDELINE TO LIBERATE VIETNAM

- **Objectives: Students are expected to:**
 - *grasp a full understanding of changes in Vietnamese society*
 - *understand the significance and characteristics of the struggles in this period*
 - *understand how the proletarian revolution become a guideline of Vietnamese revolution*

I. Vietnamese society in the early of 20th century

1. Colonial exploitation policies and the French dominated system

a) The first exploitation of French colonialism

-In order to successfully exploit and dominate there must be two essential factors:

+To occupy land to enable their exploitation of natural resources

+To conquer people to dominate and exploit

-Both exploitation and domination economically benefited the French. It took the French almost a 40- year- armed conquer to carry out their goals.

-In March 1897, the General Governor in Indochina drew a plan to operate their exploitation then sent it to the Minister of French Colony.

From 1898 onwards, the French invested money and machines in Indochina. They began to build bridges, highways; widen seaports and develop light industry.

-The implementation of new policies in the exploitation definitely resulted in the appearance of new classes that were Vietnamese working class, bourgeoisie and the division among other classes

-The change in Vietnamese social class was inevitably caused by the first exploitation of the French.

-The motto of the exploitation was that: The existence of colony was for metropolitan country. Colony had to serve for the development of metropolitan country. It was the place where provided metropolitan what they needed and consumed whatever they wanted.

In industry:

-Take advantage of the cheap labor.

-Reduce cost as low as possible to increase profits.

In agriculture:

-French colonialism levied high tax on the land they leased to farmers. Even though it was an old kind of exploitation, it was still the most beneficial one.

Besides, the French invested money in other fields.

-Thanks to these above policies, Vietnam became the most potential market, which benefited the French a lot. These policies themselves automatically resulted in the disappearance of the old-typed economy and the arrival of the commodity economy.

-Simultaneously, the first exploitation made the society thoroughly change in a positive manner that turned out to be a motivation for the advancement of Vietnamese society and the prerequisite for national salvation in the early of 20th century.

b) The ruling mechanism

In politics:

-In order to facilitate the first exploitation in Vietnam, the French paid attention to the two main measures that were

"dividing Vietnam into small parts to easily dominate and using Vietnamese to rule Vietnamese"

-In order to take these measures, the French set up a very strict administrative apparatus, a very harsh law system, and a very cruel military system, which was always accompanied by court and jails.

-Jails could be seen everywhere and always were filled with people (especially political detainees among of whom were given dead, lifetime sentences or hard labor.

In culture and education:

-All educational policies at this time mainly aimed at facilitating the first exploitation of the French. For example, they improved and widened the educational system. Objectively, these policies also had positive effects on Vietnamese society for example there appeared technical worker and people who got bachelor certificates.

-Additionally, the French colonialists also focused on publishing books and magazines. All these above issues not only propagandized for French colonialism's pretext of the invasion on Vietnam was to help people lead civilized lives but also implemented the obscurantism and nurtured a "denationalized" intelligentsia having lost all contact with the national's culture and all spirit of independence. These were just one of the policies that the French implemented to maintain their permanent domination over Vietnam.

2. Changes of Vietnamese society in the beginning of 20th century

-The large -scale exploitation of the French in Vietnam saw profound changes in the traditional structure of society. The combination between the capital economy and feudal economy created a mixed economy that brought a great deal of benefits to the French. The exploitation also resulted in changes in social classes

a) The division in current classes

+The division among feudal landowners

+The division among peasantry and handicraftsmen

-The Vietnamese peasantry and handicraftsmen was impoverished. In the countryside, land owners and rich people became richer. There appeared some new factors. Basically, the old production relation and feudal exploitation still dominated.

-In short, in the early of 20th century, social classes in Vietnamese society have basically changed. Social conflicts grew dramatically. These above factors could account for the vigorous struggles for national salvation in early of 20th century.

b) The arrival of new social classes

+The Vietnamese working class

-Most of Vietnamese workers originated from peasants whose lives were closely attached to the land. They became workers through

many ways. Vietnamese working class had to undergo a long process relating to colonial rule

It was the first time in Vietnamese history there came a new class that played an crucial role in national salvation movements.

+The Vietnamese bourgeoisies

In the early years of the 20th century, most of the Vietnamese bourgeoisie used to be contractors, agent or feudal landowners who develop their business into capitalism.

In the early years of this century, the size and significance of the Vietnamese bourgeoisie were negligible. It however then had chances to develop and became an official class in Vietnam.

+The Vietnamese petty bourgeoisie- the arrival of new towns and their changes:

-New towns were not only the center of ideology, culture and social activities but also the place where class struggles and national salvation struggles flourished. From these new towns, new ideas began to penetrate.

-Culturally, there were many schools in new towns where learners were taught in new approach. The arrival of the Vietnamese petty bourgeoisie could be accounted for the above reasons. This class consisted of two parts:

-The first part was students at schools: these people had more opportunities to access to new culture and ideology however, the reality was completely different from what they learnt. From that time on, they played a role as an agitator for new trend struggles in early of 20th century especially after World War I.

-The other part of the Vietnamese petty bourgeoisie was officials. They were neutral. They belonged neither to the bourgeoisie nor to the proletariat. Their economic situations were usually threatened so they eagerly took part in movement in early of 20th century in spite of their unstable political points of view.

-In spite of the appearance of a new culture, new economic, new ideology and new strata, new towns in Vietnam were still very weak that why they were unsuccessful to fight against colonialists and feudalists in the early of 20th century.

c) The effects of outer factors on Vietnam-the appearance of new political tendencies in the early of 20th century

+New Magazines: it was the penetration of literary works composed by European ideologists in the preparation for the French and British bourgeois revolutions such as Rousseau and Montesquieu. These works only reaching Vietnamese scholars through Chinese translations aimed at popularizing bourgeoisie law system and the most advanced ideologies of bourgeois revolution in its prime.

Besides, these books told about the legend of European heroes. In fact, they propagandized historical figures of bourgeoisie in the first stage of European capitalism. Simultaneously, these books provided people with geographical knowledge and the world history to help people widen their minds. These above progressive ideologies also had great effects on a new generation who is searching for new ways for national salvation.

+Political events in Asia:

-The reformist movement (1898) in China

-This political event was the foundation for the reformist movement in Vietnam in the early of 20th century.

-In 1905, Japan's victory over Russia resounded throughout Asia. It proved that through renovation, an Asian country was capable of defeating a European power. Vietnamese patriots showed great admiration for Japan and nurtured the hope that Japan, as an Asia power, would offer aid and possibly support even in their struggle against French colonialism.

In other words, there were ideological changes in Vietnamese society in the early of 20th century. Patriotic Vietnamese scholars were no longer loyal to feudal ideology; they began to expose to bourgeois ideas. Moreover, this change resulted in changes in content, methods, and goals of the struggles against the French in early of 20th century. In addition, from that time on the struggles against the French were called revolutionary movements.

II. New features in Vietnamese revolutionary movements in the early of 20th century

1. Phan Boi Chau and his violent tendency

-Phan Boi Chau dominated the patriotic movement in the first two decades of the 20th century.

-Phan Boi Chau was born on December 26 1867 in Nghe An. He was born into a Confucian scholar family. His father was Phan Van Pho. He was called Phan Van San when he was young. His patriotism had been nurtured since he was young.

a)Phan Boi Chau's activities for national salvation in the late of 19th century

-Join in the struggle against the French in North of Vietnam (1883)

-Join in Can Vuong movement in the late of 19th century

b)Phan Boi Chau's activities for national salvation in the early of 20th century

-Thanks to the penetration of foreign literary works particularly geography and world history, his ideology was changed. He realized that there was the evolvement in humankind's history; he

began to release himself from feudal ideology and endeavored to meet the demands of history. Mandarin life was not to his liking. He established a new organization, the Duy Tan movement in April 1904. This was the first time in Vietnam there came an organization which chose new tendency to liberate the country.

-The purposes of the Duy Tan movement were as follow: fighting against the French thanks to the aid from Japan to regain the sovereignty of Vietnam to make Vietnam a constitutional monarchy.

+The Dong Du movement (Go East)

-Early 1905, Phan Boi Chau left for Japan to carry out the main tasks of his organization. Consequently, the Dong Du movement surged up vigorously after his journey to Japan.

-After lengthy negotiations, two institutions were set up in which Vietnamese students were recruited.

-In June 1905, Phan Boi Chau returned to Vietnam to announce the success of his trip to Japan.

-In October 1905, Phan Chau Trinh returned to Japan with the very first three students. The Dong Du movement kept developing and Vietnamese students were continuously sent to Japan. At peak time there were over 200 Vietnamese students studying in Japan with difficulty and hardship

-Meanwhile, through investigations the French found out there were connections between Phan Boi Chau, Duy Tan organization, Dong Du movement and the other movements in Vietnam. They; therefore, took these following measures to cope with the movement:

-First of all, the French began to negotiate with Japanese Government. They had to share some benefits in Indochina with Japan; and Japan dissolved Dong Du movement, evicted Vietnamese students including Phan Boi Chau and Prince Cuong De in return.

-Within the country, French colonialists oppressed the Dong Du movement till its failure in October 1908 and put an end to the Duy Tan movement after its four - year operation.

+The establishment of the "Vietnam Quang Phuc Organization"

-The "Vietnam Quang Phuc Organization" was founded in May 1912 in China In their conference, they decided to eradicate the Duy Tan organization, which was doomed to failure seven years ago.

-After some argument, they all agree to define the organization's motto; "defeat French colonialism, regain national independence and construct Nationalist Vietnam"

-The problem they were facing right after being set up was funding to ensure for its activities. Several members coming from Vietnam supposed that it was very difficult to raise fund unless any resounding events struck within the country. According to Phan Boi Chau, it did not make much difference between raising funds and doing resounding events within the country. Therefore,

every activity of this organization all aimed at striking at the enemies within the country to gain nationwide support.

-At the end of 1931, in order to prepare for World War I the French General Governor came to China to negotiate with Chinese representative to dissolve, evict the "Vietnam Quang Phuc organization". Phan Boi Chau was then captured.

+Conclusion:

The latter struggles for national salvation inherited a lot of valuable experience from the failure of all struggles against the French colonialism in early of 20th century. Their existence was an indispensable part in the development of Vietnamese history.

2. Phan Chu Trinh and the Renovation movement (Duy Tan movement)

-Phan Chu Trinh was born in 1872 at Quang Nam province. He was a studious and respectable man. He got the second rank in the national exam in 1901. In 1902 he became a mandarin under Nguyen reign as the Minister of Ritual Department

-The decay of the feudal system really disappointed him and wore him down. He gave up his mandarin life to retreat. Since then he made friends with other patriotic scholars who went on the same way, exposed him self to new ideologies and devoted his life to national liberation.

a) The renovation movement (Duy Tan movement)

-The Dong Du movement (Go East) was Duy Tan movement's contemporary. The motto of this movement was relying on intellectual renovation to develop the country but violence. This movement developed vigorously with the appearance of different kinds of bookstores, schools, and congregations within the country which were being running under the above principle. And the Dong Kinh Nghia Thuc (the Tonkin Study Institute) was one of its achievements of this kind in North Vietnam.

-The differences between the Dong Du (Go East) movement and the Duy Tan (Renovation movement)

- The Dong Du movement aimed at looking for the help of outsiders to fight against the French. Meanwhile, the Duy Tan movement aimed at renovating the country to free it from the restraint of the obsolete feudal ideologies

- The target of the Dong Du movement was the French while feudal ideology was the target of the Duy Tan movement. In other words, the Dong du movement was prone to violent tendency. Liberating the country and driving the French away were given priority then finding the right way to develop the nation.

-The Duy Tan movement was supposed to free the country from the restraint of the obsolete feudal ideologies and discarded the idea of armed struggles. The Duy Tan movement was prone to intellectual renovation. They called for democratic ideas, traditions conservation. It criticized outmoded ways and customs

and backward officials, and advocated reforms and the development of industry and trade.

3. Other movements affected by violent and reformed tendencies

a)The struggle for taxes reduction in Central Vietnam:

-The struggle initially broke out in Quang Nam in March 1908 then widely spread to Phu Yen, Thanh Hoa, but finally was oppressed by the colonialism's cruelty.

"Renovation" was just a theory when it confined itself to the city. Only when it penetrated into the masses did it turn out to be reality.

In order to cope with this struggle, French colonialism resorted to two ways:

- In politics: To some extents, they had to give in to soften the mass.
- In military: The response of colonial authorities was one of ferocity. Demonstrators were fired upon. Patriotic scholars, among them Tran Quy cap, were executed. Others such as Phan Chu Trinh, Huynh Thuc Khang, Phan Phuc Duyet and others were deported to Poulo Condor Island. The colonialists arrested thousands of people.

At the end of May 1908, the struggle absolutely failed.

+Some comments:

-The Duy tan (Renovation) movement was progressively significant. It; however, could not meet the demands of Vietnamese people. Vietnamese people wanted to be liberated meanwhile renovation was the only thing that the Duy Tan movement could do for them

-The patriotic scholars who established the movement never expected that the penetration of Renovation movement into the masses could bring up such vigorous struggles.

b)The poisoning in Ha Noi:

-All the participants of this event were supposed to poison food of the French forces in Ha Noi. The poisoning failed because the plan was revealed. French colonialism captured all involved people.

+We can jump to the conclusions:

-In the early of 20th century, there were struggles led by farmers and Vietnamese soldiers working for the French breaking out vigorously both in the city and the countryside. This proved that confrontation between the masses and the colonial authorities became inevitable.

-All these struggles finally failed and their leaders were either captured or executed.

The failure of patriotic movements for national salvation in early of 20th century was an obvious evidence for the crisis in the guidelines and leadership of Vietnamese revolution.

III. Proletarian revolution-the guideline of struggles for national salvation in Vietnam (1919-1930)

-This ten-year period in the Vietnamese history developed steadily and quickly to meet the demands of history. Vietnam could keep pace with other current vanguard countries during this era. There were three stages during this period:

1. The second exploitation of French colonialism

-In order to recover from heavy losses after World War I, the French colonialists focused on speeding up the second exploitation in Indochina. As a result, social division took place so drastically that every social class wanted to propose their own political program to liberate the country.

2. The preparation for Vietnamese Communist Party's arrival

+The union between socialism and socialism

-A new generation among of whom Nguyen Ai Quoc was the most celebrated representative successfully found a right way for national salvation. It was the combination between national liberation and socialism, the close relationship between Vietnamese revolution and the proletarian revolution under the leadership of Comintern

+The Marxism -Leninism propaganda and absorption

-The penetration of Marxism -Leninism into the working class movements as well as patriotic movements resulted in the arrival of different revolutionary organizations which gradually adapted to proletarian tendency. The Vietnam Revolutionary Youth Association in fact functioned as a propagandizing organization to propagandize Marxism -Leninism to the masses and political school as well.

+The growth of Vietnamese working class

-This was clearly manifested through the demand of setting up a party of the proletariat. This also proved that the Vietnam Revolutionary Youth Association had theoretically and structurally been prepared to become an official party of the working class in Vietnam.

+The national liberation movement in Vietnam quickly developed into a part of the international working class and proletariat.

-Liberating the nation, liberating the people from the very harsh oppression and exploitation, constructing a new society was the chosen way of Vietnam.

DANANG UNIVERSITY

Teachers' Training College of Danang

Instructor: Nguyễn Hải Giang

**PREPARING AND LAUNCHING THE AUGUST GENERAL UPRISING IN 1945 TO
GAIN BACK THE INDEPENDENCE**

• **Objectives: Students are expected to:**

- demonstrate the preparation for the General Uprising in 1945
- understand its significance

I. The generalization of the Vietnamese revolution from 1930 to 1940

1. New upsurge in the Vietnamese Revolution from 1930 to 1931

2. Struggles for regaining revolutionary forces (1932-1935)

3. The democratic struggles in Vietnam (1936-1939)

II. The preparation for the August General Uprising

1. The shift in strategic direction of the Vietnamese Revolution

a) *The Sixth Congress of the Central Committee of the Party took a series of important decisions. They began to change its strategic direction*

b) *The Seventh Congress of the Central Committee of the Party continued to change its strategic direction*

c) *The Eighth Congress of the Central Committee of the Party (the key factor to the success of the August General Uprising in 1945):*

-Ho Chi Minh was back to Vietnam to directly lead the Vietnamese Revolution

2. The preparation

a) *The initial preparation for the August General Uprising*

-Right after his return to Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh had a concrete plan to set up "the experimental Viet Minh Front"

- "The experimental Viet Minh Front" operated so effectively that people ardently took part in "Associations for national Salvation"

-On this basis, the 8th plenum of the Party Central Committee decided to found the Vietnam Independence League on May 19th, 1941. Right after being founded, the Viet Nam Independence League proposed its goals, principles and program. The main task was to liberate the country from Franco-Japanese domination. National liberation came first and the interests of all social classes had to be subordinate to this prime objective. A board national union had to be created in order to fight French colonialism and Japanese fascism, a national front bringing together all social classes and strata, political parties and religious groupings.

+ Establishing revolutionary base and preparing forces

-After the failure of the Bac Son Uprising, the Party had intention to re-establish The Bac Son-Vong Nhai revolutionary base. The remain of the Bac Son guerrilla was developed into the Military Associations for National Salvation. The main tasks of this unit were to directly fight against the enemy and call for peoples' participation.

-Early 1941 Cao Bang was chosen to establish the revolutionary base under the leadership of Ho Chi Minh, Vo Nguyen Giap, and Pham Van Dong. During this time, the vigorous development of the Vietnam Independence League resulted in the growth of forces of the masses.

-Until 1942, the Vietnam Independence spread nationwide. On this basis, in December 1942, The Viet Minh Congress held to vote for members of the Viet Minh Central Committee of Cao Bang then was developed into the Cao-Bac-Lang inter-provincial Central Committee.

-The revolutionary bases establishment, the Viet Nam Independence League foundation as well as forces reinforcement was the very first comprehensive preparation which bore great significance to the Vietnamese revolution.

b) The consecutive preparations

-Early 1943, the Party Central Committee summoned the Standing Bureau of the Central Committee to assess new situations and proposed new policies. Truong Chinh presided over this Plenum lasting for three days to analyze and decide to speed up an urgent preparation for the August General Uprising

-According to the Plenum, it's necessary to launch a program of action in the educational field which aroused great interest in intellectuals, working class, poets, artists, students and other patriotic classes; simultaneously established political bases in cities and plains to attack upon the headquarter of the enemy when there came a chance

-All these above matters originated from the policy on the Viet Minh front expansion.

Early 1943, the Party set forth "The outline of Vietnamese culture" to rally together intellectuals, petit bourgeois and to

guide their activities. Late 1944, a Cultural Association for National Salvation was founded and became a part of the Viet Minh front whose activities and policies were in compliance with those of the Front

-In June 1944, a group of intellectuals and people from the middle-class founded the Viet Nam Democratic Party thanks to the help of the Viet Minh. This event also aimed at expanding the Viet Minh front, reinforcing the armed forces against the fascism, bankrupting the plan of sowing division among the Vietnamese peoples.

-Moreover, the Indochina Party intended to expand the revolutionary front by contacting with patriots from outside to gain their supports.

-The mass struggle was constantly expanding. The Viet Minh drew the peasant masses into a campaign opposing the order to abandon rice and other food crops and plant jute instead. In other words, the Viet Minh did not simply formulate a program. It tried to draw the masses into actions on two levels, military and political.

-In December 1944, the Party decided to set up the Propaganda and Liberation Army in Cao Bang. The propaganda came first then national liberation.

c) The pre-insurrection period

+The world's situation and the political event on March 9th

-On March 9th, Japanese troops disarmed the French without meeting any real resistance. This bore evidence for French colonialism's cowardice and was a good chance for the Vietnamese revolution to surge up.

+The Central Executive Committee Conference was summoned to assess the current situation to set forth its new program. This conference had a positive effect on the Vietnamese revolution since a new revolutionary movement called "Uprising against the Japanese" broke out throughout the country.

+The Uprising against the Japanese:

-Action taken by the peasant masses in seizing Japanese rice stores

++Its significance: overcome the threatening famine

++Its importance: Thousands of people were mobilized to join in this action, which was in fact regarded as a political rehearsal for the masses

+Political agitations:

-Alongside action taken by the peasant masses in seizing Japanese rice stores, political agitations and armed struggles broke out all over after the March 9th event. The combination between armed struggles and political agitations dismantled the enemy authority. Revolutionary authorities, as a result, were set up in many localities and regions especially in several mountainous provinces in North Vietnam.

All the existing revolutionary armed forces were merged in the North Military Conference. More army forces were built up. Army committees were formed at various levels in villages, districts and provinces.

Together with guerrilla wars, revolutionary bases among of which the 6 liberated provinces became the distinguished symbol for the nation's revolutionary base, continued to be established and expanded.

The Uprising against the Japanese was the most comprehensive and practical preparation for the General Uprising. The last preparation for the Uprising was basically completed by August 1945. The the best chance was approaching. Everyone was ready to grasp this decisive opportunity to stand up and seize back national independence.

3. The world's situation and the political event on March 9th

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3. The success of the August General Uprising

a) The world's situation and the situation within Vietnam on the days of August 1945

-It's high time Vietnamese people stood up when both inner and outer factors ripened. It; however, is not easy at all for the Vietnamese revolution to reach its success due to anti-action taken by the imperialists and their lackeys. The success of the revolution at this point greatly depended on the leadership ability of the Party. The Party summoned the National Congress

b) The National Congress:

-The Congress assessed the new situation and made important decisions on launching the General Uprising.

-The National Congress was the manifestation of peoples' will and determination in gaining back the independence. The Congress all agreed with the principles of the government and decided domestic as well as diplomatic policies right after seizing power from the hands of the Japanese and puppet government.

-On behalf of the Provisional Government, Ho Chi Minh soon made a moving appeal to the nation

The significance of the Congress:

-It was convened at the right time and decided on important resolutions

-It was the fruit of the unanimity between the Party and the people, the unification in activities.

-It was the manifestation of the Party's sanity and bravery.

The August Revolution was characterized by a sound combination of political and armed struggles, one supporting the other. Victory was achieved thanks to the long and comprehensive preparation of the Vietnamese Communist Party begun at the beginning of its arrival and the excellent leadership, which had called for the right action at the right moment, and identified forms of action appropriate to each movement and each locality

DANANG UNIVERSITY

Teachers' Training College of Danang

Instructor: Nguyễn Mạnh Hằng

**THE RESISTANCE AGAINST THE FRENCH COLONIALISTS AND
THE AMERICAN'S INVOLVEMENT WAGED BY VIETNAMESE PEOPLE
(1945 - 1954)**

-Objectives: students are expected to

- *have a comprehensive understanding of the situation of Vietnam after the August Revolution.*
- *have an overall knowledge of the Vietnamese resistance against the French*

I/ VIETNAM AFTER THE AUGUST REVOLUTION:

1/ Advantages and disadvantages of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

a) The world:

- World War II ended in late 1945. The socialist system was established by the arrival of series of European Socialist countries and the USSR. The national liberation movements especially in Asia, Africa, and South America made considerable achievements. The movements for human rights and freedom launched by the working class and the laborers in capitalist countries also drastically developed.

b) Vietnam:

*** Advantages:**

- The Vietnamese Revolution was led by the Vietnamese Communist Party and a genius leader - Hồ Chí Minh, who was highly respected and trusted.
- The Vietnamese government was considered as a tool against the anti-communists, driving away enemies, and constructing a new society.
- The dedication of the Vietnamese people to the national freedom and defense was the best advantage of the Vietnamese Revolution.

*** Disadvantages:**

+ **Economics and finance:** For over 1000 years, Vietnam was dominated by the Chinese feudalists, and occupied by the French colonialists for almost 100 years. Therefore, the Vietnamese government at that time took over a rotten and obsolete economic system. Almost two million people died of the famine in 1944. Most of the land was abandoned and factories stopped working. People were being threatened by another famine.

- The country ran out of money. There was only 1,2 million đồng left in the Central Budget, but half of this could not be used. The Revolutionary Government could not control the bank.

+ **Society:** Over 90% of the entire population was illiterate. Superstition, gambling, and drug addictions were very popular.

- The newborn army was poorly armed; however, there were a lot of enemies in the territory of Vietnam. Twenty thousand soldiers of Tảing Giãi Thaũch entered Vietnam to disarm Japanese military from the 16th parallel northwards, but in fact, they wanted to damage the Indochinese Communist Party, Viet Minh, and sabotage the Revolutionary Government. Over 10.000 British and Indian warriors occupied from the 16th parallel southwards to support the French invasion.

2/ Actions taken by the Vietnamese Revolutionary Government to resist the enemies during the first year after the August Revolution:

a) Elections for the National Assembly and the People's Council early 1946:

- It was the first time in the Vietnamese history over 90% of the voters of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam eagerly voted for their most outstanding representatives on January 6, 1946. Three hundred and thirty three representatives who symbolized the solidarity among the North, the South, and the Central Vietnam were selected as members of the National Assembly.

- On March 2, 1946, at the first meeting of the National Assembly was held to indicate the list of members of the Provisional Coalition Resistance Government led by President Hãö Chê Minh.

- The consolidation and construction of the new government was the manifestation of the strength and strong will of the national solidarity under the leadership of the Vietnamese Communist Party and president Hãö Chê Minh. The Vietnamese people determined to guard the fruit of the August Revolution. The success of the National Council election was a terrible blow to the conspiracy to overthrow Revolutionary Government and to invade Vietnam of the imperialists and their lackeys. In addition to this, the reputation of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam was internationally enhanced.

b) The struggle against starvation:

+ Temporary measures:

- The government encouraged people to assist each other. Following Hãö Chê Minh's example, the Vietnamese people voluntarily did not eat to save rice for their compatriots every ten days. Additionally, there were also many other ways to help the poor.

+Permanent measures

- In order to eradicate the famine, the Vietnamese people had to speed up production. The motto "*an inch of land was a pound of gold*" was proposed. Everyone eagerly became involved in the production. The government issued a decree on confiscating land from the imperialists and traitors to reallocate to people. They also issued a decree on reducing 25% of the land-tax for the

farmers. Thanks to those measures, farmers produced 1,1 million tons of rice in the crop in 1946, and as a result, the famine was driven back.

c) Financial recovery

- In order to recover from the financial problems, the Government launched "The Independent Budget", "A Gold Week". People voluntarily contributed money, gold, jewelry as well as their valuable souvenirs to the revolutionary government. In a very short time 370 kilos of gold and 20 million đồng were collected.

d) Struggles against illiteracy:

- It was very vicious of the French to practice policy of obscurantism to rule the Vietnamese people. As a result, 90% of the population was illiterate. On September 8, 1945, Hồ Chí Minh signed a decree on establishing "Bệnh dân học vụ" (mass education) and called people to engage in the illiteracy eradication movement. Almost 30.000 classes with 81.000 learners were opened in March 1946

3/ The resistance against the French colonialists waged by Southern people:

- Right after the Japanese surrender, the French planned to come back to Vietnam for the second invasion.

- On September 6, 1945, the British colonialists arrived in Sài Gòn, they did not disarm the Japanese fascists; in contrast, they released all the French prisoners, armed them, and helped them occupy some important places in the downtown.

- On September 23, 1945 thanks to the support from the British military, the French made the second invasion of Vietnam by attacking the office of the People's Committee in the South.

- When being first attacked, people and soldiers of Sài Gòn - Châu Lãn bravely stood up to the enemy with rustic weapons

- In October 1945, the Japanese and the French army, with the support from the British military, expanded their occupied areas in the South. The Vietnamese forces were not as strong as the French; therefore, the French basically won and occupied South Vietnam in late December 1945.

4/ The strategy in diplomatic struggle against the French and Tả́ng Giả́i Thả́ch:

a) The concession to Tả́ng Giả́i Thả́ch (Chiang Kai-shek's) in the North:

+ After the success of the August Revolution, there were a lot of enemies in Vietnamese territory among which the French and Tả́ng Giả́i Thả́ch (Chiang Kai-shek's) were the most dangerous ones. The Vietnamese government avoided facing many enemies at the same

time; therefore, they had different strategies to cope with different enemies.

+ On September 23, 1945 the French colonialists provoked hostilities in the South. In order to focus on resisting the French, the Vietnamese government reconciled with Tả́ing Giả́i Thaûch. (Chiang Kai-shek's) This was the strategy of reconcile, conflict avoidance, and friendly exchange. On the other hand, the Vietnamese government wisely led a political struggle against Tả́ing Giả́i Thaûch (Chiang Kai-shek's).

- When Haì Ǽng Khâm went to Haì Năúi to carry out the conspiracy to invade the North, many meetings or demonstrations were held. Thousands of people brought flags and banners with slogan "Vietnam belongs to Vietnamese people" or "Stand up for President Hăo Chê Minh"

- Instead of resisting the Vietnamese government directly, Tả́ing Giả́i Thaûch used their lackeys - Viăút Quăúc and Viăút Caïch to internally destroy. They asked President Hăo Chê Minh to renovate the government, to exclude communists from the temporary government, and give them some seats in the National Assembly without voting. In order to restrict the destruction of Tả́ing Giả́i Thaûch, at the first meeting of the First National Assembly Session, the Vietnamese government agreed to grant 70 seats to Viăút Quăúc and Viăút Caïch without voting and 4 minister seats in the Provisional Coalition Government. Simultaneously, the Vietnamese government met their economic demands such as: food provision, and using their money.

b) Reconciling with the French to build forces:

- In late 1945, the French rushed to make a plan to advance in the North. However, they had not finished occupying the South, and they did not have enough forces to attack the North. The French schemed to compromise with Tả́ing Giả́i Thaûch to facilitate their invasion of the North. As a result of this, the Chinese-French Convention was signed on February 28, 1946. According to the Convention, the task of "disarming the Japanese military" in the North would be done by the French instead of Tả́ing Giả́i Thaûch. And Tả́ing Giả́i Thaûch wrested numerous economic and political concessions from the French in return.

- The Chinese - French Compromise not only was the outrageous invasion of Vietnamese people's independence, freedom, and sovereign but also had Vietnamese people choose one of the two ways:

- The first one: It would be adverse for the Vietnamese people to fight against many enemies at the same time for national independence.

- The second one: Negotiating with the French to drive away 20.000 warriors of Tả́ing Giả́i Thaûch and their lackeys. Meanwhile, the Vietnamese people saved time to consolidate forces to fight against the French later.

- On March 6, 1946, the Temporary Convention, which was signed between President Hăo Chê Minh and Sainteny, a representative of France, stipulated:

++ The French recognized the Democratic Republic of Vietnam as a free state which was; however, part of the Indochinese Federation and the French Union. The Vietnamese side would decide the unification of the three areas.

++ The Democratic Republic of Vietnam permitted the French troops' stations in the North.

++ Both sides had to stop firing in the North to facilitate the definitive negotiation in Paris

- In the mean time, the Vietnamese people focused on building forces. Military was given priority. On May 22, 1946, the government issued the decree stipulating the National Defense Army formally turned into the national army of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

- In spite of the Provisional Convention, the French violated the agreements by causing military conflicts, establishing a separate Vietnamese state in South Vietnam which was led by Nguyăn Văn Thinh. They aimed at isolating South Vietnam.

- The Vietnamese people made all efforts to avoid the discord between two sides. They endeavored to have the problems solved by political struggles. The Fontainebleau Conference formally opened on July 6, 1946 and continued throughout the whole summer with no discernible progress. The relationship between Vietnam and France at that time became increasingly tense.

- In order to lengthen the reconcilable time, President Hăo Chê Minh conceded some economic and political rights in Vietnam to the French through the Provisional Convention signed on September 14, 1946.

II/ THE FIRST YEARS IN THE RESISTANCE AGAINST THE FRENCH:

1. The outbreak of the resistance:

- Tension between the Vietnamese and the French forces deepened. On December 18, 1946, the French presented an ultimatum that required the Vietnamese to disarm the national defense forces and let them oversee Ha Noi. Being in the precarious situation, Vietnamese people had to choose one of the two ways:

++ The first one: Fighting against the French for national independence.

++ The second one: Absolutely yielding the French.

- On December 19, 1946 Hăo Chê Minh delivered "*the appeal to the nation for the resistance*". It was asserted that the resistance must have been very disastrous; however, the victory would definitely belong to Vietnamese people.

2/ The resistance in the beginning:

a/ *The struggles waged by towns north of the 16th parallel:*

+All the towns north of the 16th parallel where the French troops were stationing simultaneously stood up.

+ In Ha Noi: The vigorous 60-day struggle for the headquarters of the Vietnamese Communist Party and the Vietnamese government caused heavy losses to the French.

+By February 17, 1947, Ho Chi Minh and his entire government had withdrawn to the mountainous Viet Bac region.

b/The Viet Bac campaign in 1947.

- The French expected to quickly eradicate the Vietnamese army, but after a year they still failed in this mission. Meanwhile, the French encountered a number of financial, political, and social difficulties.

- Early 1947, the French rallied the Vietnamese traitors with a conspiracy to establish a puppet government, and made a plan for a large-scale attack on Viet Bac.

- On October 7, 1947, 12,000 French soldiers split into three troops to assault Viet Bac, but they were completely defeated.

- On December 19, 1947, the withdrawal of the majority of the French forces marked their first loss in the invasion in Indochina. Six thousand French soldiers were killed, 16 planes, 11 canoes and ships were shot.

c/ Achievements in building the rear

- During the war resistance, the Vietnamese Communist Party and the Vietnamese Government not only focused on the strength and the validity of the government from the central level to the grass root level but also vigorously struggled against the plan supported by the French to establish the Bao An puppet government. Additionally, mountainous inhabitants, Catholics, Chinese people, and the residents under the control of the French were encouraged to stand up for the war resistance.

-The economic policy of the Vietnamese Communist Party included an economic war for crops and food; and a construction of a democratic and self-sufficiency economy. Thanks to such an appropriate policy, agricultural production was strongly improved to meet the requirements of the front base. Military industry developed. Numerous kinds of weapons were successfully produced in this hard situation.

- On educational and cultural front: The eradication of the obscurantism of the French and the construction of a new culture with the motto "*national-scientific-popular*" were simultaneously applied.

II/ TAKING THE INITIATIVE ON THE FRONT, ADVANCING FOR THE VICTORY:

1/ The Front campaign in 1950:

-The Front campaign launched by the Vietnamese Communist Party and the Vietnamese government started in June 1950, and victoriously ended. Eight thousand and three hundred French soldiers were killed and captured. A number of troops were completely annihilated. Three thousand tons of weapons were confiscated.

- With the victory in the Front campaign, the Vietnamese Communist Party took the initiative on the North front, and successively launched different campaigns on larger scale.

- After the Front campaign in 1950, the French-American imperialists took more actions to speed up the invasion of Indochina with cunning tricks.

2/ Taking the initiative on the North front:

- From February 11 to February 19, 1951, the second Session of the Vietnamese Communist Party was held at the Viet Bac military region. This was a very important Session in which a number of policies were ratified to lead the resistance to victory. Those met both the temporary and permanent demands of the Vietnamese Revolution.

- Despite the support from the US, the French encountered numerous difficulties on the Indochinese front. The Vietnamese Communists had successively launched six campaigns on the large scale that could annihilate the French's forces within three years.

3/ The complete defeat of the French colonialists.

- On May 7, 1953, on the basis of the compromise with the US, General Nava, whose plan to convert the situation and gain the victory within 18 months, was appointed as the Commander -in-chief in Indochina.

- The French forces in Indochina were reinforced by the other troops withdrawn from North Africa, Korea, and France. In spring 1954, there were 84 battalions on the Indochinese battlefield, but half of them were stationed in the plain in North Vietnam.

- In order to deal with the enemy's conspiracies, in September 1953, the Central Committee of The Vietnamese Communist Party projected a plan of campaign 1953-1954.

- The motto of the resistance was to attack in a very active, mobile manner.

- As a result of this motto, the Vietnamese Communists started a series of attacks on the enemy in different places that made the French distribute their forces.

-In order to prevent the Viet Minh from gaining control of North Laos and the North West, 6 battalions of French paratroops occupied Dien Bien Phu. Within four months the

garrison held twelve battalions of men, superbly armed and trained with abundant concentrations of artillery and heavy mortars, tanks, and even an airstrip with fighter planes. The valley bristled with painstakingly constructed "strongpoint" designed to be mutually supporting.

- Being aware of the French's conspiracies in Dien Bien Phu battlefield, the Central of Vietnamese Communist Party and President Ho Chi Minh decided to launch Dien Bien Phu campaign.

- After 56 days, the campaign ended in the victory of Vietnam. Sixteen thousand French soldiers were killed and captured. Vietnam led the world in the resistance against the imperialism.

4/ The Geneva Conference and the Geneva Convention:

- In January 1954, the conference among the Secretaries of State of four countries including the USSR, Britain, France, and the US convened at Berlin reached the compromise on opening an international conference at Geneva to resolve the problem of Korea and to restore peace in Indochina.

- On April 26, 1954, the conference opened.

- On May 8, 1954, the Vietnamese delegation, flushed with military victory took part in the conference

- The Geneva Convention was signed on July 21, 1954 at last after the vigorous diplomatic struggles. The Geneva Convention stipulated that:

++ The French government as well as the other countries that took part in the Conference committed to recognizing the independence, sovereignty, and unification of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. They would not do anything to intervene the domestic affairs of the three Indochinese nations.

++ In order to cease the war and restore peace in Vietnam, the two sides had to stop firing, regroup forces, and the French troops were withdrawn from the North of Vietnam. The 17th parallel along Ben Hai River was considered as the temporary military demarcation line.

++ The Convention also banned other countries from bringing military forces, staff, and weapons into Indochina. The foreign military bases could not be built in Indochina. Indochinese countries were not allowed to join in any military alliance, and have their territories used by others for causing war or invading.

++ The unification of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam would be done through the General election held in July 1956.

++ All the people who signed this Convention and their inheritors had to fulfill these commitments

DANANG UNIVERSITY

Teachers' Training College of Danang

Instructor: Nguyễn Mạnh Hằng

THE WAR RESISTANCE AGAINST THE AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS FOR INDEPENDENCE, FREEDOM AND UNITY OF THE COUNTRY (1954 - 1975)

Objective: students are expected to:

- *explain reasons and purposes of the American invasion in Vietnam*
- *demonstrate five stages of the war of resistance against the American imperialists*

In July 1954, the Geneva Convention was signed. It was clearly written in the Convention that the unification of Vietnam would be executed by a general election in the next two years. The American imperialist, however, violated the Convention and interfered in the domestic affairs of the people in South Vietnam. They established the illegal Ngo Dinh Diem puppet government (Saigon regime) to destroy the peace and separate the country.

In order to retain the achievements of the August Revolution, to regain independence and freedom, and to unite the country, the Vietnamese people had to carry out a 21-year war of resistance against the invasion of the American Imperialists and their puppet government.

I. Why did the U.S invade Vietnam?

- Vietnam is a country on the Indochina peninsula, which has an important strategic position with plentiful labor sources and various resources.
- After World War II, Vietnam was internationally recognized by the achievements this country made in the national liberation movements. The achievements the Vietnamese people had gained gave a great impetus to the anti-imperialist movements in the world.
- The August Revolution in 1945 resulted in establishing of the first Worker-Peasant State in South East Asia. Under the impact of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, socialism might have a great potential to spread in Southeast Asia and other regions in the world.
- In 1946, the U.S made use of Tuong Gioi Thach's force in breaking up the Vietnamese Revolution. They wanted to annihilate the new-born worker-peasant government. Since 1950, the U.S had aided the French to prepare for its involvement in Indochina. In 1954, the French admitted its defeat in Vietnam by signing the Geneva Convention acknowledging the independence, freedom and

entire territory and agreeing not to interfere in the domestic affairs of Vietnam and its people.

II. For which purposes did the U.S invade Vietnam?

- To annihilate Vietnamese people's revolutionary movements and socialism in Vietnam.
- To change South Vietnam into a new-style colony and America's military base.
- To prevent socialism from affecting the Southeast Asian region and the U.S called their action "*to construct a dike to prevent the Red Wave*".
- To prepare for their global strategy.

III. The situation of Vietnam after 1954:

1/ South and North of Vietnam after 1954:

- The invasion war of the French colonialists ended with Geneva Convention. Vietnam obeyed all the articles in the Convention.
- On May 26, 1955, the last French troop left Hải Phòng. On May 22, they left Cát Bà island. Before having left, the French destroyed and took away machines. The French, along with the US and Ngô Đình Diệm, had induced many religious inhabitants to move to the South to prepare for a later anti-revolution scheme.
- On June 25, 1954, the French were forced to have Ngô Đình Diệm hold the sovereign in the North. In September 1954, the US violated the Geneva Convention through encouraging some allied countries, such as: Britain and France, to form SEATO and Vietnam was at the mercy of this organization.
- Ngô Đình Diệm refused to negotiate with the government of the Democratic Republics of Vietnam about holding a national election after two years according to the Geneva Convention. In March 1956, the Constitutional Parliament was founded. In October 1956, Ngô Đình Diệm declared the Constitution of the Republic of Vietnam.

2/ The urgent tasks of the Vietnamese Revolution in the new period:

- **The North:** After the resistance against the French ended and the national democratic movement was basically finished, the North had to change into the Socialist movement.
- **The South:** because of being temporarily ruled by the US and its lackeys, the South had to continue the national democratic revolution.
- These two tasks were not separated, but closely and mutually connected to each other.

3/ The destructive actions of the American and Ngô Đình Diệm:

- In November 1954, General Collin was appointed to be an ambassador in the South with the following plans:
 - ++ Excluding the French and their puppets to gain the monopoly in the South.
 - ++ Eradicating the Revolutionary movement and separating Vietnam.
 - ++ Supporting Ngô Ænh Diãũm to establish a puppet government.
- All these aimed at turning the South of Vietnam into the military base of America. They wanted to use the South as a springboard for attacking the North and prevented the wave of national liberation revolution and Socialism in South East Asia
- On July 7 1954, Ngô Ænh Diãũm became the puppet president. He endeavored to found a dictatorial, fascist, and family-ruled government that was very close to America.
- In mid 1955, Ngô Ænh Diãũm started to apply the policies of "*denounce communists*" and "*kill communists*" which were considered the national policies. They arrested, imprisoned, and killed all the people who struggled for the national election. With the motto "*eradicate communists*" and "*kill wrong rather than miss someone*" the US - Diãũm took savage measures originating from the Medieval time together with the modern ones to deter the Southern inhabitants from resisting.
- The nature of the US - Diãũm was clearly manifested through a series of resistant actions against people. The slaughter in Æãũc village (Quaíng Nam) on April 9, 1954 in which 39 people were killed and 37 were wounded was one of the prominent piece of evidence for their nature. They retaliated against the former resisters in Vénh Trinh (Duy Xuyãn - Quaíng Nam) on January 21, 1955. They also poisoned 6000 patriots at Phuĩ Lãũi prison (Saĩi Goĩn) in which 1000 people were killed on December 1,1958.

IV. The 21-year resistance war waged by the Vietnamese people against the U.S invaders (1954 - 1975):

1. 1954 - 1960:

-According to Geneva Convention signed in 1954, Vietnam was temporarily divided into 2 parts with different political systems; the 17th parallel was used as the temporary military demarcation line. The unification would be decided by Vietnam in the next two years.

a)The Vietnamese South people's movements

-Through military and economic aid, the U.S established in the South a U.S dependent puppet regime (Saigon regime). Thousands of military advisors were sent to the South to train Ngo Dinh Diem forces.

- "The movement for peace" waged by intellectuals and different classes initially took place at Sai Gon-Cho Lon in

August 1954. Numerous meetings were held to claim for the Geneva Convention implementation.

-In order to avoid losses for the revolution, people in the South struggled for the Geneva convention implementation, the General Election, and simultaneously fought against the policies "kill communists" and "denounce communists"

• ***Dong Khoi movement:***

- The US- Ngo Dinh Diem practiced very cruel enslavement and harassment policies that made communists illegal. They dragged the guillotines all over the South and killed thousands of innocent people. In other word, they made horrible crime to Southern people.

-On the basis of the analysis of the situation of South Vietnam under the ruling of Saigon regime, the Fifth Session of the Central Executive Board clearly indicated that the fundamental way of revolutionary movements in the South was to wage armed struggles, political struggles in combination with armed forces to gain power.

==> Dong Khoi(General Uprising) broke out in Ben Tre and then spread to the whole Southern area and turned the Southern people's struggles to another period of revolutionary war.

b) The North recovered the economics and healed wounds of war

-After 1954, the North was liberated. In spite of several economics and political advantages, North Vietnam still suffered from consequences left by war and feudalism.

-It's not only economically but also politically necessary to heal wounds of war as soon as possible. Within six years, people in the North had completed two short-term plans to drive the North to the transitional period to socialism: A three-year plan recovering the economic situations, healing the wounds of war and completing land reform (1954 - 1957), a three-year plan reconstructing socialist with economic sectors and developing economy and culture (1958 - 1960).

- What the people in the North gained only in the short time were proud achievements: exploitation was abolished; peasants became real landowners in the country; economy was integrated under two forms of national possession and collective possession; socialist new regime was built up

***Land reform task:**

-The North basically completed the land reform in July 1956. 81.000 hectares of land, 10.000 cattle and over two million agricultural tools were confiscated and reallocated for the poor.

-The most important achievement of land reform was the eradication of landcracy and feudalism. The farmer was utterly liberated. From that time on, farmers became the landowners.

-Some mistakes, however, were made. For example, several landowners, aristocrats whose contributions to the revolution must have been appreciated were also denounced. Some farmers, soldiers, and even VCP members were put down as landowners.

• ***Economic recovery and wounds of war healing:***

-Economics recovery was done in all fields such as: agriculture, industry, transportation, handicraft, trading, etc.. Basic needs of people were met

• ***The socialist transformation in North Vietnam:***

-In order to meet the new requirements, the VCP and the Government proposed a three- year plan to socialistically transform agriculture, handicraft, retail trade especially organize agriculture into co-operatives. The State-operated economy was chosen to be the main sector in the national economy system.

-The socialist transformation resulted in considerable changes in the society of North Vietnam such as the eradication of exploitation, the arrival of new production relationship that speeded up manufacture.

-Because of being lacking in understanding of economic rules at that time, some mistakes were made during the socialist transformation. For example, individual economy was eradicated instead of being transformed

-There were other achievements in economics, culture, and health care. People's awareness was dramatically raised

2. 1961 - 1965:

a/ North Vietnam carried out the National first five- year plan and constructed socialist infrastructure

-The third Party Congress set down general guidelines for economic development, the first five year plan for construction of the initial socialist infrastructure in North Vietnam, and the struggles against the US-Sai Gon regime in South Vietnam.

-During the first five years of socialism construction, Northern people had many great achievements. The North became the rear line for the South. It was the spiritual and material support for the South to fight and win.

b/South Vietnam fought against "Special war"

-After "Dong khoi" movement, forces and revolutionary movements in the South kept developing forcefully. Political as well as armed insurrections were continuously waged to fight against the US-Sai Gon regime.

-Changes of the world did not facilitate the imperialism in general and America in particular. National liberation movements, a direct threat to the colonial system of imperialists, continuously surged up.

-In order to better their situation in Vietnam, Kennedy, newly in power in Washington, applied the strategy "Special war "in South Vietnam.

-Militarily, the US sent more and more American advisors to South Vietnam (from 1.100 advisors in 1960 to 26.000 advisors in 1964)

-Founded American Military General Office to directly guide the war.

-By the end of 1964 there were 560,000 puppet soldiers who were well-armed with up- to -date airplanes, tanks, warships, cannons under the leadership of American advisors. Many raids were made to eradicate the revolutionary forces

-People in South Vietnam expanded and developed their resistance with the motto "attack the enemy" in three fronts: military, politics, and propaganda.

-In order to meet the requirements of the revolution, all the military forces in South Vietnam unified into the "Liberation troops of South Vietnam". In 1962, many large scale raids into U Minh, Tay Ninh and Southwest of Sai Gon made by Ngo Dinh Diem were defeated.

-Strategic hamlets- the main core of the "Special War" were destroyed. The US planned to set up 18,000 hamlets. In fact, just a- third of the plan was carried out. Many hamlets after being collapsed became fighting hamlets of the revolution forces.

-On January 2, 1963, people in South Vietnam won a very important victory at Ap Bac(My Tho). The raids made by 2000 puppet soldiers under the supervision of American advisors were defeated although forces of Vietnam were ten times less than that of the US.

-Political movements developed considerably in the urban, rural, and mountainous areas. The urban area became rough to the US and its puppet. On May 8,1963, 20.000 Buddhists in Hue demonstrated to object to the Buddhism oppression policies implemented by Ngo Dinh Diem. On June 11, 1963, monk Thich Quang Duc burnt himself as an objection to Ngo Dinh Diem that moved all the people. On June 16,1963 Sai Gon regime was shaken at a demonstration of 70,000 southern people.

- The Revolution War in Southern Vietnam and the growth in all aspects of Vietnamese Revolution drove Ngo Dinh Diem and his underlings to the edge of a complete fall. Facing these struggles, on November 1, 1963 the US instigated a group of Sai Gon regime soldiers led by Duong Van Minh to sabotage Ngo Dinh Diem, who was killed late 1963.

3. 1965 - 1968:

a/ South Vietnam defeated "Local war "strategy of America: *Conspiracies and tricks of America in "Local war"

-In spite of America's efforts in handling the war, they failed in stopping the spread of people's struggles in South Vietnam in three fronts: military, politics, and propaganda.

-On March 8, 1965, American soldiers along with their mercenary with up-to date weapons landed in South Vietnam to wage "local war" in the South and simultaneously destructively bombed the North with navy and air forces.

-Within three years (from 1964 to 1967) the amount of American soldiers in South Vietnam increased from 26.000 to 37.000 let alone 7000 soldiers were stationed at military bases in Guam, Philippines, and Thailand and the 7 Fleet was ready to participate in the war.

-Right after landing in the South, America opened an attack on Van Tuong (Quang Nam), two successive "dry seasons" counter-attacks on areas that were suspected to be at the mercy of Vietnam. The US wanted to change the situation, won victory and then terminated the war. All the attacks above especially the General Attack and Mau Than Offensive in Spring 1968, however, were defeated by Southern people, all of which perturbed the American country. In fact, that was the acknowledgement of the defeat of "partial war".

b) Vietnamese people in the North successfully defeated the first destructive war waged by the Americans

***Causes:** Successive losses in the South front as well as the enhancement of American forces to lengthen and expand the invasion war, the US imperialists frenziedly used navy and air forces to bomb the North.

-On August 5, 1964, the US made up "the North Bay event". The slander had it that Vietnam attacked American warships which were anchoring at international territorial waters. The US began their destructive war in North Vietnam in February 1965 as a result.

***Conspiracy and purposes:**

- Destroy all the military and economic potentials of the North, destroy all the achievements the North Vietnamese people made during the initial period of socialist construction, then drive North Vietnam back to "Stone age"
- Prevent foreign aids to the North as well as the support from the North to the South.
- Demoralize Vietnamese people while encourage the Sai Gon army.

***Tricks:**

- The US mobilized all the navy and air forces including thousands of ultramodern airplanes of 50 kinds and different types of destructive bombs.
- They targeted at military bases, important transportation hubs, factories, mines, hydraulic works, residential areas. Barbarically, they also bombed hospitals, dyke systems, and schools.
- The bombing of North Vietnam was intensified. Daily, they bombed 300 times on average. Thousands of innocent people were killed and badly injured. What the North Vietnamese people achieved for over the past ten years was utterly destroyed.
- Northern Vietnam built up socialism, fought and assisted the South. Overcoming difficulties, challenges and war hardship, Northern people completed the duties of a big rear line to a big frontline. People in the North shot down hundreds of US aircrafts and set fire to hundreds of US warships.

4.1969 - 1972:

- Since 1969, after being elected US president, Nixon broke his promise and performed the strategy of "*practical warning*", and applied "*Vietnamizing the war*" in the North and "*Indochinizing war*" in the Indochina. The US, therefore, widened the war to the whole Indochina peninsula.
- In order to implement this policy, Nixon gradually retreated American forces but enhanced puppet military in all aspects.
- In the North: after the US declared to stop bombing the North, North Vietnam started healing the wounds of war, recovering the economy and aiding the South, Laos, and Cambodia.
- In the South: equipment and weapons of the puppet military forces were modernized and the quantity was increased; with the number of over 1,000,000 regular soldiers, they continued playing the role of mercenary. Through the puppet troops, the US performed at the same time 3 wars: war of destruction, war of seizing people and war of suppression. They hoped they would quickly win. The US sent the puppet troops to Cambodia in 1970, to Laos in 1971 in order to divide the fronts of

three countries. However, Southern revolutionary forces were much stronger. In March 1972, the Southern Liberation Army carried out the strategic attack (it lasted during 1972) to three most important strategic areas: Quáng Trê, Tây Nguyãn, and Southeastern Vietnam, which disordered the puppet troops' strategic arrangements and drove "*Vietnam zing the war*" to the edge of failure.

-Facing such losses, the US bombed the North again in order to threaten the Vietnamese people and rally puppet's spirit. Being different from the first time, this time Nixon allowed B 52 aircrafts to exterminate Northern cities and towns and used torpedoes to block estuaries and seaports in order to prevent any possible international aids for Vietnam from North to South of Vietnam. However, people in North Vietnam accomplished an "*Air Dien Bien Phu*" within 12 days in late 1972.

-Being defeated in both regions, the South and the North, the US signed Paris Convention dated Jan. 27, 1973, which acknowledged the independence and sovereignty of Vietnam and committed not to interfere into domestic affairs of the Vietnamese people.

5. 1973 - 1975:

-Even the US had signed in the Paris Convention; they did not give up their conspiracy. The US violated the convention, kept supporting the mercenary Nguyen Van Thieu administration and encouraged Nguyen Van Thieu to invade the liberated zone, evoke a warlike atmosphere in the South.

-This was the stage in which people from both regions built power and conditions for country liberation. People in the South broke the enemy's policies of pacification and struggled for compliance of the Convention. In spring 1975, the General Attack and Uprising led to victory after almost 2 months. The country became independent and unified.

-After 30 years of national salvation and liberation, the Vietnamese Revolution has accomplished their goals

V/ THE HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESISTANCE AGAINST THE AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS FOR THE NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE. (1954-1975)

1/ The results:

- The prominent, prolonged resistance against the American imperialists for the national independence and freedom of the Vietnamese people lasting for 21 years, defeating 5 American Presidents, and 4 war strategies had finally won. The US spent \$676.00 billion on the Vietnam war. 550,000 American soldiers, 70,000 warriors of alliance countries and more than 1 million soldiers of puppet military participated in this war.

The biggest amount of bomb and ammunition (7.8 million tons) was used in Vietnam.

- However, the US failed in having the goal of "elimination and enslavement" carried out. In spite of heavy losses and experiencing too many difficulties in the war, the Vietnamese people eventually won. They succeeded in liberating South Vietnam, defending the Socialism in the North and unifying the whole country.

2/ The historic significance:

-To Vietnam: The victory gloriously ended the 30-year resistance for the national independence from the August Revolution. This was the victory which opened a new era for the Vietnamese Revolution, an era of independence, unity and being on the way to socialism.

-To the world: In the American history, the US had never experienced such a disastrous failure, which had a strong impact on the Americans in particular, and the world in general.

- The victory of Vietnamese people was a source of encouragement that encouraged the revolutionary movements in the world and countries that were struggling against the imperialism.

3/ Reasons:

- Above all, it was the victory of the political independent strategy of the Vietnamese Communist Party. The strategy in which the two strategic tasks were simultaneously carried out mobilized forces of the whole nation. Thus the tremendous strength of the Vietnamese Revolution originated.

- The great strength of people and the VC was originated from the traditional patriotism of the Vietnamese people and the revolutionary heroism.

- The victory derived from the effective contribution of the North.

- The solidarity among people of the three Indochinese countries who shared the same goal and enemy was also an important cause for the victory.

- Thanks to the material and spiritual support from the world, especially the aid of the USSR, China, other socialist countries, and the national liberation movements of those who loved peace and democracy all over the world including the advanced American inhabitants.

CONCLUSION:

- To protect achievements of the August Revolution 1945, the Vietnamese people had struggled for 21 years. That was a just struggle for value and basic rights of Vietnam.

- The Vietnamese people's resistance against the American invaders lasted in almost a-fourth century. The targets set

up by the Vietnamese people were properly gained and the country gained its independence and continued its socialist construction.

- Only building up socialism successfully strengthens Vietnam to defend its national independence that is the most valuable for which generations of the Vietnamese people had scarified. Only socialism can drive Vietnam to the position of vanguard nations in the world. And only socialism is the most suitable for the development of the nation.

DANANG UNIVERSITY

Teachers' Training College of Danang

Instructor: Nguyễn Maûnh Hăõng

VIETNAM AFTER THE WAR
ACHIEVEMENTS, DIFFICULTIES AND CHALLENGES

Objectives: students are expected to:

- *understand situation of Vietnam after April 30, 1975*
- *demonstrate the construction of socialism and renewal in Vietnam*
- *illustrate achievements the Vietnamese people have gained*

In Spring 1975, the revolution of the Vietnamese people led by the VCP came to success. The country was united. Continuing the chosen way, the Vietnamese people started building up socialism in the whole country. The Vietnamese people have gained important achievements but encountered challenges as well.

A. Situation in the South after 1975 and the unification of the country (1975 - 1976)

I. Situation after 1975:

1. In the North:

- Socialism had been constructed since 1954 but only half of that period passed in peace; the North had to fight against destructive wars for twice.
- Damages and losses caused by the destructive wars to the North were very heavy. They destroyed most of what Northern people had built up.
- Material facilities of socialism were very small, basically with a backward agricultural economy, a handicraft production, low labor productivity and a difficult life.
- Production relationship was identified under two forms: people's property and collective property; human exploitation was abolished; landocracy and bourgeoisie were eliminated.

2. In the South:

- The South was liberated; puppet arms and government fell but its bases still remained. The Revolutionary government took over and administrated every aspect of the society.
- Among millions of soldiers, reactionary groups, stubborn lackeys were still waiting for chances and regretted their old-day lives; they wanted to sabotage the Revolution whereas the others realized their wrong ways
- Colonial government left prolonged and heavy consequences.
- Although economy in the South developed, to certain extent, it was basically a weak colonial economy.

-A part of Southern people misunderstood the Revolution and Socialism due to the propaganda made up by the puppet government.

II. Completion of the immediate duties:

1. *The North got over war consequences, restored economy and aided the South:*

2. *Stabilization of situation in the South:*

This was a duty to complete quickly but carefully. During a short time, the South completed the followings:

-Taking over new-liberated areas.

-Establishing the mass organizations and the revolutionary government.

-The revolutionary government had to perform a series of actions such as abolishing exploitation and nationalizing banks..

-Encouraging people to restore production, remove mines and increase crops...

-Focusing on culture, education and health care....

3. *Unification of the country:*

-The nationwide General Election had to be held to unify the country. And in fact it was safely and democratically held on April 25, 1976. 98% of the population eagerly voted. It was a very important victory of Vietnam. The National Assembly of the unified Vietnam had a meeting in late June and early July 1976 and passed the internal and external policies of the unified Vietnam, and the duties of the Vietnamese Revolution in the new era.

B. Vietnam with its initial steps to socialism and struggles for national defense (1976-1986)

After the excellent performance of the urgent tasks in the North and the South especially the success of the General Election, the Vietnamese revolution entered a new era of stepping to socialism. Within the first ten years after the Liberation Day, Vietnam could well perform these following tasks

1. The five - year plan (1976-1986)

-The Fourth Session of the Communist Party in Dec. 1976 has analyzed 3 important characters of the country, the Session also affirmed the certainty and importance of the socialist construction, and the Socialist Revolutionary lines, orientation, targets and duties of the second five-year plan.

-The guidance and duties projected by the Session were implemented during production and fighting; the socialist construction, thus, encountered a number of challenges. There were some unexpected obstacles such as war consequences, frontier wars, destruction of the hostile forces and natural disasters.

-Achievements:

-Basically restoring agricultural production, industry, traffic and transportation... especially the North-South railway. Laborers between areas were re-arranged. Agricultural production was somehow made considerable progress. The acreage for cultivated land increased by 2 million hectares, acreage for afforested areas grew. Production relationship was affirmed; cultural life and education were improved (in the 1979-1980 academic year, there were 15 million people attending school). Health care was focused in all aspects. Cultural, musical and sports activities met the people's demands.

-Difficulties: Many difficulties in development of the economy; national income was not enough for expenditures; there was no accumulation from domestic economy; essential goods could not manufactured to meet people's demands.

-In 1978 and 1979 Vietnam had to fight for the independence, liberty and the intact of the Vietnamese territory twice. On December 1978 the Vietnamese military drove away Polpot at Southwest frontier. On December 1979 they fought against the Chinese expansionists who invaded the frontier in the North. These two wars aggravated the situation of Vietnam.

2. Vietnam from 1981 - 1985:

-The fifth Session of the Party affirmed the continuity of following the lines proposed at the 4th Session and concretized them in specific stages. The session presumed that in order to successfully step into socialism, Vietnam had to go through numerous periods and at that time Vietnam was in the first stage of the transitional period.

-In this period, Vietnam gained new achievements: Party's important decisions made a good start for the economy development. Agricultural productivity and acreage increased; its output increased by 4.9% p.a., industrial output increased by 9.5% p.a., national income increased by 6.4% p.a. Material and technical facilities of socialism were new-built with hundreds of items, especially of electricity, cement, oil and gas. Living conditions for a certain people were properly improved.

-Difficulties: production increased but slowly compared with the requirements and capacity. Economic imbalance was slowly reduced; people's lives were still difficult...

C. Renovation in Vietnam and development of the country in accordance with the socialist orientation (from 1986 till now)

1. The standpoints toward "Doi moi " policy of the Vietnamese Communist Party

-Through the scientific analysis of the socialist revolutionary theories as well as achievements and difficulties

during the first 10 years going to pursue the nationwide socialist construction, the 6th Session of the Communist Party (held in Dec. 1986) proposed a renovation to overcome difficulties and speed up the socialist construction. The viewpoints on "Doi moi" policies were continuously amended and completed in the successive sessions.

-Renovation is an objective requirement. Renovation does not mean changing the socialist goals, but more effectively carrying out such aims by right standpoints about socialism with appropriate approaches, forms and methods.

-Renovation must be all-round, synchronous. Economic renovation must go with political renovation, but the main point is economic renovation.

-In economy: admitting the lasting existence of economic sectors speeding up production ; the VCP admits the growth of multi-sector commodity economy oriented to socialist, run under market mechanism and state 's management; abolishing the centralized bureaucratic subsidy-based system, forming the market mechanism....

-In foreign relations: implementing diversification in foreign affairs; open policy to regionally and internationally integrate under the motto "*Vietnam wishes to be friends with all nations*" on the base of sovereignty respect and mutual benefit.

-In politics: emphasizing democracy and the viewpoint: "*people as root*" following the motto "*people know, people discuss, people perform and people supervise*".

2. Achievements:

-The renovation projected by the VCP is appreciated by the entire population. Therefore, it is concordant with the life and has gained initial important achievements.

-From the situation of a country of food shortage, Vietnam has recently met domestic food requirements and stored food requirements and become the world's second leading exporter of rice. Food output was 17.5 million tons in 1987, 31 million tons in 1998 and 33.5 million tons in 1999.

-Industry reaches the growth rate of 13% p.a; various important potential industries such as oil and gas, 500 kilo voltage electricity line are put in use and exploited for industrialization.

-Consuming goods have been enriched. Manufacture bases connect with the markets; styles and quality are much improved

-Foreign economy is developed in all aspects; integration into the world accelerates the Vietnamese economy.

-Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increases to 7.2% from 1991 - 1993, 8.8% from 1994 - 1997, 5-6% from 1998 - 2000. Vietnamese GDP has increased by 6% - 9% for almost 20 years.

-People's lives are improved. People feel free to do their own business in conformity with the laws and rules.

3. Challenges:

-Economy of the country is still backward; industry is still limited; infrastructure is under developed.

-Accumulation from domestic economy remains low and investment for development is slow.

-Labor productivity is low; quality and efficiency are limited.

-Launching to the 21st century, Vietnam is encountering big challenges: risks of being economically backward in comparison with other regional countries; misleading socialist system; bureaucracy, corruption, smuggling...

CONCLUSION:

-In 1986, VCP proposed the renovation *Âãøi Mãii*. Vietnam has encountered many difficulties but gained very big and significant achievements. That proves the Party's Renovation is absolutely righteous and Renovation is appropriate.

-At present, Vietnam is not only having new opportunities but facing to new challenges as well. Permanently learning from experience, summarizing the practical experience and developing theories will ensure reduction of mistakes, avoidance of tortuous and complicated development steps to get straight to the aim *"wealthy people, strong country, just and civilized society"*

DANANG UNIVERSITY

Teachers' Training College of Danang

Instructor: Nguyễn Maûnh Hăõng

HĂÕ CHÊ MINH IN THE VIETNAMESE HISTORY EVOLUTION
(1911 - 1969)

Objectives: students are expected to

- describe Hăõ Chê Minh 's biography
- demonstrate his great contributions to the Vietnamese Revolution

At the memorial service in honor of President Hăõ Chê Minh, a part of the funeral oration of the Central Committee of the Vietnamese Communist Party wrote: "... our country gave birth to Ho Chi Minh, a great national hero, who brightens up our country..." The evolution of Vietnamese history since 1930 has been deeply attached to President Ho Chi Minh's great contributions.

I. Some features about the leader Nguyen Ai Quoc:

- Nguyen Ai Quoc was born on May 19, 1890 at Kim Liãn Hamlet, Nam Ân District, Nghău An Province. At his early age, he was named Nguyễn Sinh Cung and later renamed Nguyễn Táút Thành. He was born in a patriotic educated family originating from peasants. He grew up while the country was being invaded, witnessing the failure of many patriotic movements in late 19th century and early 20th centuries, contacting with contemporary revolutions and living in the land with indomitable tradition of fighting against aggressors.... All of these factors formed his patriotism and determination to seek for the national salvation and liberation. However, his way was different from those of previous patriots (such as Hoảng Hoa Thăim, Phan Băui Chău and Phan Chu Trinh....), whom he respected and admired very much.

II. Hăõ Chê Minh's great contributions to the Vietnamese history:

a. From 1919 - 1930:

1.1. Choosing the appropriate way for the national liberation:

- The crisis of the patriotic and national salvation movements in late 19th century and early 20th century required a new way for national salvation. The tendency of national salvation following to the bourgeoisies' and feudalists' standpoints failed to meet objective requirements of the Vietnamese history.

- In 1911, Nguyen Ai Quăuc left Vietnam for Western countries to seek a way for national salvation. From 1911 to 1917, he traveled to many capitalist countries and their colonies in all continents. He did many jobs such as washing dishes, sweeping

snow, developing films, and working as a galley boy or a stoker for his living. During this time, he had opportunities to live with laborers from different countries and understood their plights as well as their wishes in struggling for independence. This was the first direct basis helping him to perceive the necessity of the international solidarity among the oppressed people in the world and helping him understand the standpoints about classes as well as the class struggles of the Marxist-Leninist doctrine later.

- In 1917, the October Revolution broke out and succeeded in Russia. This Revolution had a great influence on revolutionaries all over the world, including Ho Chi Minh. At that time, Nguyen Ai Quăúc left London for Paris, where he participated in the movements of French workers and spent much time exploring and studying the October Revolution. He also joined the French Socialist Party because he thought this Party was progressive and supportive to the colonies.

- In 1919, after World War I had ended, the winner countries held a Conference in Versailles to share their interests. On behalf of the Vietnamese people, under the name of Nguyăùn Aĩi Quăúc, he sent his Eight-Point Claim to the Conference for the rights and interests of the Vietnamese people. Of course, the capitalist countries didn't respond to this legitimate Claim, but this Vietnamese patriot attacked the enemy right in their country had great influence on people in Indochina and those in other colonies around the world.

- In July 1920, Nguyăùn Aĩi Quăúc read *"The first rough draft of the Thesis on Peoples and Colonies"* written by V.I Lenin. Later on he retold that: *"Lenin's Thesis made me so touched, inspired, and self-confident. I was too happy to fight back my tears. Sitting alone in my room, I spoke loudly as if I did it public: my oppressed and exploited compatriots, this is vital for us; this is the way for our national salvation"*. From that time onward, Nguyen Ai Quoc followed Lenin. At the Congress of the French Socialist Party, which was organized in 1920, Nguyăùn Aĩi Quăúc voted to join the French Communist Party. He became the first Vietnamese communist. This marked the turning point in his revolutionary life. Later on, he concluded: *"To defense and liberate the country, there is no way except for the proletarian revolutionary one"*.

1.2. Nguyen Ai Quoc systematically propagandized Marxist-Leninist doctrine into Vietnam:

- *Nguyăùn Aĩi Quăúc in France (1920 - 1923)*

- Nguyăùn Aĩi Quăúc worked in the French workers' Movement, enlisted the assistance from the French Communist Party for the Vietnamese revolution. He took part in *the Association of Vietnamese Patriots in France*. He coordinated with a couple of patriots from the French colonies to found the *Union of Colonies*

in Paris to fight against colonialism. The Marxist-Leninist doctrine was propagandized to the colonies through this organization. He and some patriots of the colonies published the *Miserable People*. He wrote many articles for *the Miserable People*, and the *Humane* published by the French Communist Party, *the Workers' Life* of the French General Federation of Labor. He wrote *the Bamboo Dragon Drama* to satirize the puppet Emperor Khai Ân when this Emperor went to France...etc. And his typical writing was the *Indictment of Colonialism*.

- Even though the French tried to oppose, those newspapers were brought back to Vietnam by seamen and helped awaken patriotism, revolutionary spirit, and to propagandize the Marxist-Leninist doctrine in Vietnam.

- *Nguyen Ai Quoc in the Russia:*

- In June 1923, Nguyen Ai Quoc confidentially left France for Russia to attend the Farmers' Conference. He stayed in Russia for a while and worked in the Comintern (Communist Internationalism), studied the Marxist-Leninist doctrine and the reality of socialism construction in Russia. During his stay he wrote many articles for the *Truth* (newspaper) of the Russian Communist Party, the *International Correspondence* (magazine) of the Comintern. He always considered newspapers as propagandizing means, weapons of the revolutions. He also attended many important international conferences, of which, the most important one was the Comintern Congress V (1924). In this Congress, he represented his point of view about the position, role, and relationship of the colonies' revolution. He, particularly, emphasized the role of peasants in the colonies. Nguyen Ai Quoc's fundamental viewpoints on the liberation revolution in the colonies in imperialism, about the proletarian revolution, which were received and propagandized to Vietnam by him after World War I, were the important political and ideological preparations for founding a new-styled political party in Vietnam.

1.3. Hô Chí Minh prepared ideology and organization for the arrival of the VCP.

- In November 1924, Nguyễn Ái Quốc left Russia for Quangzhou (China) to rally Vietnamese patriots to propagandize and teach the Marxist-Leninist doctrine. He reformed the *Union of Hearts* into the *Youth Revolutionary Association*. He founded the *Youth* (newspaper). And he also established the *Union of the Asian Oppressed Nations* to build revolutionary solidarity among these countries.

-He trained government officials for the Vietnamese Revolution through crash courses from 1925-1927. He trained 75 officials in

total. The excellent ones were sent to study at the Orient University and the rest were sent back to Vietnam to work in the "Proletarian zing Movement". Nguyãùn Aĩi Quãúc 's lectures were bound into the book called *The Revolutionary Path* in early 1927. In this book, Nguyãùn Aĩi Quãúc pointed out the fundamental guidance for the national liberation revolution in Vietnam.

-From 1926-1927, *The Revolutionary Path* and *The Youth* were secretly brought back to Vietnam from China when the patriotic and democratic movements were highly developing from the North to the South. The propaganda of the Marxist-Leninist doctrine gave the impetus to the development of the workers' and patriotic movements and the *Youth Organization* and the *New Vietnam Organization* were divided into 3 communist parties in Vietnam. They were the *Communist Party of Indochina*, the *Communist Party of An Nam* and the *Communist League of Indochina*.

1.4. *Nguyãùn Aĩi Quãúc made all ideological and organizational preparations for the arrival of the VCP:*

- In 1929, the Vietnamese workers' movements developed drastically. Other patriotic movements also developed, which created a strong national and democratic wave. In order to meet the objective demands of the history, it was necessary to unite the three communist parties into a unique political party.
- Authorized by the Comintern, Nguyãùn Aĩi Quãúc held a unified conference to found the VCP on Feb. 3, 1930.

1.5. *NAQ pointed out the righteous lines, strategies, and tactics for the Vietnamese Revolution:*

At the unified conference, "*The Brief Political Program*" and "*The Brief Stratagem*" proposed by NAQ were ratified. They provided the Vietnamese revolutionary fundamental and appropriate lines. The political program regulated the essences, duties, goals, motivations and the leading class of the revolution.

Fifteen years after the VCP's arrival, the VCP led the Vietnamese people to achieve the victory of August Revolution to form the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the first nation in South East Asia led by the peasant-worker alliance.

2. From 1930 - 1945:

2.1. *Ho Chi Minh coordinated with the Central Committee of the VCP to complete the strategic directions of the revolution, opening for the success of the August Revolution.*

February 1941, NAQ came back to Vietnam after 30 years abroad and coordinated with the Central Committee of the Communist Party to directly lead the national salvation

2.2. *Hãö Chuí Tẽch had great contributions to build the revolutionary forces:*

- The revolutionary forces included the political force of the masses and the armed forces. In order to have the revolutionary forces, he ordered to set up *Viãût Minh Front* (League for Vietnamese Independence) on May 19, 1941 and proposed the ten-point political program for *Viãût Minh Front*. Many workers, peasants, youth and women's organizations and guerilla units operating in the highlands attracted the Front. These organizations working for the national salvation brought together all social strata including the bourgeoisie and landowners provided that they agreed to struggle against the French. This is one of the great ideologies of Ho Chi Minh about solidarity. One of his famous sayings: " *Solidarity, solidarity and great solidarity; success, success and great success*".

- In order to enhance the political development, Ho Chi Minh ordered to build armed forces. By the end of 1941, he established the *Self-defense Fighting Team* in Cao Bang province. This Team was responsible for safeguarding the resistance bases, providing political and armed training for the local self-defense teams and guerrillas, and liaised among the Party Central Committee. On December 22, 1944, he decided to set up *the Vietnam Propaganda and Liberation Army* and proposed activities for this organization. There was a combination of political struggles and armed struggles, but initially, the political struggle was given priority.

- *The Vietnam Propaganda and Liberation Arms* was the former organization of the present *Vietnamese People 's Army*.

- In April 1945, together with the Party Central Committee, he summoned the Military Conference in North Vietnam. This conference agreed to unite *the National Salvation Association* and *the Vietnam Propaganda and Liberation Army* into *the Vietnam Liberation Army*. Thanks to both political forces and armed forces, the Vietnamese people waged the General Uprisings in August and gained victory.

2.3. *Ho Chu Tich had great contributions to the construction of the revolutionary bases:*

- Military bases always played a very important role. This is the decisive factor for the success of a revolution. Understanding the significance of this matter, he had the Pac Po Revolutionary Base built. He also widened this base to the south to Cao Bang, Bac Can and Lang Son provinces. In June 1945, he coordinated with the Central Committee of the Party to set up Viet Bac Liberated Zone comprising of 6 provinces: Cao Bang, Bac Can, Lang Son, Ha Giang, Tuyen Quang and Thai Nguyen provinces. In the Liberated Zone, he proposed 10 policies for the *Viãût Minh*. The Liberated Zone can be considered the epitome of Vietnam later. And the ten policies of Viet Minh are the current policies of internal and external relations of Vietnam.

2.4. *Ho Chi Minh led the August Revolution to victory:*

- On August 13, 1945, Japan unconditionally surrendered to the Allies. Taking advantage of this situation, he held the National Conference of the Party from August 13 to 15, 1945. The Conference analyzed the situation, and confirmed that this was a good opportunity and decided to wage the General Uprising and promulgated the Military Order No. 1. Then, he summoned the National Assembly in Tan Trao, Tuyen Quang province on August 16 - 17. He presided the National Assembly and agreed to wage the policy of the Party regarding the General Uprising, ratified the national flag and the national anthem. He was elected to be the head of the Liberation & Nationalities Committee and of the provisional government. Ho Chu Tich realized that this opportunity had arrived. He said: "*If we have to burn the whole Truong Son Range to win in this Uprising, we would not hesitate to do it.*" His determination became the determination of whole the Party, all Vietnamese people, and the whole nation. After only 15 days, the Uprising was successful and the united government was accomplished.

2.5. *Ho Chi Minh composed and proclaimed the Declaration of Independence:*

- After the successful General Uprising, on Sep. 2, 1945, on behalf of the provisional Government, Ho Chu Tich proclaimed the Declaration of Independence in the Meeting with ten thousands of people in Ha Noi. He solemnly declared to the Vietnamese people and the world the birth of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, marking the total victory of the August Revolution.

3. From 1945 to 1954:

Ho Chi Minh coordinated with the Party Central Committee to direct the struggles against the French successfully:

- Directly led the construction and strengthening the people's democratic state, led the VCP and the Vietnamese people to fight against famine, illiteracy and foreign invaders (1945 -1946) and helped the country over the precarious situation.

- Constructed the official government and promulgated the first Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

- Launched the movements of increasing production, implementing thrift and eradicating illiteracy.

- Signed the March 6 preliminary agreement and the Sep. 14 provisional agreement in 1946 to get ready for the national consolidation and construction.

- Proposed the lines for the resistance, led Vietnamese people to carry out the nine-year prolonged war of resistance against the French colonists and the American involvement; appealed the whole country to fight against the enemy, launched the patriotic

emulation movement, directed all struggles in all fronts of military, politics and diplomacy....

4. From 1954 - 1969:

- Coordinated with the Party Central Committee to construct and perfect the socialist revolutionary lines in the North and the people's democratic & national revolutionary lines in the South, and directed the revolutionary struggles of the national compatriots.
- Focused on training and improving the leading role of the Party.
- Focused on constructing the people's democratic state, educating, and training mass political organizations.
- Constructed the foundation of the socialist virtue.
- Improved the relationship of international solidarity between Vietnam and other countries in the world.

***CONCLUSION:**

- A great heart stopped beating on Sep. 2, 1969. Ho Chi Minh passed away and left an endless sympathy in the hearts of the Vietnamese people and international friends. The evolution of Vietnamese history from 1930 to present is connected with Ho Chi Minh's great contributions.
- It was the Vietnamese people who made their history. The VCP and Vietnamese people have contributed so much to their victories in the last 70 years, however, Ho Chi Minh played a crucial role. He was "*a man of far-sighted vision*", mastered the situation and predicted the revolutionary development.
- Ho Chi Minh 's contributions and devotion have been proved by Vietnamese history. UNESCO recognized Ho Chi Minh to be one of the world 's greatest heroes. He was the one who left his imprint to the human beings' progress, who was a national hero of Vietnamese people and a great cultural hero of the world.