

DECOLONIZATION OF VIETNAM

Wartime experience



1940	France surrendered to Nazi Germany
1940	Japan launched an invasion of Indochina
1941	The French disregarded Vietnamese nationalism

Positive (+)

- Advances of science and technology
- Economic benefits
- Industrial and business development

Negative (-)

- Racial discrimination
- Locals were deprived of essential liberties

<p>Bao Dai</p> 	<p>Ho Chi Minh</p> 
<p>1926: Emperor of Annam as a puppet of French -> Japanese colonial government</p> <p>1945: abdicated 1949: ruler of Vietnam 1944: abdicated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Wanted independence from Vietnam- Understood that unity between the communists and non-communists was necessary

1858-1940 (b4 jap)	French colonial rule	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. No government representation2. Disregard Vnese attempts for independence3. Set up a federal government called indochinese council to appease local elites	<p>Political impact => created the fundamental reason for <u>desire of</u></p>
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		=> Prompted them to join <u>anti-colonial</u> movements such as the <u>Viet Minh</u> , which built up its own military force and became the first independent army of modern Vietnam	<u>independence</u> and <u>national unity</u>
1941	Formation of Viet Minh	Created a united front between the communists and non communist to stand against the French	
	Formation of the Indochinese council	<p>Hindered decolonisation as it limited the political power held by the Vietnamese</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Members of the council were loyal to France and wanted to maintain French rule in Vietnam <p>Encouraged decolonization by increasing the determination of the Vietnamese to fight for independence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vietnamese nationalists were disappointed at the lack of Vietnamese representation at the council 	
1944	Widespread Famine	<p>10% of the population died of starvation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requisitioning of rice by the French and Japanese, allied bombing etc - Starving peasants were furious that the wealthy and elite hoarded the rice <p>=> resentment to support communists</p> <p>The Viet Minh's support grew because the people felt that the Viet Minh cared for their welfare. For example, they opened the granaries to feed starving peasants during the famine in early 1945.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reason why the Communists gained mass support was because of the unfair/unequal living standards that the masses had to endure compared to the elites. • The reason why the Communists were able to gain mass support was because it was <u>able to meet the basic needs of the people</u>. 	
1945	<p>AUGUST REVOLUTION : Viet Minh to launch an uprising when Japan had surrendered</p> <p>DRV (democratic republic of vietnam)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vietnam has to be guided towards independence <p>Japan momentarily took over Vietnam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The installation of Bao Dai spurred the desire for genuine independence among Vietnamese nationalists - showed that the French were militarily weak <p>Japanese defeat in WWII => August revolution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Established the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) under the Viet Minh led by Ho Chi Minh - Strengthened the authority of the Viet Minh as the new government of Vietnam <p>French re-occupation of Vietnam to desire authority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Did not recognize the DRV - Wanted to retain their empire <p>Needed the US' support for the long term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opposed European colonisation 	

		<p>=> US was allied with French and supported French reoccupation of Vietnam rather than Vietnamese independence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DRV disbanded the indochinese communist party to convince the western powers that there was no communist threat in Vietnam <div> <p>🇫🇷 reoccupation of 🇻🇳 [ruled out any autonomy for colonies]</p> <p>🇺🇸 : viewed France as a useful ally against Soviet influence in Europe, hence did not want to strain relations over Vietnam</p> <p>🇬🇧 : supported re-occupation to boost France's post-war economy</p> </div>	
1946	Preliminary agreement [French and Viet Minh wanted Chinese GMD out of Vietnam]	<p>After WWII, Chinese communist troops were present in North Vietnam to protect and provide military aid. Both the French and Chinese wanted them to leave Vietnam hence they came to a mutual agreement which led to their redrawing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensured that the Chinese would not be able to threaten Vietnam's fight for independence - DRV was formally recognised as a free state with its own government and can no longer be threatened by French military power. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) French to station 15,000 troops in North Vietnam 2) DRV to be recognised as a free state with its own government within the french union 3) French forces to withdraw from DRV within 5 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ho agreed as he viewed the <u>Chinese as a greater threat</u> to Vietnam's independence 	
	1946-1954 Civil war 1st indochina war [8 yrs] -> pre Vietnam war	<p>French forces shelled the northern port of Haiphong. On 19 December, full-scale fighting broke out between the French and Viet Minh forces. This was the start of the First Indochina War between the French and the Viet Minh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Subsequent talks between the French and DRV failed - French went back on most of their assurances to strengthen their military and political position in Vietnam - Main French strategy was to defeat the Viet minh through direct confrontation <p>Haiphong incident</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - French shelled the northern port - Full on fighting broke out <p>Viet Minh's response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build up its own military force (People's army of Vietnam) - Built viet minh forces in terms of training, arms, experience - Flexible in their tactics - Able to recruit peasants to provide food and information of the guerillas 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Persistent and focused <p>War atrocities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- French focus were increasingly frustrated- Carried out summary executions- Massacred villagers in Central Vietnam- More villagers died in the war than regular troops <p>Conflict between the communists and other nationalist groups (pro french moderates, anti communist nationalists, religious groups)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Anti communists were willing to work with the french for political reform- Had to rely on French military in their struggle against the Viet Minh- Risk of being seen as colonial puppets of the French if no genuine political reforms were implemented<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Form a monarchical government <table><tr><td>Anti-communist</td><td>Communist</td></tr><tr><td>Wanted a monarchical government with the former emperor (Bao Dai) as a unifying figure for the on-communist vietnam</td><td>Almost all people living in the country would become Vietnamese citizens</td></tr></table> <p>French tried to gain US political support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Exaggerated the communist threat in Vietnam- US became worried (growing communist threat in Czechoslovakia, China, North Korea)	Anti-communist	Communist	Wanted a monarchical government with the former emperor (Bao Dai) as a unifying figure for the on-communist vietnam	Almost all people living in the country would become Vietnamese citizens	
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1949	Formation of the associated states of Indochina	<p>Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam</p> <p>Attempt to maintain control over their colonies, existing within a broader French Union</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Wanted to install Bao Dai as their emperor- Ppl viewed him as a french collaborator (they r not wrong..)					
1950s-70s	The Cold War (involvement)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The US wanted to contain communism in Asia as they believed in the <u>domino theory</u>, where if one country fell to communism, its neighbors would inevitably fall too, hence supplying the French with military aid and financial support.- China and the USSR wanted to <u>support communist states</u> and provided military aid, training, and arms.- While the US aid allowed France to continuously fight the Viet Minh, Chinese and Soviet backing of Viet Minh gave them <u>resources to keep resisting</u>, hence neither side could achieve dominance.- Viet Minh's guerilla tactics made it difficult for France to use conventional military superiority effectively- The superpower involvement of the Cold War created a balance of external support that <u>prevented France from achieving a decisive military victory in Vietnam, hence undermining France's ability to sustain colonial rule.</u>	<p>=> prevented France from achieving a decisive military victory In Vietnam</p> <p>=> strengthened support for Viet Min</p>				

1954	<p>Battle of Dien Bien Phu / Viet Minh Victory</p> <p>The Geneva accords preface treaty that ended the Indochina wars</p>	<p>The Battle of Dien Bien Phu was one of France's most humiliating defeats and it was also the decisive victory the Viet Minh had sought.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vietminh understood the country 1. Saw access to the mountains as possible 2. China's help 3. french underestimation + lack of commitment 4. local support 5. Vietminh commitment <p>New talks held in Geneva</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Country divided at the 17th parallel - Only a compromise between foreign powers in the cold war - communist fighter inside south Vietnam who want to overthrow the government and let the north take over - Failed to resolve conflict as neither side was happy 	<p>=> French defeat made France's re-occupation <u>unviable</u> as it illustrated that France could not rely on military superiority to control Vietnam.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - French tried to lure Viet Minh into a decisive battle at Dien Bien Phu - the Viet Minh surrounded and defeated the French, - The French defeat prompted calls for a peaceful settlement to prevent wider conflict in Southeast Asia, and to avoid a larger Cold War confrontation
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