

# ❖ REMEMBER VIETNAM ❖



*"Rice Fields at Bac Hamlet" by Phan Ke An*

## OUTLINE OF VIETNAMESE HISTORY

### RESISTANCE TO THE CHINESE

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|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 1st Millennium B.C. | Period of the Hung Kings, Bronze Age                                      |
| 2nd Century B.C.    | Annexation by the Han Chinese Empire                                      |
| 40 A.D.             | Trung sisters defeat the Chinese and restore Vietnam's independence       |
| 43                  | Chinese reassert domination   |
| 544                 | Ly Nam De's insurrection  |
| 939                 | Ngo Quyen defeats the Chinese and sets up an independent Vietnamese state |
| 1009-1225           | Ly dynasty  |
| 1010                | Thang Long (Hanoi) becomes the capital                                    |
| 1225-1400           | Tran dynasty  |
| 1225-1288           | Resistance against three Mongol invasions                                 |

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 1407-1427           | Ming Chinese invade and occupy Vietnam   |
| 1418-1427           | Le Loi and Nguyen Trai lead Vietnamese nationalists against the Chinese.       |
| 1427-1789           | Le dynasty   |
| 17th-18th centuries | Struggle between Trinh (north) and Nguyen (south) lords; peasant insurrections |
| 1785                | Nguyen Hue defeats the Thais on Roaring River in the Mekong Delta              |
| 1789                | Nguyen Hue (Quang Trung) defeats the Chinese in Hanoi                          |
| 1802                | Gia Long branch of the Nguyen dynasty begins                                   |

## FIRST FRENCH WAR

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|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 1858      | French attack Danang  |
| 1867      | French annex southern Vietnam   |
| 1875      | French attack Hanoi   |
| 1884      | French impose protectorate status on Vietnam  |
| 1860-1900 | Popular uprisings led by scholars against the French                                    |
| 1904-1908 | Patriotic movements led by Phan Boi Chau and Phan Chu Trinh                             |
| 1920      | Nguyen Ai Quoc (Ho Chi Minh) votes at Tours for establishment of French Communist Party |



*Vietnamese and French troops in battle of Hung Hoa, 1884 (detail of large painting)*



*U.S. supplies being parachuted to French troops at Dien Bien Phu*

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 1930              | Ho Chi Minh and others found the Vietnamese Communist Party; popular uprisings against the French  |
| 1940              | Germany occupies France; Japan seizes French holdings in Vietnam; Southern Uprising (Nam Ky Khoi Nghia); uprisings in Bac Son and Do Luong.  |
| 1941              | Viet Minh founded  |
| 1941-1945         | Guerrilla actions against Japanese and French occupying Vietnam  |
| 1945              | Japanese force peasants to grow jute; between one and two million peasants die from starvation; Viet Minh take Hanoi, Hue, and Saigon; Vietnamese emperor Bao Dai presents imperial sword and seal to Viet Minh. |
| September 2, 1945 | Ho Chi Minh reads Vietnam's Declaration of Independence in Hanoi's Ba Dinh Square  |

### SECOND FRENCH WAR

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|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| September 23, 1945 | French troops arriving on U.S. ships attack southern Vietnam; resistance begins.  |
| Nov.-Dec. 1946     | French attack northern Vietnam; resistance movement gains strength; U.S. grants France \$160 million in credit for the war. |

- 1950-1954 U.S. aid for French War increases from 60 to 75 percent of total costs; CIA personnel and airplanes supply the French; Chinese assist Vietnam.
- 1954 Vietnamese seal triumph over French at Dien Bien Phu.

## AMERICAN WAR

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- June 1954 Ngo Dinh Diem brought to South Vietnam from the United States to be prime minister
- July 1954 Geneva Accords provisionally divide Vietnam at the 17th parallel into northern Vietnam (under Ho Chi Minh) and southern Vietnam (under Ngo Dinh Diem) with elections to reunify the country scheduled for July 1956; French troops to leave Vietnam; resistance fighters in the south to go north for regrouping for two years. The U.S. begins immediate covert operations to subvert the Accords in both North and South, and provides military assistance to Diem.

1954-1960

Ngo Dinh Diem refuses to hold elections; imprisons family members of former resistance fighters; land reforms in the North include abuses with many killed.

1960

Southern uprising against the U.S.-backed Diem government; formation of the National Liberation Front.

1961-1963

American military advisors are authorized to return fire.

1964

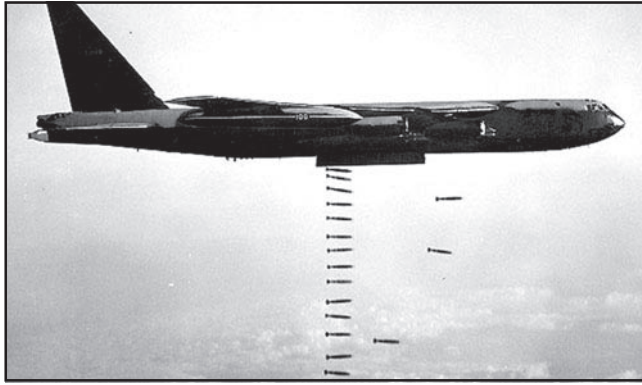
U.S. initiates embargo against northern Vietnam; Gulf of Tonkin "incident" and Congressional resolution.



U.S. National Archives and Records Administration

*With bombs, bulldozers and toxic chemicals, the United States destroyed vast areas of forest in Vietnam, echoing Tacitus: "To ravage, to slaughter, to usurp under false titles, they call empire; and where they make a desert, they call it peace."*

OUTLINE OF VIETNAMESE HISTORY



*“Vietnamization” of the war meant replacing massive numbers of ground troops with massive bombing, primarily of southern Vietnam. The total volume of U.S. bombing was more than twice that used everywhere by all sides during World War II.*

- 1965 American ground combat troops begin offensive operations in the South; United States bombs the North; antiwar protests in the U.S. and Europe; China and Soviet Union supply the North.
- 1968 Soviet Union becomes the major supplier of northern Vietnam; North Vietnamese siege of Khe Sanh; Tet Offensive by the NVA and PLAF forces against a hundred cities and towns across southern Vietnam; American troops kill over four hundred civilians at My Lai; Paris peace talks begin.
- 1969 U.S. troop strength reaches 543,300; “Vietnamization” of the war begins; massive antiwar demonstrations in the United States; Ho Chi Minh dies; My Lai massacre disclosed.
- 1970 U.S. invades Cambodia; massive antiwar demonstrations in the U.S.; four Kent State students and two Jackson State students killed during antiwar protests.
- 1972 U.S. detente with China; Chinese assistance to northern Vietnam withdrawn; NVA and PLAF offensive against American and Saigon troops; the U.S. blockades north Vietnam coast; surprise “Christmas bombing” of the North as the Paris peace talks end.
- 1973 Paris Peace Agreement signed; withdrawal of U.S. ground troops; return of prisoners from both sides; Vietnamese troops from both sides remain in place.
- 1973-1975 War continues; the U.S. supports the Saigon government; Soviet Union supports the North.
- Spring 1975 NVA and PLAF offensive.
- April 30, 1975 Saigon government collapses; Vietnam is reunified.

## CAMBODIAN AND CHINESE WARS; PEACE

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|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 1976          | Nationwide elections in Vietnam; the U.S. tries to keep Vietnam out of the United Nations.  |
| 1977          | United Nations admits Vietnam as its 149th member.  |
| 1978          | Vietnam -Soviet friendship treaty; Khmer Rouge, with Chinese backing, invade southern Vietnam; Khmer Rouge massacre one million Cambodians; Vietnamese troops enter Cambodia. |
| 1979          | China, with U.S. blessing, invades northern Vietnam ; “Boat People” exodus, initially of Vietnamese citizens of Chinese ethnic background, begins and reaches its height.     |
| 1978-1986     | Vietnam isolated from the West; receives Soviet support.  |
| December 1986 | “Renovation” begins, including a free-market economy, greater personal freedom, and openness to the world.  |
| 1990          | Last Vietnamese troops withdraw from Cambodia.  |
| February 1994 | After thirty years, the U.S. embargo against Vietnam ends.  |

Adapted from *After Sorrow*  
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