

French Colonization in Vietnam

French Colonization in Vietnam, known as the “French Indochina” was when the French got involved with Vietnam around the 19th century as “French colonialist worked tirelessly to gain control of the Vietnamese people and their land.” [pg 2] The French wanted the abundant natural resources Vietnam had (such as zinc, tin, coal, and etc) and what started French Colonialism in Vietnam was in the early 17th century, where a French Catholic priest named Pierre Pigneau de Behaine was part of the French Catholic missionary, the goal being missionaries to “Introduce Catholicism to the Vietnamese.”[Pg 3] Pierre Pigneau de behaine being a part of the “Société des Missions Étrangères de Paris.”meaning in english “The Society of Foreign Missions of Paris”[3] As the “Society of foreign missions” is a Roman Catholic missionary organization, the main objective the missionaries wanted (Guys like Pierre Pigneau de behaine) was successfully infiltrated religion into Vietnam, the Roman Catholic Missionary Organization was able to successfully infiltrate religion into Vietnam, creating a foothold and clearly destroying the economic and social conditions the Vietnamese had already little of, while the French mostly focused on the valuable resources Vietnam had, which lead to the economic and social conditions of living in Vietnam, more so living in hell due to French Colonization beginning.

The initial foundation of the French being able to colonize in Vietnam was the influence of religion and pride the French had, which in the Vietnamese people's perspective back in the 17th century hoped to become more of a developed country and show to the other countries that Vietnam is an independent country, Faced instead the French mostly focused on the resources Vietnam had in store. The first eventful step of French colonialism involved a start of an alliance between France and Vietnam, a single French catholic priest, Pierre Pigneau de Behaine, convinced the French government to help aid future emperor of Vietnam, Nguy?n Ánh, to retake his throne in Saigon after his family was slaughtered in the Tay son revolt.

The Tay son revolt involved 3 peasant rebellion brothers whose purpose is built around “The chief principle and main slogan of the Tay Son was “seize the property of the rich and distribute it to the poor.” In each village the Tay Son controlled, oppressive landlords and scholar-officials were punished and their property redistributed.”[3], With this mentality the Tay son revolt were able to overthrow Nguyen's army and ended up killing the blood royal family members in the Nguyen dynasty, Nguyen Anh was able to escape as the last descendant of the throne, with Anh being powerless, but Pierre having the influence of the French government for his missionary duties was able to get the reinforcements needed to retake his throne in Saigon. Pierre gather military volunteers to aid Nguyen Anh, and after overcoming the Tay Son (Peasant Rebellions) Nguyen was able to retake his throne and thus the alliance of the french and Vietnamese was official after the king of France, Louis XVI and Prince Nguyen Anh signed the treaty of versailles in 1787. This ending up a bloody show, which the French saw the opportunity to take advantage, resulting in civil war and terror.

As the years past, the French policies were hard on the people as it “Transformed Vietnam's economic and social system into an urban proletariat and middle class, exploiting peasants and denying them the right to own land.” [1] As these policies keep pushing the limit of Vietnamese people, it's also led to an uprising in radical activities, individuals would go against these policies, of these policies resulted in the abusive power the French wielded without disregard. “ Our people were subjected to the double yoke of the French and the Japanese. Their sufferings and miseries increased. The result was that, from the end of last year to the beginning of this year, from Quang Tri Province to the North of Viet-Nam, more than two million of our fellow citizens died from starvation.”[5] This resulting those not even affiliated with war, just the social conditions trapped in the war's battles as the French colonist refused to listen to Vietnam's plea that lead to the devastation to themselves of their own desire.

The severe impacts the French made during their period of Colonization while in Vietnam, as the members in the provisional Government claiming the French “built more prisons than schools. They have mercilessly slain our patriots; they have drowned our uprisings in rivers of blood.” [5] The amount of chaos explained in the quote, The French had made a severe impact to the Vietnamese people of their reign of terror, but the leader of Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh changed these tragic living conditions and was able to successfully drive the French out of Vietnam by studying and become leninist, which at the time was the best combat strategy for the liberation of Vietnam under French rule. As “The Vietnamese ultimately secured their independence from the French by rallying the masses, not by great military might.” [1] Yokely explains as the Vietnamese people entered into guerrilla warfare that grew larger into an army and eventually drove the French out thanks to their skills of” swift fortitude and steadfastness of their tactics. After the stages of war Vietnam had to go through liberation, Enters the political wave to ensure the liberation of Vietnam away from rule under The French.

In the Article of “Declaration of Independence of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam” written out in 1945 by “ Members of the Provisional Government, representing the whole Vietnamese people.” discusses the different variations of how men are are created equal with their free rights, but how French imperialism in Vietnam denies the people of Vietnam their rights. Since the Leader of Vietnam during the time, Ho Chi Minh has “Freely from the Declaration of Independence of the United States purports that perhaps by using language so closely akin to the Declaration, Ho Chi Minh attempted to garner support from the United States.” [2] with the U.S supporting him, Ho became an important figure that gave a new identity to the people of Vietnam, giving them the ability of a new revolution, one without the rule of the French.

In the Final process to the end of the French colonization in Vietnam, a “Terms and Agreements” were made between the French and Vietnamese and how the “French Government recognizes the

Vietnamese Republic as a Free State having its own Government, its own Parliament, its own Army and its own Finances, forming part of the Indochinese Federation and of the French Union.” [5] Thus ending the French Rule in Vietnam, giving them their independence and rights as their own country, leaving behind the significant signing of the independence of Vietnam, seated down at the conference and signed by two of the top officials of Vietnam.

Sources

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