

*ROOTS OF SOUTHERN*  
**NATIONALISM**

*Nghĩa M. Vo*

# NATIONALISM

- ANCIENT ROOT
- SOUTHERN ROOT
- CHARACTERISTICS OF SOUTHERN NATIONALISM



**Empire**

**Kingdom**

**Proto-Tibetan Peoples**

Gerrha

**Mauryan Empire**

Kirata

Kamarupa?

**Arabian Tribes**

**Tribes**

Mascat (Oman)

**Pyu City-States?**

**Thai Tribes**

Saba

Hadramaut

Kalinga

**Mon I**

Qataban

Cheras

Cholas

Pandyas

Tamraparni (to Cholas?)

**Aust**

?

**Numbered Countries:**

- 1. Marseille (Greek Colony)
- 2. Epirus
- 3. Hellenistic League
- 4. Aechean League
- 5. Rhodes
- 6. Pergamon
- 7. Bithynia
- 8. Cappadocia
- ? = Unknown

**Blue Names = Hellenistic Nations**

**Green Names = Iranian Nations**

# ANCIENT ROOT

- HUNG kings (2789-258 BCE) Van Lang
- AN DUONG (258-111 BCE) Au Lac
- Chinese control (111BCE-939 ACE)
- Giao Chi
- TRUNG Queens (39-42 ACE)
- NGO QUYEN (939 ACE)
- TRAN HUNG DAO (1428 ACE)

# *Chua* NGUYEN HOANG

- 1558: Chua Trinh Kiem
- 1569-1572: Returned to North
- 1593-1600: Returned to North
- 1600: Moved South
- Built southern kingdom
- North and South divided for two centuries

# *Chua* NGUYEN ANH

- 1777, Last Chua
- *Tay Son* rebels 1777, 1778, 1782, 1783
- 1788 settled in Saigon/Gia Dinh
- Reorganized army, agriculture
- Rebuilt navy
- Unifier: Vietnamese, Chinese, Chams, Khmers, Catholics, Hindus, generals
- 1802

# LE VAN DUYET

- Great talent in war and administration
- Fought for Nguyen Anh for the duration of the war
- Governor of the South 1812-13 & 1820-32
- Eccentric man
- Protected the Chinese and Catholics against Minh Mang

# LE VAN KHOI

- Desecration of Duyet's tomb, execution of 16 family members, and jailing of associates
- The whole South rebelled against the monarchy: 1833-1835
- Thousands of fatalities
- Saigon was stripped of all powers



# PHAN THANH GIAN

- Mandarin at age 26
- Demoted and reinstated many times
- Fought against the French
- Advised Tu Duc about improving army
- Negotiated the Saigon treaty
- Took poison for not being able to oppose the French

# TRUONG CONG DINH

- Rallied royal army's soldiers and waged for many years a guerilla warfare against the French
- Commanded the *nghia quan* (righteous soldiers)

# TRUONG VINH KY

- Mastered 14 languages by age 23
- Linguist
- Promoted the *quoc ngu*, national language
- Editor of the *Gia Dinh* journal, only *quoc ngu* newspaper in Vietnam
- Wrote extensively
- Introduced tropical fruit trees to Vietnam

# NGUYEN AN NINH

- Law license, Paris 1923
- Founded *Cloche Felee* to promote his anti-French views
- Urged youths to free from old Confucian ideas and not to collaborate with the French
- Thinker than a man of action
- Died at Con Son jail

# NGO DINH DIEM

- Nationalist: a messiah without a message
- Lobbied for his job for 20 years
- Battle of Saigon against sects (1954)
- Resettled one million refugees
- Conservative modernizer
- Wanted aid without strings attached, the Americans wanted to control everything

# NGO DINH DIEM

- "*Cần lao nhân vì cách mạng đảng*"  
(Personalist workers' party)
- Limited brand of democracy
- Set up the Agrovillage system then the strategic Hamlets

# NGO & HO

- Both were bachelors and lonely men
- Spent most of adult life in self exile
- Authoritarian and disciplinarian
- Neither nurturing nor forgiving
- Ho could blame errors on the party
- Ngo as President took personal responsibility for his failures

# NGO DINH DIEM's Tomb





# WAR HEROES

- GEN. NGUYEN KHOA NAM
- GEN. LE VAN HUNG
- GEN. LE NGUYEN VY
- GEN. TRAN VAN HAI
- GEN. PHAM VAN PHU
- Col. LE CAU
- Col. NGUYEN HUU THONG
- Col. HO NGOC CAN

# THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE

- 300,000 military and 650,000 civilian casualties
- 60,000 executions after 1975
- Imposition of communism
- Reeducation camps
- New economic zones
- Confiscation of money, properties

# Executions



# Starvation

**First you starve them!**



# THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE

- Resisted:
- Collectivization of agriculture (1977)
- Nationalization of urban commerce (1978)
- Pushed for elimination of voucher system for rice purchase
- Private commerce, gold shop, receiving money and medicines from abroad
- Ushered DOI MOI (Renovation)

# THE DIASPORA

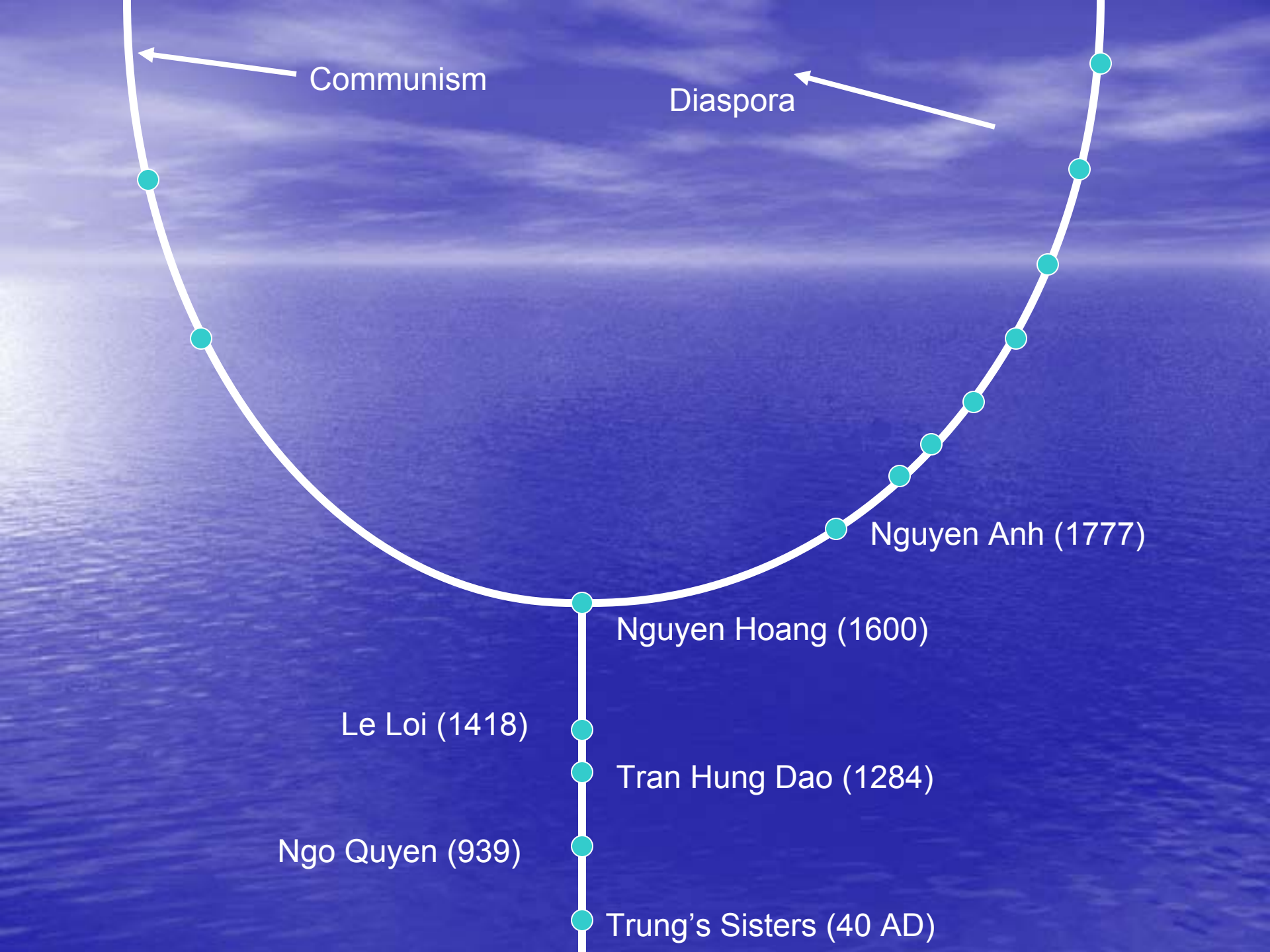
- Largest sea diaspora 1975-1992
- 2 million people looked for freedom
- “severest judgment” against the gov.
- Overcame overwhelming difficulties
- Demonstrated self-sufficiency, determination, strength and freedom

# NEW FREEDOM FIGHTERS

- Venerable THICH QUANG DO
- Dr. NGUYEN DAN QUE



- Rev. NGUYEN VAN LY



Communism

Diaspora

Nguyen Anh (1777)

Nguyen Hoang (1600)

Le Loi (1418)

Tran Hung Dao (1284)

Ngo Quyen (939)

Trung's Sisters (40 AD)



# SOUTHERN NATIONALISM

- Heroism & Sacrifice
- Fought for FREEDOM
- Nationalism anchored in the past
- Based on Buddhist-Confucian cultures
- Multicultural
- Characterizes another way of being Vietnamese

# SOUTHERN NATIONALISM

*"The war was, after all, in Vietnam; it was fought mainly by Vietnamese against other Vietnamese - over the nature of the Vietnamese society."*

Neil Jamieson 1993: ix

# SOUTHERN NATIONALISM

*Saigon fell "to a more brutal tyranny that was more effective, in part, because it was more brutal."*

Michael Lind 1999: 245

[www.SACEI07.org](http://www.SACEI07.org)

**S** AIGON

**A** RTS

**C** ULTURE  
&

**E** DUCATION

**I** NSTITUTE

**THANK  
YOU**

*Nghia M. Vo*