ROOTS OF SOUTHERN NATIONALISM

Nghia M. Vo
NATIONALISM

- ANCIENT ROOT
- SOUTHERN ROOT
- CHARACTERISTICS OF SOUTHERN NATIONALISM
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 (111 BCE-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
• 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
NGUYỄN 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
"Cần lao nhân vì cách mạng đảng"
(Personalist workers’ party)

Limited brand of democracy

Set up the Agroville system then the strategic Hamlets
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
SOUTHERN NATIONALISM

- Heroism & Sacrifice
- Fought for FREEDOM
- Nationalism anchored in the past
- Based on Buddhist-Confucian cultures
- Multicultural
- Characterizes another way of being Vietnamese
"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
Saigon fell "to a more brutal tyranny that was more effective, in part, because it was more brutal."

Michael Lind 1999: 245