

- Post WWI, nationalism intensified.
  - Prominent intellectuals sought reforms
  - Failure = revival of revolutionary groups
  - Most prominent = *Viet Nam Quoc Dan Dang* (VNQDD)
  - Feb 1930, troops in Tonkin killed FR officers
  - Repression destroyed VNQDD
- Most important Vietnamese nationalist = Ho Chi Minh
  - Ho = great revolutionary leaders
    - Born May 19, 1890
      - Birth name = Nguyen Sinh Cung
      - Left Vietnam in 1911
      - As Ba, worked as cook on steamer
      - In London, trained as pastry chef
      - Then Paris for 6 years, worked odd jobs
    - During time in Paris, was exposed to Marxism-Leninism
    - Based on Socialism
      - Began in France
      - 1<sup>st</sup> socialists = alarmed by *laissez faire* & industrialization
      - Focus = helping poor
      - Called for gov't control of economy
      - Ex. Henri de Saint-Simon
      - But some = radical Ex. Charles Fourier
      - FR = center until 1840s
    - Marxism spreads socialism globally
      - Devised by Karl Marx = German intellectual
      - Friedrich Engels = collaborator
      - Published - *The Communist Manifesto* (1848)
      - Based on materialistic view of society
      - BUT, society = divided
        - » Bourgeoisie (Haves) vs. proletariat (Have Nots)
      - Marx's view of history
      - NOTE: every system contains seeds of own destruction
      - Marx = critic of capitalism
      - Predicts capitalism will destroy self
      - Prediction = WRONG

- Revolutionary Marxism = Leninism/Bolshevism
  - Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov
  - Lenin = ardent Marxist
  - Adapts Marxism to Russian conditions
  - Creates party to survive secret police
    - » Tight-knit leadership group
    - » Agents infiltrate within masses
    - » Sought dual-revolution: sweep away Tsarist regime & elites
  - Embraces violence
  - Russia = vehicle for global assault on capitalism
  - Result = New World Order
  - Dictatorship of the Proletariat
- Ho exposed to ideas by Marcel Cachin
  - Ho became an active socialist
  - Adopted pseudonym Nguyễn Ái Quốc
  - Organized - the *Groupe des Patriotes Annamites*
- Peace of Paris
  - Delegates gathered to settle WWI
  - GPA sent letters to allied leaders
  - Petitions ignored
  - Ho = face of GPA
- Ho soon embraced Leninism
  - Left Socialist Party
  - Joined French Communist Party
  - 1920-23 , wrote stories for journals & magazines
- 1923, Ho traveled to Moscow
  - Joined the Comintern
  - Trained to become revolutionary leader
  - Active in 5th Congress of Comintern
- Dec 1924, Ho went to Canton
  - Formed “*Vietnam Thanh Nien Cach Menh Dong Chi Hoi* – aka - Thanh Nien
  - NOTE: Leninism – Canton = HQ
  - Thanh Nien to prepare for armed struggle
  - Envisioned three phases
    - » 1st phase = external center established
    - » 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase = become “semi-secret”

- » 3<sup>rd</sup> phase = insurrection.
- BUT, 1927, Thanh Nien's HQ destroyed
  - NOTE: Chiang Kai-shek unleashes "White Terror"
- Ho fled back to USSR
  - Sent to Siam as S.E. Asia Comintern rep
- 1929, Thanh Nien splintered
  - Cells formed own organizations
- Feb 1930, Ho merged splinter cells
  - In Hong Kong at "Unification Conference"
  - *Đảng Cộng sản Việt Nam* created
  - Ho laid out 10 Points
    - » 1. Overthrow FR colonial system
    - » 2. Independence
    - » 3. Worker-peasant-soldier gov't
    - » 4. Confiscation of banks & businesses
    - » 5. Confiscation of plantations & foreign-owned property
    - » 6. 8-hour work day
    - » 7. Abolition of unjust taxes
    - » 8. Democratic freedoms
    - » 9. Educate people
    - » 10. Gender equality
  - Delegates approved both
  - NOTE: Comintern demanded name change
  - Party changed to *Đảng Cộng sản Đông Dương* - the "ICP"
- ICP = small but active
  - Opportunity = early on
    - » NOTE: plight of peasants
  - Organize May Day marches
  - ICP linked workers with peasants
  - Marches grew into rallies
    - » FR moved to squash
  - FR repression = brutal
    - » ICP effectively wiped out
  - Ho fled to Hong Kong
    - » NOTE: FR condemned as revolutionary
    - » Soon returned to Moscow

- » Removed from ICP leadership
  - » PLUS: exiled
- 1935, ICP reforms but in hiding
- WWII = game changer
  - FR rule undermined
  - In Europe, German Blitzkrieg
    - » June 1940, FR fell
  - In Asia, Japan triggers 2<sup>nd</sup> Sino-Jap War
    - » Jap took Indochina 1940
  - At start, ICP go into hiding but many caught
  - Opportunity of return of Ho
- Ho realized opportunity at hand
  - 1938, returns to China
  - 1940, Ho & two lieutenants plot action
    - » Vo Nguyen Giap
    - » Pham Van Dong
  - Also, adopts *Ho Chi Minh*
  - 1941 trio enters Tonkin
- May 1941, form *Viet Nam Doc Lap Dong Minh Hoi* - Viet Minh
  - Ho creates broad “nationalist” front
  - Charter = more nationalist than communist
  - It = example of Vietnam’s peculiar nationalism
- Viet Minh grows slowly
  - 1<sup>st</sup> = built small guerilla band
  - Then organization of Vietnamese people
  - It = uncompromising in fight against Japanese
  - Funding from US, USSR & Rep of China
  - NOTE: ICP = strong influence
  - NOTE: some = impatient
    - » Not Ho
  - Primary activity = intel gathering
  - Irony: OSS trains Viet Minh
    - » Agents like Ho