

E-Content Resources in History (Secondary stage)

Resource 2

S. N.	AREA OF MATA DATA	TO BE FILLED BY CONTENT GENERATOR(S)
1	Topic	Phan Boi Chau
2	Subject	History
3	Topic connected which area of subject?	Nationalism In Indo-China
4	Class/ Level	X
5	Objectives	To enable students to appreciate and explore Phan Boi Chau contribution to the country's independence, his works, ideology and organizations formed by him.
6	Summary	Phan Boi Chau , also called Phan Giai San, Phan Sao Nam, Phan Thi Han, or Hai Thu , original name Phan Van San is a dominant personality of early Vietnamese resistance movements, whose impassioned writings and tireless schemes for independence earned him the respect of his people as one of Vietnam's greatest patriots.
7	Key Words	Confucian tradition, anti colonial, resistance movements, scholar gentry
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1.1

1. Introduction

Born in 1867, Phan Boi Chau was the most prominent leader of Vietnamese independence movement in the early twentieth century until the mantle was passed to Ho Chi Minh. Chau was from the Nghe An Province and trained in the **Confucian tradition* under his father and other local teachers. As an anti-colonial scholar, Phan Boi Chau preferred retaining the monarchy as a popular ideological symbol and a means of attracting financial support.



1.2

French occupation of Vietnam (in blue)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Indochina

2. French Colonialism and Phan Boi Chau:

By the turn of the 20th century, a whole generation of Vietnamese had grown up under French control. The people continued, as in pre-colonial times, to look to the elite **scholar-gentry* class for guidance in handling and reacting to French imperialism and the loss of their country's independence.

A few scholar-officials of this scholar-gentry class collaborated with the French - but most did not. Among those who refused was a group of several hundred scholars who eventually became actively involved in the anti-colonial movement. The best known among them was **Phan Boi Chau**, a scholar from Nghe An Province, trained in the Confucian tradition under his father and other local teachers.



2.1 A French Protectorate : Vietnamese under the French Control

(//en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Vietnam)

In 1885, Phan Boi Chau observed the actions of French troops to crush scholar-gentry **resistance to the colonial overlords*. Shaken and bound now with determination, for the next decade he devoted himself to his studies and finally passed the regional examination with highest honors in 1905. This would, in future, help him seal his relationships with other members of the same class. In the five years, he traveled about the country making contacts with other anti-colonial scholars and seeking out in particular the survivors of the Can Vuong movement, with whom he hoped to launch a rebellion against the French.

He also decided to identify a member of the Nguyen ruling family sympathetic to the cause, who would serve as titular head of the independence movement - and as a rallying point for both moral and financial support. **To fill this role was Prince Cuong De**, a direct descendant of Gia Long (the first Emperor of the Nguyen Dynasty), thus presenting to the people an alliance of royalty and resistance.

3. Revolutionary societies, Japan, and Phan Chu Trinh:

In 1904, Phan Boi Chau and about twenty others met in Quang Nam to form the Duy Tan Hoi (Reformation Society), the first of a number of revolutionary societies he organized. **Chau travelled the following year to Japan** to meet with Japanese and Chinese revolutionaries and seek financial support for the Vietnamese cause.



3.1 Phan Boi Chau met with Japanese and Chinese revolutionaries and seek financial support for the Vietnamese cause.

<http://trithucvietnhat.com/van-hoa-du-lich/lich-su/>

After two weeks of discussions, however, they were unable to resolve their basic tactical differences. Whereas **Phan Boi Chau favoured retaining the monarchy as a popular ideological symbol and a means of attracting financial support**, **Phan Chu Trinh wanted primarily to abolish the monarchy in order to create a base on which to build national sovereignty**. Phan Boi Chau, conversely, wanted to drive out the French immediately through armed resistance and restore Vietnamese independence.

In 1907, Phan Boi Chau organized the Viet Nam Cong Hien Hoi (Vietnam Public Offering Society) to unite the 100 or so Vietnamese then studying in Japan. **The following year, however, the Japanese - under pressure from the French - expelled the students, forcing most of them to return home.**

Phan Chu Trinh

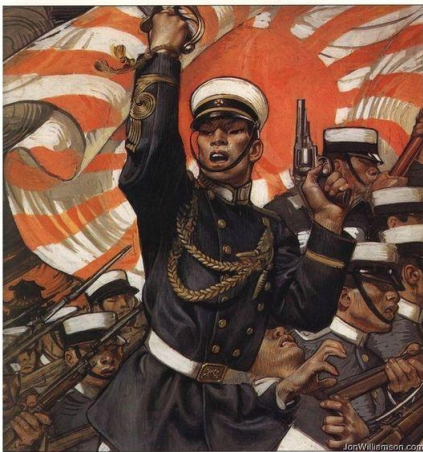
- -Intensely hostile to the monarchy.
- -Opposed to the idea of resisting the French with the help of the court.
- -Wanted to set up a democratic republic.
- -demanded that the French set up educational and legal institutions, and develop agriculture and industries.
- -believed in the French ideal of liberty but charged at the French for not abiding by it.

<http://www.slideshare.net/Suramy10/nationalist-movement-in-indo-china>

3.2

4. Deportation From Japan:

In March 1909, Phan Boi Chau was also deported by the Japanese. He went first to Hong Kong, later to Bangkok and Guangzhou. Even during his years abroad, his writings served to influence nationalist activities in Vietnam.



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/570901690239685446/>

4.1 The new resistance was greatly influenced by the Japanese. They established the Eastward Movement in 1907 and Vietnamese students were secretly sent to study at institutions in Japan. When the French authorities discovered this they negotiated with the Japanese government for the extradition of all Vietnamese students from Japan.

5. Imprisonment:

The French also blamed Phan Boi Chau for instigating anti-tax demonstrations in Quang Nam and Quang Ngai provinces and in Hue in early 1908. And as a symbol of the movement, the demonstrators forcibly cut off men's traditional long hair. An abortive Hanoi uprising and poison plot in June 1908 was also blamed on Phan Boi Chau.

The French responded with the execution of thirteen of the participants and initiated a crackdown on Vietnamese political activist.

6. China and Viet Nam Quang Phuc Hoi:

Stimulated by the Chinese Revolution led by Sun Yat-sen in 1911, Phan Boi Chau and the other Vietnamese nationalists in exile in Guangzhou formed a new organization in 1912 to replace the moribund Duy Tan Hoi.

The main goals of the newly **organized Viet Nam Quang Phuc Hoi (Vietnam Restoration Society)** included :

- expulsion of the French
- recovery of Vietnamese independence,
- establishment of a "Vietnamese democratic republic

." Phan Boi Chau had by this time given up his monarchist position, although Cuong De was accorded presidential status within the organization's provisional government. In order to gain support and financial backing for the new organization, **Phan Boi Chau organized a number of terrorist bombings and assassinations in 1913**, to which the French responded harshly. **Chau was imprisoned in Canton from 1914 to 1917.**

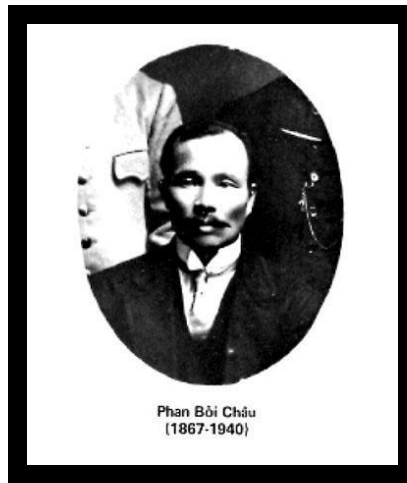


6.1 Viet Nam Quang Phuc Hoi (Vietnam Restoration Society)

http://ngaynaynamxua.vn/index.php?route=new/detail&news_id=3565&cat_id=25

7. Exile:

- **In 1917, Phan Boi Chau was released from prison.**
- He spent the next eight years in exile in China, studying and writing but exerting little direct influence on the Vietnamese nationalist movement. It is during this time Chau also studied the Marxist doctrine, and seemingly resumed his resistance to the French.
- **In June 1925 he was seized by the French in Shanghai and returned to Hanoi, where he was tried and sentenced to hard labor for life.**
- **The sentence was later changed to house arrest until his death in 1940.**
- Chau thus lived out his later years in quiet retirement at Hue, under French surveillance.



<http://ecrivn.free.fr/fr/part2/portraits/s02i05.html>

7.1

8. His works :

- During his confinement in Canton he wrote Nguc Trung Thu (“Prison Notes”), a short autobiography.
- He wrote a second autobiography, replete with directives for future revolutionaries, and several volumes of poetry.
- Among his notable works are Viet Nam Vong Quoc Su (“History of the Loss of Vietnam”), renowned as Vietnam’s first revolutionary history book,
- Hau Tran Dat Su (“Strange Story of the Latter Tran”), a historical novel with political implications.

9. Conclusion:

Vietnamese historians view Phan Boi Chau's contribution to the country's independence as unparalleled.

He advocated forcibly expelling the French, although he was not able to solve the problems involved in actually doing it.

He suggested learning from other Asian independence movements and leaders, while realizing that in the end only the Vietnamese could win their own independence.

His greatest weakness, according to many historians, was his failure to involve the Vietnamese peasantry, who composed 80 percent of the population, in his drive for independence. Rather than recruiting support at the village level, Phan Boi Chau and his followers concentrated on recruiting the elite, in the belief that the peasant masses would automatically rally around the scholar-gentry.

Future Vietnamese independence leaders took inspiration from the efforts of the early nationalists and learned from their mistakes the importance of winning support at the local level.

Timeline :

1867	Born, Nghe An province, northern Vietnam;
1885	Witnesses French action in crushing scholar-gentry rebellion;
1904	Forms the Duy Tan Hoi (Reformation Society);
1905	Passes Regional examination with highest Honors; moves his resistance movement to Japan;
1906	Meets the Chinese revolutionary Sun Yat-sen; Travels to Japan with students and Prince Cuong De;
1907	Organizes the Viet Nam Cong Hien Hoi (Vietnam Public Offering Society); Dong Kinh Nghia Thuc (Free School of the Eastern Capital [Hanoi]) is founded;
1908	Imprisonment in Poulo condore;
1909	Deportation by Japanese;
1912	Forms Viet Nam Quang Phuc Hoi (Vietnam Restoration Society); Gives up Monarchist Scheme;
1913	Organizes a number of terrorist bombings and assassinations;
1914	Imprisoned in Canton (China);
1917	Released from prison;
1925	Seized by the French in Shanghai; Sentenced to hard labor for life (later changed to house arrest);
1940	Death under House Arrest in Hue.