

Nationalism in India

1. Write a Note on:

a. What was meant by the 'civilising mission of the colonisers':

Ans:

- European countries occupied colonies of East Asian countries so that they could exploit their natural resources.
- The French showed that it was their mission to bring the benefit of civilization to backward people.
- They were driven by the idea of the civilization mission.
- The French claimed that they are bringing modern civilization to Vietnam.
- They considered that bringing modern ideas to their colonies is their duty, at the cost of destroying the local culture, beliefs, etc.

b. Huynh Phu So:

Ans:

- He was the founder of Hoa Hao, a nationalist movement.
- He performed miracles and helped the poor.
- He had wide appeal and criticized useless expenditure.
- Even he opposed child bribes, gambling and usage of alcohol and opium.
- The French tried to suppress this movement.
- They said he was mad, called him Mas Bonze, and put him into a mental asylum.
- The doctor who said he is mad became his follower.
- He was exiled to Laos and most of his followers were sent to concentration camps.
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2. Explain the following:

a. Only one-third of the students in Vietnam would pass the school-leaving examinations.

Ans: Only one-third of the students in Vietnam would pass the school-leaving examinations because the French colonial administration used to follow a policy of failing students in the final year examination which was deliberately done so that they could not qualify for better-paid jobs. Very

less rich Vietnamese were able to afford enrolment in these kinds of expensive schools.

b. The French began building canals and draining lands in the Mekong delta.

Ans: The French in the Mekong delta started to build the canals and draining lands for increased cultivation. This was done under a garb to “civilise” Vietnam on a European model. It was an economic idea to increase the production of rice and export rice to the global market.

c. The government made the Saigon Native Girls School take back the student it had expelled.

Ans: When the French principal of Saigon Native Girls School expelled the students protesting another student’s expulsion, there was remonstrance. Considering the situation, the government decided to control the protest by providing an outlet- making the school take back the students.

d. Rats were most common in the modern, newly built areas of Hanoi.

Ans: Rats were found commonly in the modern and newly built areas of Hanoi since hygienic sewage provided ideal breeding grounds for rodents apart from being a good transport system as well, for rats. Sewage from the old city was drained out because of heavy rains into the river. Larger sewers became a protected breeding and living space for rats. Hanoi became the chief cause of the plague in 1903.

3. Describe the ideas behind the Tonkin Free School. To what extent is it a typical example of colonial ideas in Vietnam?

Ans: The ideas behind the Tonkin free school system are given below:

- The French were on a civilization mission, they thought they would bring modern thoughts to Vietnam.
- Tonkin Free School was opened to provide western education.
- School taught science, hygiene, French other than common subjects.
- For these 3 subjects, students attended evening classes and had to pay separately.
- Students were also asked to sport modern looks too.
- Example: Vietnamese were asked to cut off their long hair and adopt short hair which was against their culture.

4. What was Phan Chu Trinh’s objective for Vietnam? How were his ideas different from those of Phan Boi Chau?

Ans:

- Phan Chu Trinh's wanted Vietnam to be a democratic republic, having western ideas of liberty.
- He accused the French, since they did not follow their own national ideals, and demanded the setting up of legal and educational institutions with the development of agriculture and industries.

Sl No.	Phan Boi Chau	Phan Chu Trinh
	He was intensely in the favour of taking the support of the monarchy.	He was not in the favour of taking the support of the monarchy.
	He was highly influenced by China and accepted its political framework.	He was highly influenced by western democratic ideas. Also, he demanded educational institutes with the development of industries and agriculture.
	He wanted some help from the court so that he could resist the French.	He didn't want to resist the French with the help of the court.

Discuss

1. With reference to what you have read in this chapter, discuss the influence of China on Vietnam's culture and life.

Ans: The influence of China on Vietnam's culture and life are discussed below:

- Vietnam's culture had an influence on China and life was multifarious before the French colonised Vietnam.
- When Vietnam gained independence in 1945, then also rulers had a system and culture of Chinese governance.
- Elites were highly influenced by Chinese culture and life.
- In 1911, when the Chinese Republic was set up, Vietnamese students followed suit in organising the Association for the Restoration of Vietnam.
- Vietnam men kept their hairs long – a Chinese tradition.

2. What was the role of religious groups in the development of anti-colonial feelings in Vietnam?

Ans: The role of the religious groups in the field of development of anti-colonial feelings in Vietnam are given below:

- Religion played an important role in the lives of people in Vietnam.
- Vietnam's had religious beliefs which had a mix of Buddhism, Confucianism and local customs.
- Christianity looked down upon their reverence for the supernatural.
- In 1868, the Scholar's revolt protested against the tyrannical spread of Christianity; it inspired others to follow suit.
- In 1939, the Hoa Hoa movement came up with religious ideas of the 19th century, and its leader Huynh Phu was a famous entity.
- These groups were not linked with political parties, which looked at their activities with discomfort.
- Religious movements were successful in anti-imperialist tendencies in the Vietnamese people.

3. Explain the causes of the US involvement in the war in Vietnam. What effect did this involvement have on life within the US itself?

Ans: The US got involved in the war in Vietnam since it feared that a communist government would come to power in Vietnam after the National Liberation Front formed a coalition with the Ho Chi Minh government in the North. US policy planners feared a spread of communism to other countries in the area.

Involvement in the Vietnam war affected life within the US itself because of widespread public dissent. Only university graduates were exempted from compulsory service in the army and this caused even more anger in the minorities and working-class families.

4. Write an evaluation of the Vietnamese war against the US from the point of

a. A porter on the Ho Chi Minh trail.

Ans: From 1965 to 1972, there were huge casualties caused to Vietnam and the USA, as the US-Vietnam war going on.

The Vietnam people suffered property and human losses, then also they never stopped their struggle for freedom. The role played by the porters in getting freedom and unity in Vietnam was important. Porters set out without fear on Ho Chi Minh Trail, which was a great expansive network of roads and footpaths. The porters carried 25 kg to 70 kg of weight on their bicycles and backs. They walked on the narrow, dangerous roads.

They did not feel afraid of being shot down by aircraft's guns. This shows that porters were patriotic and heroic.

b. A woman soldier.

Ans: The Vietnamese women played important role in the US-Vietnam war. They were both workers and warriors. As warriors and soldiers, they constructed 6 airstrips, neutralised thousands of bombs and shoot down 15 planes. There were 1.5 million Vietnamese women in the regular army, the militia, the local forces and professional teams.

5. What was the role of women in the anti-imperial struggle in Vietnam? Compare this with the role of women in the nationalist struggle in India.

Ans: The role of women in the nationalist struggle in India are mentioned below:

- Women played a very crucial and important role in the Vietnam anti-imperial struggle.
- Women celebrated and idealised, who started to rebel against social conventions.
- Trieu Au was a known and famous popular figure in nationalist tales.
- In the 1960s, women were represented as brave soldiers and workers.
- They helped by assisting the wounded soldiers by nursing them, also they constructed underground tunnels for fighting with the enemy.
- Between 1965 and 1975, 70-80% of youth working on the Ho Chi Minh trail were women.
- Unlike Vietnamese women who participated in the imperial struggle, Indian women did not play a very dynamic role in the nationalist struggle of India against Britain.
- Indian women use to follow Gandhian ideals by boycotting liquor shops and foreign items and the mainstream politics was controlled by males.
- Women like Sarojini Naidu, Kamla Nehru and Kasturba Gandhi were involved.