

The Vietnam Nationalist Party (1927–1954)

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 Springer

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Foreword

In the 1920s, an event occurred that transformed the Vietnamese political landscape. This was the almost simultaneous establishment of three political organizations: the Vietnam Revolutionary Youth League (Việt Nam Cách mạng Thanh niên đảng—VRYL) in 1925, the New Vietnam Revolutionary Party (Tân Việt Cách mạng Đảng—NVRP) in 1927, and the Vietnam Nationalist Party (1927).

The assessment and evaluation of the two former organizations followed the dominant path of Vietnamese revolutionary development, which aimed toward socialism. As for VNP, from the onset, it was not clear which position and role it would play in the revolutionary movement from 1925 to 1930; at that time making it more difficult to assess what it might influence and how it may impact the subsequent development of the Vietnamese revolution.

Materials pertaining to the development of the VNP prior to 1945, found in the occupied territory during the resistance war against France and America produced both within and outside the country, were of limited value. These are mostly primarily focused on serving egoistic political interests. Within the territory occupied by the revolutionary government after 1954, when the North was liberated, there has been no monograph which gives an in-depth account of this issue and scholarly work on the subject has chiefly been some papers published on conference proceedings or paragraphs in common historical books.

That led Prof. Dr. Văn Khánh Nguyễn to choose VNP in the history of the Vietnamese revolution, a complex issue, as a topic for his research and teaching material in the Faculty of History, University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University, Hanoi. Thus, this is a daring and audacious decision.

The author's mission is to research *VNP* in a systematic and comprehensive way, from its origins to the establishment and development, to its political ideas and organizational structure, and finally its internal divisions and decline as a political force after the Yen Bai uprising, so as to define the role and position of this organization in the revolutionary movement from 1927 to 1930 and hereafter. He has done so by making a comprehensive survey of materials, both official and unofficial, both domestic and foreign, which include not only conventional documents but also texts from localities and hometowns of vital

personalities of this organization. The challenge before him was to utilize such a complex collection of documents and then compare, contrast, and evaluate them based on Marxist—Leninism, Hồ Chí Minh ideology, documents of the Party, and with the advice of Party leaders who gave comments on *VNP* such as Lê Duẩn, Trường Chinh, etc. He has done so with great success.

Now the work has been completed, republished (with amendments and additions), and presented to both domestic and foreign readers, including first of all undergraduates, graduates, and research fellows majoring in history as a necessary reference. The author is apparently not satisfied with his results and thus would like to receive constructive comments and advice. The composer of this preface also shares that honest and proper desire.

Prof. Đinh Xuân Lâm

Preface

Vietnam Nationalist Party (Việt Nam Quốc Dân Đảng—VNP) was one of the patriotic and revolutionary parties that played a great role in the national liberation of Vietnam in the first half of the nineteenth century. However, after independence was restored in the North (1954) and in the whole country (1975), there no systematic examination of party. This study was originally designed to fill this lacunae in scholarly studies of the independence movement by providing a number of systematic and comprehensive evaluations of the VNP with the intention of tracing the development of this organization from its establishment in December 1927 to its disastrous defeat and suppression connected with the failure of the VNP designed during the Yen Bai uprising, after which it declined as a major historical force. It was completed in 2005 with support from the Asia Research Fund, Vietnam National University, Hanoi, and Social Sciences Publisher (Khoa học Xã hội).

However, in the seven years since that study took place, a few monographs were published relevant to the study of the VNP, such as *Lịch sử Chính phủ Việt Nam/History of Vietnamese Government*, Volume 1 (Hanoi: Chính trị Quốc gia Publisher 2006) and Francois Giullemot's *Đại Việt/Great Vietnam*, (Paris: Indes Savants, 2012). Additionally, I continued to collect more materials on the operations of the VNP itself, especially on its activities after the Yen Bai uprising through to the complete liberation of the North (1954). I discovered that the VNP, despite its decline as a revolutionary movement after the establishment of the Vietnam Communist Party in 1930 and the Yen Bai disaster, remained active as nationalist and anti-communist groups whose overseas operations were aimed at disrupting the Communist Party and Vietnamese revolutionary movements. These additional materials and insights have prompted me to add a new chapter (Chap. 5) to this edition of my work which offers much in-depth information on the organization and operations of various parties/groups associated with the VNP and the VNP itself after its suppression by the French in 1930. I have also taken this opportunity to broaden the treatment accorded to the VNP in this work's introductory and concluding sections. It is my hope that this current paper will help readers

make a fuller and more accurate evaluation of the role of this political party in the Vietnamese national revolution during the first half of the nineteenth century.

Keeping in mind the spirit of all scholarly inquiry, I welcome constructive feedback from my colleagues and readers so that I can continue to revise and make further improvements to this book.

Văn Khánh Nguyễn

Acknowledgments

This book is the result of a prolonged study and research by the author on VNP (Vietnamese Nationalist Party). During the preparation for materials and writing of this book, I received support and encouragement from various agencies, institutions, and individuals such as the National Archives Center No. 1, the The Vietnam Museum of Revolution (now the Vietnam National Museum), central libraries, Culture—Information Departments, provincial and city museums and libraries in Yen Bai, Phu Tho, Vinh Yen, Phuc Yen, Ha Tay, Hanoi, Hai Duong, Thai Binh, Nam Dinh, Hai Phong, Bac Giang, Bac Ninh, etc. I also sought references and used some materials collected by *Phạm Xuân Thanh*, a student in the 26th term from Faculty of History, Hanoi University (now University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Hanoi National University) during his field trip before graduation, under my direct supervision in the summer of 1986.

I also give thanks to Prof. Đinh Xuân Lâm, a close and honorable teacher of mine and an expert in Vietnamese pre-modern history for reading, commenting the draft, and writing the foreword.

On the occasion of its publication, I hereby convey my deep appreciation to agencies and institutions that provided me with additional materials and helped me in publishing the book; especially young colleagues such as Dr. Trương Thị Bích Hạnh, Ms. Nguyễn Thị Minh Nguyệt, and Ms. Michelle Miguel Galvez (Faculty of History, University of Social Sciences and Humanities), staff from Office for Research Affairs who assisted me enormously in designing, editing, and completing its draft for publication.

Contents

1	Research Overview and Documents	1
1.1	The Study of Vietnam Nationalist Party in Vietnam	1
1.2	The Study of Vietnam Nationalist Party Outside Vietnam	5
1.3	Sources and Approaches	7
1.4	Goals and Missions	8
	References	10
2	The Establishment of the Vietnam Nationalist Party	13
2.1	The Conditions for the Establishment of National Revolutionary Movements and Vietnam Nationalist Party	13
2.1.1	Socioeconomic Conditions	13
2.1.2	Ideological Conditions	20
2.2	From Nam Dong Publishing House to the Formation of Vietnam Nationalist Party	27
2.2.1	Overview of the Founder Nguyễn Thái Học	27
2.2.2	Nam Dong Publishing House and the Creation of “The First Cell”	28
2.2.3	Operations of “The First Cell” and Establishment of Vietnam Nationalist Party (December 25th, 1927)	31
	References	34
3	Political Ideology and Organizational Structure of Vietnam Nationalist Party	37
3.1	Political Ideology of Vietnam Nationalist Party	37
3.1.1	Differences in the Identification and Evaluation on the Political Ideology of Vietnam Nationalist Party	37
3.1.2	Political Ideas of Vietnam Nationalist Party	39
3.1.3	Revolutionary Nationalism—The Core Political Idea of Vietnam Nationalist Party	44

3.2	Social Background and Organizational Structure of Vietnam Nationalist Party	47
3.2.1	Social Background	47
3.2.2	Organizational Structure of Vietnam Nationalist Party	52
	References	57
4	The Operations of Vietnam Nationalist Party from 1927 to 1929	59
4.1	Party Cell Development and the Attempted Association with Other Revolutionary Parties	60
4.1.1	Party Mobilization and Cell Development in Local Areas	60
4.1.2	The Efforts of Vietnam Nationalist Party to Associate with Other Patriotic Parties	64
4.2	Other Activities of Vietnam Nationalist Party	67
4.2.1	Propaganda and Training	67
4.2.2	Financial Activities	69
4.2.3	The Assassination of Bazin (February 9, 1929) and Situation of Vietnam Nationalist Party Before the Suppression of French Colonialists	70
	References	73
5	The Yen Bai Uprising (February 1930) and the Failure of Vietnam Nationalist Party	75
5.1	The Armed Revolution of Vietnam Nationalist Party in Yen Bai and Tonkin Provinces	75
5.1.1	Policy and Plan for Armed Revolution	75
5.1.2	The Preparation for Revolution	78
5.1.3	Developments and Results	82
5.2	The Increased Suppression by French Colonialists and Failure of Vietnam Nationalist Party	90
	References	93
6	Vietnam Nationalist Party from 1930 to 1954	95
6.1	Vietnam Nationalist Party After the Yen Bai Uprising	95
6.1.1	The Attempts to Recover Vietnam Nationalist Party	95
6.1.2	Ideological Division of Vietnam Nationalist Party in French Colonial Prisons	96
6.1.3	Domestic Activities of Members of Vietnam Nationalist Party from 1936 to 1945	99
6.2	Vietnam Nationalist Party Overseas	102
6.2.1	Activities of Party Groups from 1931 to 1942	102
6.2.2	Vietnam Revolutionary League	103
6.2.3	The Unification of Vietnam Nationalist Party	105
6.3	Vietnam Nationalist Party Returned and Disrupted the Revolutionary Process	105
6.3.1	Vietnam Nationalist Party Followed the Koumintang Back to Vietnam	105

- 6.3.2 Vietnam Nationalist Party’s Attempt to Disrupt the Revolutionary Government 107
- 6.3.3 The Complete Breakdown of Vietnam Nationalist Party in Local Areas 109
- 6.3.4 The Last Remnants of Vietnam Nationalist Party from 1947 to 1954 110
- References 111
- 7 Vietnam Nationalist Party in the History of Vietnamese Revolution 113**
 - 7.1 Different Evaluations on Vietnam Nationalist Party 113
 - 7.2 The Role of Vietnam Nationalist Party in Vietnamese Revolutionary Movements Until 1930 116
 - 7.2.1 Vietnam Nationalist Party with the Dissemination of and Education on Patriotism and Nationalism Among the People 116
 - 7.2.2 Vietnam Nationalist Party with the Transformation of Vietnamese Patriotism and National Movements Until 1930. 118
 - 7.2.3 Vietnam Nationalist Party and the Lessons for Vietnamese Revolution 120
 - References 125
- 8 Conclusion 127**
- Appendix 1: Brief Biography of the Crucial Members of Vietnam Nationalist Party 129**
- Appendix 2: First Statute of VNP (1928) 139**
- Appendix 3: Materials Related to the Operations of Nam Dong Publishing House and VNP 157**
- Appendix 4: Pictures and Memoirs of Vital Personalities of VNP 167**
- Bibliography 183**
- Index 187**

Abbreviations

GVNP	New Vietnam Nationalist Party (Tân VNP dân đảng)
GVP	Great Vietnam Party (Đại VNP dân đảng)
LIV	League for the Independence of Vietnam (Việt Nam Độc lập đồng minh hội)
NPGV	National Party of Great Vietnam (Đại VNP xã đảng)
NVRP	New Vietnam Revolutionary Party (Tân Việt Cách mạng Đảng)
PPGV	Popular Party of Greater Vietnam (Đại Việt Dân chính đảng)
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
VNP	Vietnam Nationalist Party (Việt Nam Quốc Dân Đảng)
VRL	Vietnam Revolutionary League (Việt Nam cách mạng đồng minh hội)
VRYL	Vietnam Revolutionary Youth League (Việt Nam Cách mạng Thanh niên đảng)

List of Maps

Map 2.1	The organisational structure of VNP (12/1927-2/1930)	33
Map 4.1	Yen Bai Uprising (2/1930)	72