



# Vietnam under French rule 1919-1946

The nationalist challenge and the Japanese threat



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- The Japanese assumption of power in 1945
- The British occupation of the South 1945 and Chinese occupation of the North 1945-1946
- The re-imposition of French colonial rule 1945-1946

## About Vietnam under French rule 1919-1946

The country today formally recognised as Vietnam became a virtual synonym for conflict in the late 20th Century, in much the same manner as Iraq and Afghanistan are at the beginning of the twenty first century. The regions of Tonkin, Annam, and Cochinchina, from which Vietnam was constituted, had been governed by the French as part of French Indochina since 1887 and were territories which Britain had never controlled; yet at various stages, events conspired in surprising ways to provide the British government with a significant role in shaping and determining their future.

The four volumes open with documents containing an appeal to Britain at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919 by one Nguyen ai Quoc (later known as Ho Chi Minh). They close with documents from the early months of 1946 as British troops oversaw the evacuation of Japanese troops and re-entry of the French, so concluding a turbulent period of history for Vietnam, and sowing the seeds for another yet to come.

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