

1. Write a note on what was meant by 'Civilising mission' of the colonisers?

Ans. French colonisation was not based only on economic exploitation. It was also driven by the idea of a 'civilising mission'. Like the British in India, the French claimed that they were bringing modern civilisation to the Vietnamese.

2. Write a note on : Huynh Phu so.

Ans.

- (i) Huynh Phu so was founder of a popular anti-colonial religious movement Hoa Hao in 1939. This movement gained popularity in the fertile Mekong delta area and served as an inspiration in arousing anti - imperialist sentiments.
- (ii) Huynh Phu So was inspired by anti - French religious uprising of the nineteenth century, French colonial rule and attempts at controlling Vietnamese religious beliefs.
- (iii) Huynh Phu So performed miracles and helped the poor. Many of these ideas aimed at reforming social evils - he opposed the sale of child and brides, gambling, use of alcohol and opium and useless expenditure.
- (iv) The French tried to suppress the movement inspired by Huynh Phu So, declared him mad and put him in an asylum.
- (v) When in 1941 the French doctors declared him sane, he was exiled to Laos, and many of his followers were deported to concentration camps.

3. Explain the following :

- (a) Only one - third of the students in Vietnam would pass the school - leaving examinations.
- (b) The government made the Saigon Native Girls school take back the students it had expelled.
- (c) The battle against French colonial education became part of the larger battle against colonialism and for independence.

Ans.

- (a) (i) Only Vietnamese elite could enroll in the schools and most of them were used to education in Chinese language under the traditional system. Only one - third of the students in Vietnam would pass the school leaving examinations.
- (ii) This was largely because the educational institutions followed a deliberate policy of failing students particularly in the final year.

- (iii) The aim was to prevent Vietnamese from qualifying for the better paid jobs. The scheme was influenced by the fear and opposition of French citizens living in Vietnam (called colons).
- (iv) They feared they may lose their jobs as shopkeepers, teachers, policemen to the educated Vietnamese.
- (b) (i) In 1926 a major protest erupted in the Saigon Native Girls School. A Vietnamese girl sitting in one of the front seats was asked to move to the back of the class and allow a local French student to occupy the Front bench.
- (ii) She refused. The principal, also a colon expelled her. When angry students protested, they too were expelled, leading to a further spread of open protests.
- (iii) Seeing the situation getting out of control, the government forced the school to take the students back.
- (c) (i) The French sought to strengthen their rule in Vietnam through the control of education.
- (ii) They tried to change the values, norms and perceptions of the people, to make them believe in the superiority of French civilisation and the inferiority of the Vietnamese.
- (iii) Vietnamese intellectuals, on the other hand, feared that Vietnam was losing not just control over its territory but its very identity : its own culture and customs were being devalued and the people were developing a master- slave mentality.
- (iv) The battle against French colonial education became part of the larger battle against colonialism and for independence.

4. Describe the ideas behind the Tonkin Free school. To what extent was it a typical example of colonial ideas in Vietnam?

- Ans.**
- (i) The Tonkin Free School was started in 1907 to provide a Western - style education. This education included classes in science, hygiene and French. (these classes were held in the evening and had to be paid for separately.)
 - (ii) The school's approach to what it means 'to be modern' is a good example of the thinking prevalent at that time.
 - (iii) It was not enough to learn science and Western ideas : to be modern the Vietnamese had to also look modern.
 - (iv) The school encouraged the adoption of Western styles such as having a short haircut.

- (v) For the Vietnamese this meant a major break with their own identity since they traditionally kept long hair. Thus like typical colonists the French tried to control not only Vietnamese territory but its identity, culture and customs.

5. What was Phan Chu Trinh's objective for Vietnam ? How were his ideas different from these of Phan Boi Chau ?

- Ans.**
- (i) Phan Chu Trinh's objective for Vietnam was to overthrow monarchy and promotion of popular rights by establishing a democratic republic. While opposing foreign domination he did not want wholesale rejection of western civilisation.
 - (ii) He was opposed to the idea of resisting the French with the help of the court. While Phan Boi Chau favoured first the foreign enemy should be driven out before deciding on the future.
 - (iii) Phan Chu Trinh on the other side wanted to establish a democratic republic and promotion of popular rights. Both had the same goal-freedom of Vietnam from French colonial rule, but their means to achieve the end were considered different.
 - (iv) They were reflective of the different views among the Vietnamese intellectuals of the time.

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