

# Nguyen

Dynasty

The last Dynasty of  
feudal Viet Nam



# INTRODUCING THE EDITORIAL BOARD

*Dear Ladies and gentlemen,*

First of all, we - the contest team would like to send **our respectful greetings and sincere thanks** to the readers for reading the group's contest product - *Nguyen Dynasty, the last dynasty of Vietnamese feudalism*.

We are a group of students from **Foreign Trade University Campus 2 in Ho Chi Minh City** including 3 members:



**Ho Khanh Chau**  
In charge of the  
Design department



**Vo Thi Thanh Minh**  
In charge of Managing Editor  
department



**Nguyen Truong Thanh**  
In charge of the  
Content department

From the heroic land - Quang Ngai, we found each other in Saigon, supporting and helping each other overcome the ups and downs of university life away from home. Coming to the non-professional playground for young people studying economics - **Brand Review Award**, we hope to learn and improve our knowledge with the valuable energy of talented young people from all over the country. The group also hopes to preserve the cherished memories in the university, when we worked relentlessly to take care of and perfect our own brainchild.

Once again, the contest team would like to **express our sincere thanks to the readers** for your attention and hope that you will have a wonderful experience when enjoying this magazine.

Sincerely,  
The contest team./.



# OPENING

*Dear Honorable Judges,*

First of all, on behalf of our team, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Organizing Committee of the Brand Review Award for creating an opportunity for all participating teams, including ours, to carry out projects that aim to honor brands and trademarks recognized by the community for their contributions and achievements.

With the efforts and dedication of all team members, we have completed the project **Nguyen Dynasty - The last dynasty of feudal Viet Nam** to participate in this year's competition. However, due to our limited experience and knowledge, our project inevitably has some shortcomings.

Therefore, we sincerely hope to receive comments, feedback, and criticisms from the Honorable Judges. Your valuable feedback will be a valuable resource for us to improve ourselves and enhance the quality of our projects in the future.

Throughout the ups and downs of the Vietnamese feudal dynasties, the Nguyen Dynasty left a deep impression not only in the hearts of the Vietnamese people but also in many aspects of Vietnamese culture and politics, lingering forever with time as the last dynasty of the country.

In this issue of the magazine, we will explore the key points of each reign of the Nguyen kings, together delving into a better understanding of the individuals whose names have been closely associated with our country throughout the course of history. Additionally, we will delve into the study of the descendants of the Nguyen dynasty in the present day.

We hope that through this article, all readers will have a more accurate and insightful understanding of the Nguyen Dynasty and their impact on Vietnamese history and culture.

Let's discover on the journey together to explore a fascinating and mysterious Nguyen Dynasty!

Sincerely,  
The author team./.

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# SUMMARY OF VIETNAMESE FEUDAL DYNASTIES

**Ngo Dynasty (939-965)**  
4 kings  
Capital: Co Loa

**Ly Dynasty (1010 – 1225)**  
9 kings  
Capital: Thang Long

**Tran Dynasty (1225 – 1400)**  
12 kings  
Capital: Thang Long

**Hau Le Dynasty (1428-1527)**  
10 kings  
Capital: Thang Long

**Mac Dynasty (1527 – 1593)**  
6 kings  
Capital: Cao Bang

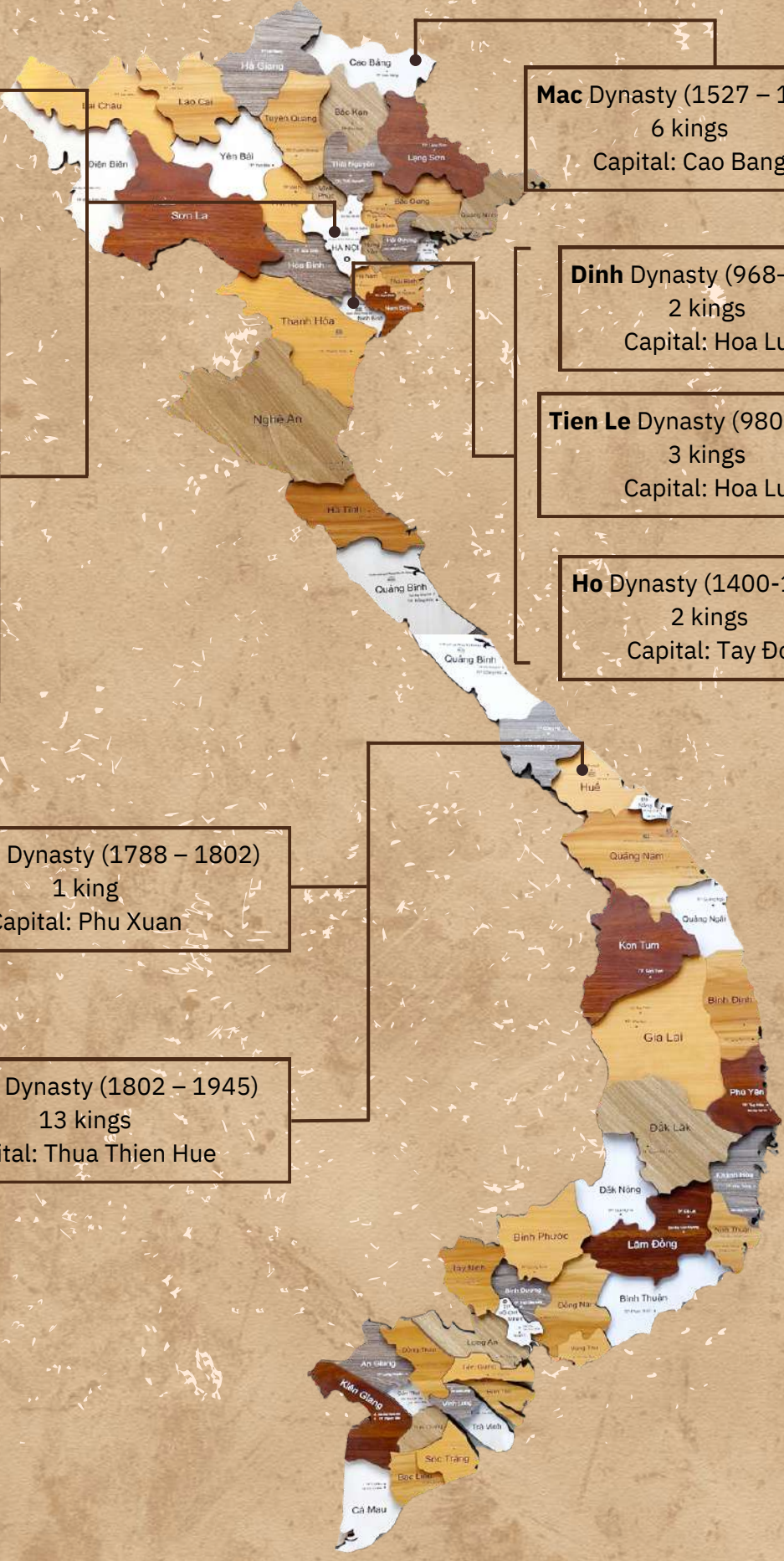
**Dinh Dynasty (968–980)**  
2 kings  
Capital: Hoa Lu

**Tien Le Dynasty (980–1010)**  
3 kings  
Capital: Hoa Lu

**Ho Dynasty (1400-1407)**  
2 kings  
Capital: Tay Do

**Tay Son Dynasty (1788 – 1802)**  
1 king  
Capital: Phu Xuan

**Nguyen Dynasty (1802 – 1945)**  
13 kings  
Capital: Thua Thien Hue



Hoang Sa

Trung Sa

# GENEALOGY OF NGUYEN DYNASTY

1  
**Gia Long**  
1802 - 1820  
(18 years)



2  
**Minh Menh**  
1820 - 1840  
(21 years)



3  
**Thieu Tri**  
1802 - 1820  
(18 years)



4  
**Tu Duc**  
1847 - 1883  
(36 years)



Thuy Thai  
vuong

Kien Thai  
vuong

6  
**Hiep Hoa**  
1883  
(4 month)



5  
**Duc Duc**  
1883  
(3 days)

9  
**Dong Khanh**  
1885 - 1889  
(5 years)



7  
**Kien Phuc**  
1883 - 1884  
(8 months)



8  
**Ham Nghi**  
1884 - 1885  
(10 months)



10  
**Thanh Thai**  
1889 - 1907  
(19 years)



12  
**Khai Dinh**  
1916 - 1925  
(10 years)



11  
**Duy Tan**  
1907 - 1916  
(10 years)



13  
**Bao Dai**  
1926 - 1945  
(20 years)





# THE NGUYEN DYNASTY

## THE LAST DYNASTY OF FEUDAL VIETNAM



**D**

uring his lifetime, the revered leader of the Vietnamese people, President Ho Chi Minh, often reminded:

**"People have to know their history,  
To understand Vietnam thoroughly.  
For more than four thousand years,**

**The ancestors are brilliant, the brothers are in harmony."**



Through many changes, ups and downs of history, Vietnam has proudly written the pages of more than 4,000 years of building and defending the country, resounding forever like a small fragrant flower, rising from the mud of oppression. protection and smoke of war. Those are periods, successive dynasties that have prosperity and decline, "although there are times when strength and weakness are different, but there are heroes in every generation", times when heroes rise up, and struggles with the enemy. Much blood, sweat and tears have been shed to build the shape of Vietnam.

Vietnam's history is a story full of turmoil and a mixture of many important periods. From traces of ancient civilization to the modern era of innovation and development, Vietnam has undergone a memorable journey in building and preserving its cultural and historical identity.





# THE NGUYEN DYNASTY

## THE LAST DYNASTY OF FEUDAL VIETNAM



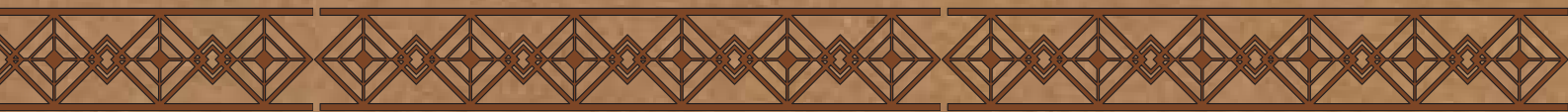
Looking back at history, each dynasty, each period, bears distinctive characteristics, strengths, weaknesses, poignant moments, and shortcomings, leaving behind unique lessons. However, they all contribute to shaping the most beautiful and profound imprints on the historical path of the nation.

**The Nguyen Dynasty** marks the final stop of the feudal history wheel in Vietnam. Spanning over 143 years (1802-1945) with 13 monarchs, the Nguyen dynasty, upon its passing, left significant imprints. However, it has consistently been one of **the most controversial dynasties** until this day.





# **THE KINGS OF THE NGUYEN DYNASTY**



# GIA LONG



**Era Name:** Gia Long (嘉隆)

**Full Name:** Nguyễn Phúc Anh (阮福暎)

**Birth:** 08/1762

**Throning Year:** 01/06/1802

**Reign Period:** 18 years (1802 - 1820)

**Death:** 03/02/1820

**Temple Name:** The To Cao Hoang đế

## King Gia Long (Nguyễn Anh)



- The **third son** of Prince Nguyen Phuc Luan and Mrs. Nguyen Thi Hoan

- The **grandson** of Lord Nguyen Phuc Khoat

- In 1777, when he was only 15 years old, he turned from a prince into a homeless wanderer. He was heartbroken as he witnessed each of his relatives being caged and led away to be executed. That painful memory is always imprinted in the boy's mind.

- In the year of Nham Tuất 1802, Nguyen Phuc Anh defeated the Tay Son, ascended to the throne as Emperor, named the reign Gia Long, and established a new dynasty:

**The Nguyen Dynasty - The last monarchy in the history of Vietnam.**

## THE INFLUENCE OF KING GIA LONG AFTER ASCENDING TO THE THRONE.



He built a governing policy based on the principles and frameworks left by the previous lords, **which was a policy of combining moral and legal governance, using talented people, encouraging education, and expanding freedom of speech** to offer good advice to help the King and the country.

Based on the Confucian concept of "**benevolent government**", Gia Long affirmed:

**"The root of governing the country is to win the hearts of the people. It is because the previous sage kings used kindness to unite the people's hearts that the people could not forget them."**

Gia Long clearly defined a **governing policy that combined education and punishment**, but punishment was only temporary, in a certain period and context, while **education was still the fundamental** means to win people's hearts and govern the country.

# ACHIEVEMENTS

T

hroughout 25 years of persistent warfare, King Gia Long **restored the fortunes of his lineage**. He is credited with unifying the territory shaped like the letter 'S' from the Nam Quan Pass to the tip of Ca Mau Cape, **promoting agricultural development, expanding cultivation, and asserting sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa islands**.



In 1804, King Gia Long made a significant contribution by renaming the country to **Vietnam**.

The king established the "Lục Bộ" system, consisting of six ministries, and **focused on military and diplomatic reforms**. He emphasized education and the civil service examinations to select talented individuals.

Gia Long also **laid the foundation** for the development of the economy, legal system, culture, and society.



The Gia Long Code was a **strict set of laws**, imposing severe penalties for corruption and social vices, aimed at deterrence and stabilizing the country.

King Gia Long commissioned the construction of **numerous significant cultural and religious architectural works**, such as the Hue Imperial City and the Thien Mu Pagoda. In 1805, he established the Hue Citadel complex, now recognized by **UNESCO as a World Cultural Heritage Site** within the Hue Monuments Complex.

These constructions not only **symbolize the power and authority of the Nguyen dynasty** but also stand as remarkable artistic masterpieces, **enriching the cultural heritage of the nation**.

King Gia Long **restored many traditional festivals of the nation** such as Giong festival, Co Loa festival, Hung Temple festival,...

These festivals are held **every year**, attracting a large number of people to participate, **contributing to preserving and promoting national cultural identity**.



# LIMITATIONS

King Gia Long implemented a **"seclusion" policy**, limiting trade exchanges with foreign countries as some countries including Japan have done. This policy was partly intended to protect the country from a more powerful civilization.

**This has caused the country to be isolated from the outside world, hindering economic and social development. This makes Vietnam's economy stagnant and underdeveloped.**



**Agriculture is still backward and smuggling is developing.**

**The state apparatus is still cumbersome, corrupt, and corrupt.**

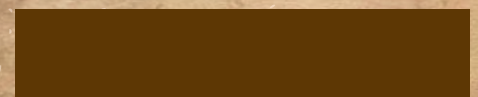
**The army lacked equipment and training and was not strong enough to fight the invaders.**



"Seclusion" and "prohibition of religion" have the purpose of protecting national independence, but also create tension with Western countries and contribute to weakening Vietnam's international position.



**Deep social contradictions sparked a series of major uprisings of farmers and ethnic minorities, and eventually Vietnam became an object of Western colonialism.**



# MINH MENH



**Era Name:** Minh Menh (明命)

**Full Name:** Nguyen Phuc Dam (阮福膺)

**Birth:** 25/05/1791

**Throning Year:** 1820

**Reign Period:** 21 years (1820 - 1841)

**Death:** 20/01/1841

**Temple Name:** Thanh To Nhan Hoang de

His real name is **Nguyen Phuc Dam**, also known as Nguyen Phuc Kieu.

He is the **fourth prince** of King Gia Long and his mother is Thuan Thien Cao, Queen Tran Thi Dang.

Minh Menh is **intelligent, studious, active and decisive**. Right from the age of 9 (1800), Prince Dam was taken to war by his father. He was intelligent and was often advised by his father to study.



When ascending the throne, Minh Menh set a rule: mandarins in Thanh, Dinh, Tran - Van from Hiep Town, Cai Ba, Ky Luc, Tham Hiep; Martial officers from the Commander to the Deputy Lieutenant... whoever wins the throne, is appointed... **must go to the capital to meet the king, so that the king can ask about their work, check their abilities and give advice.**

He was born on May 25, 1791 in Tan Loc village, near Gia Dinh, during the Tay Son - Lord Nguyen War (1787 - 1802). After Gia Long's death, Nguyen Phuc Dam officially inherited the throne, taking the reign name Minh Menh in 1820.

According to historical records, among the Vietnamese kings in general and the history of the 13 Nguyen Dynasty kings in particular, **the king with the most wives** was King Minh Menh, of whom 43 wives gave birth; 142 children include 78 princes and 64 queens.



# ACHIEVEMENTS

is considered to be **the most accomplished emperor** of the Nguyen Dynasty.



Đây được xem là **thời kỳ hùng mạnh cuối cùng** của chế độ phong kiến trong lịch sử Việt Nam.

1

Under his reign, Vietnam reached **its largest territorial extent in history**.

**Encompassing** nearly the **entire Indochinese Peninsula**. Minh Menh's influence extended to neighboring countries such as Laos and Cambodia.

2

He was very interested in **military defense**, so the army under him was organized quite **powerfully**.

The determination of the **country's sovereignty over the sea** and islands has been inherited and promoted very effectively, methodically and decisively.

One of the king's **most important achievements** was sending troops to explore and erect sovereignty pillars and stele in the **Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagos**.

He also **paid great attention to equipping the army** with more weapons, boats, elephants and horses, large guns and constantly strengthening defense.

3

Always **take care of people's lives**, focus on economic development, and aspire for rich people and a strong country.

He **applied many policies to promote economic development** such as encouraging sea reclamation; Promote irrigation to dig rivers to drain floods...

4

**Most notably in the area of administration.**

It is considered **one of the two largest-scale and most effective reforms in Vietnamese feudal history**.

Aimed to **strengthen and unify the central government**.

Strengthen the power in the hands of the king, organize the government closely from the central to local levels, and strengthen autocracy.

King Minh Menh's way of dividing the provinces was based on a scientific basis, consistent with the scope of management of a province... this is the basis for establishing and dividing the provinces **as they are today**.

5

He was a Confucian scholar and placed great emphasis on **education and the selection of talented individuals**.

**In 1821**, In 1821, the Quoc Tu Giam was built, the Te Tuu and Tu Nghiep positions were established, and the Hoi and Dinh exams were reopened.

**In 1822**, he reopened the Dinh examinations in the capital to select talented people.

6

Pay attention to **preserving national discipline**, building laws and administrative discipline.

In addition to the laws in the Gia Long Code, King Minh Menh also decided to add new laws to punish officials for corruption and bribery. **Strictly inspect and supervise the activities of state administrative agencies and mandarins.**

He often used the four words "**Chính - Đại - Quang - Minh**" as the **guiding principles** for running the administrative apparatus.

# LIMITATIONS



Regarding foreign affairs, Minh Menh did not introduce any reforms, continuing to maintain Gia Long's policy: **isolation, refusing all exchanges with the West, prohibiting people from trading with foreign countries**

**causing Dai Nam to gradually fall behind and not be able to absorb new science and technical achievements.**

*Do not "communicate" with the West through a policy of seclusion, banning missionaries from preaching on Vietnamese territory.*

Minh Menh consolidated the feudal autocracy, strengthened the king's power, and **limited the people's freedom.**

**This has caused discontent in society. Since then, many struggles and uprisings of the people have arisen.**



**The second King  
of the Nguyen Dynasty  
Minh Menh**

# THIEU TRI



**Era Name:** Thieu Tri (紹治)

**Full Name:** Nguyen Phuc Mien Tong (阮福綿宗)

**Birth:** 16/06/1807

**Throning Year:** 11/02/1841

**Reign Period:** 07 years (1840 - 1847)

**Death:** 04/10/1847

**Temple Name:** Hien To Chuong Hoang de

- **The eldest son** of King Minh Menh, his mother is Mrs. Ta Thien Nhan, Queen Ho Thi Hoa.
- Only 13 days after giving birth to King Thieu Tri, Mrs. Ho Thi Hoa passed away. He was personally cared for and raised by his mother, **Queen Mother Nhan Tuyen Hoang**, until adulthood.
- King Thieu Tri ascended the throne on February 11, 1841 at Thai Hoa Palace, **just at the age of 34**.
- He is famous as a **poet**, most famous for his two Chinese poems: **Vu Trung Son Thuy** and **Phuoc Vien Van Hoi Luong Da man ngam**.



*Hai bài thơ "lạ" có hàng trăm cách đọc của vua Thiệu Trị*

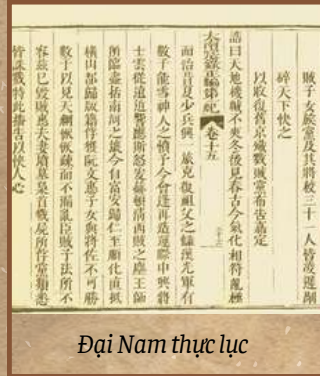
## THIEU TRI - THE PEACEFUL EMPEROR DURING THE NGUYEN DYNASTY

King Thieu Tri is recorded in history books as an **intelligent, gentle, diligent king, diligently devoted to taking care of the country**, knowledgeable in Confucianism, and fond of poetry. But King Thieu Tri did not introduce any new reforms but **only maintained** the economic, administrative, military, legal, educational policies,... from the reign of his father - Minh Menh.

**Reign Period:** King Thieu Tri inherited the throne in a context where the country was experiencing many changes and challenges from inside and outside. On the one hand, within the royal court, there were factional conflicts and deep competition for power; On the other hand, it is under great pressure from Western powers and aggressive moves from France, creating an unstable political and foreign environment.

# ACHIEVEMENTS

King Thieu Tri focused on studying and education and continued to compose the series "Đại Nam thực lục tiền biên", the series "Khâm định Đại Nam hội điển sử lệ", and at the same time the king himself was also famous for being good at poetry. literature, the most prominent being the poem "Ngự đề danh thắng đồ hội thi tập".



Đại Nam thực lục



Khâm định Đại Nam hội điển sử lệ



Ngự đề danh thắng đồ hội thi tập



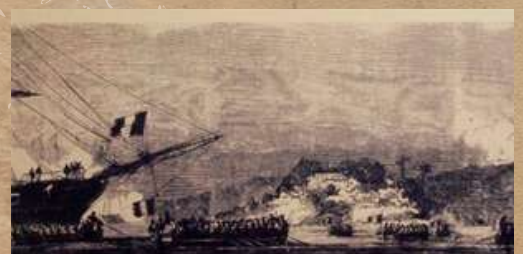
However, King Thieu Tri did not introduce any new reforms but only **maintained** administrative, economic, educational, legal, military policies... from the Minh Menh period. When Thieu Tri ascended the throne, Minh Menh's expansion policy made Dai Nam's territory become larger



# LIMITATIONS

Like the two previous kings, King Thieu Tri also had limitations in his policy of "seclusion" and "prohibiting religion and killing religion".

Thieu Tri also had to deal with the growing **risk of invasion** by the **French colonialists**. The climax was the **Battle of Da Nang Sea Gate (1847)** when the French army sank 5 bronze boats of the Dai Nam navy. This failure made the emperor very angry and worried, but until his death, Thieu Tri and his officials still could not find a reasonable solution.



# TU DUC

## the longest reign period

**Era Name:** Tu Duc (嗣德)

**Full Name:** Nguyen Phuc Hong Nham (阮福洪任)

**Birth:** 22/09/1829

**Throning Year:** 1947

**Reign Period:** 36 years (1847 - 1883)

**Death:** 19/07/1883

**Temple Name:** Duc Anh Tong Hoang de



The second child of Thieu Tri and Pham Thi Hang (Mrs. Tu Du).

He married very early - at the age of 14 - and had 103 wives in his lifetime. However, *he did not have any biological children.*

In return for poor health, Tu Duc is very **intelligent** and **bright**. Tu Duc was one of the eruditions of Confucianism his time.

Among the 13 kings of the Nguyen Dynasty, Tu Duc was **the longest reigning king** with 36 years, from 1847 to 1883.

Tu Duc ruled the country amid **many existential challenges**. Compared to the previous 3 kings, Tu Duc was a step backward in ruling the country. Although he had the longest reign, because of **his indecisiveness**, he did not make a clear contribution as well as caused the country to **fall into the eyes of French colonialism**.



# DUC DUC

the shortest reign period

**Era Name:** Duc Duc/Nguyen Cung Ton (阮恭宗)

**Full Name:** Nguyen Phuc Ung Ai (阮福膺禛)

**Birth:** 11/02/1853

**Throning Year:** 19/07/1883

**Death:** 06/10/1883



Duc Duc was one of three children that Tu Duc **adopted**. Because of the emperor's decree, he was deposed after a few days on the throne.

If Tu Duc is the longest reigning king with 36 years, Duc Duc is **the shortest reigning king** of the Nguyen Dynasty with only 3 days.

Upon his death, Duc Duc left behind 8 wives, 11 sons and 8 daughters. Duc Duc was **the father of King Thanh Thai** and **the grandfather of King Duy Tan**. When Thanh Thai became king, Duc Duc was restored to his imperial title and honored as "**Cung tôn huệ hoàng đế**".

# HIEP HOA

**Era Name:** Hiep Hoa (協和)

**Full Name:** Nguyen Phuc Hong Dat (阮福洪佚)

**Birth:** 01/11/1847

**Throning Year:** 1883

**Death:** 29/11/1883

- Hiep Hoa is the 29th and **youngest child** of Thieu Tri.

- The accession to the throne was also because of **reluctance**. After the deposition of Duc Duc, at the will of Ton That Thuyet, Nguyen Van Tuong and Tu Du Dowager...



...Hiep Hoa is carried by a delegation of the imperial court into Dai Noi for the coronation ceremony. At first, because he was the youngest son, of mediocre character, he did not dare to accept it, then, **he was forced to follow the delegation into Cam Thanh and become the King.**



During his reign, **Hiep Hoa hated Nguyen Van Tuong and Ton That Thuyet**. These two men, for the sake of merit, were not looking at the king. Hiep Hoa moved Ton that Thuyet from Bo Binh to Bo Lai to strip him of power.

As king for four months, Hiep Hoa received secret requests to kill Nguyen Van Tuong and Ton That Thuyet from close associates.

He handed over the service to Nguyen Tien Thanh for approval, but unfortunately, **the story was revealed**. Nguyen Van Tuong and Ton That Thuyet conspired to depose Hiep Hoa, accusing him and his confidants of plotting to rely on French troops to kill the two main ministers, as evidenced by secret papers.

**In the end, Hiep Hoa was forced to drink poison to death.**

# KIEN PHUC

- Kien Phuc is one of **Tu Duc's adopted sons**.

- From childhood he was early **knowledgeable, peaceful, quiet and clean, careful of speech and deeds**. Therefore, Tu Duc was very complimentary, showed unusual love.

- King Kien Phuc was only king for 8 months, becoming **the most glorious king** of the Nguyen Dynasty, when he died at the age of 15.

*His death was **closely related to** Concubine Nguyen Van Thi Huong and his father Nguyen Van Tuong.*

Although he ruled for less than a year, Kien Phuc left **some memorable milestones during the Nguyen Dynasty**:

In early January 1884, the Imperial Court commissioned a prototype **American and German gun**.

At the same time, we try to weave some floral and cotton fabrics like the West.

On June 6, 1884, the Hue court signed with the French colonialists the Treaty of Giap Than (Peace of Patenôtre), amending some articles compared to the Treaty of Quy Mui but still basically **recognizing France's "protection" for Vietnam**.

**Era Name:** Kien Phuc (建福) or Kien Phuc De (建福帝)

**Full Name:** Nguyen Phuc Ung Dang (阮福膺登)

**Birth:** 12/2/1869

**Throning Year:** 02/12/1883

**Reign Period:** 08 months (1883 - 1884)

**Death:** 31/07/1884



# HAM NGHI

**Era Name:** Ham Nghi (咸宜)

**Full Name:** Nguyen Phuc Ung Lich (阮福膺)

**Birth:** 03/8/1871

**Throning Year:** 02/08/1884

**Reign Period:** 01 year (1884 - 1885)

**Death:** 14/01/1944

Among the 13 kings of the Nguyen Dynasty, Ham Nghi is considered

*the king with the most national pride and patriotism*

when he was **ready to leave the throne and launch a war against the French**. The French colonialists were extremely embarrassed by the Can Vuong movement, and managed to capture Ham Nghi to put down the movement from the beginning. Using counterintelligence, the colonists tricked Ham Nghi, at the base in Ha Tinh, and took him to Hue on 14.11 in 1888. **He was only 17 years old at the time**. France tried to persuade Ham Yi to cooperate and be a figurehead, but was flatly rejected by the king:

“*I, myself is imprisoned, the water is gone, I dare to think about my parents and brothers and sisters.*”

Eventually, Ham Nghi was driven by the French to settle down in Algeria. Here he worked in the art of photography and drawing, organized exhibitions, considered art as a hobby.

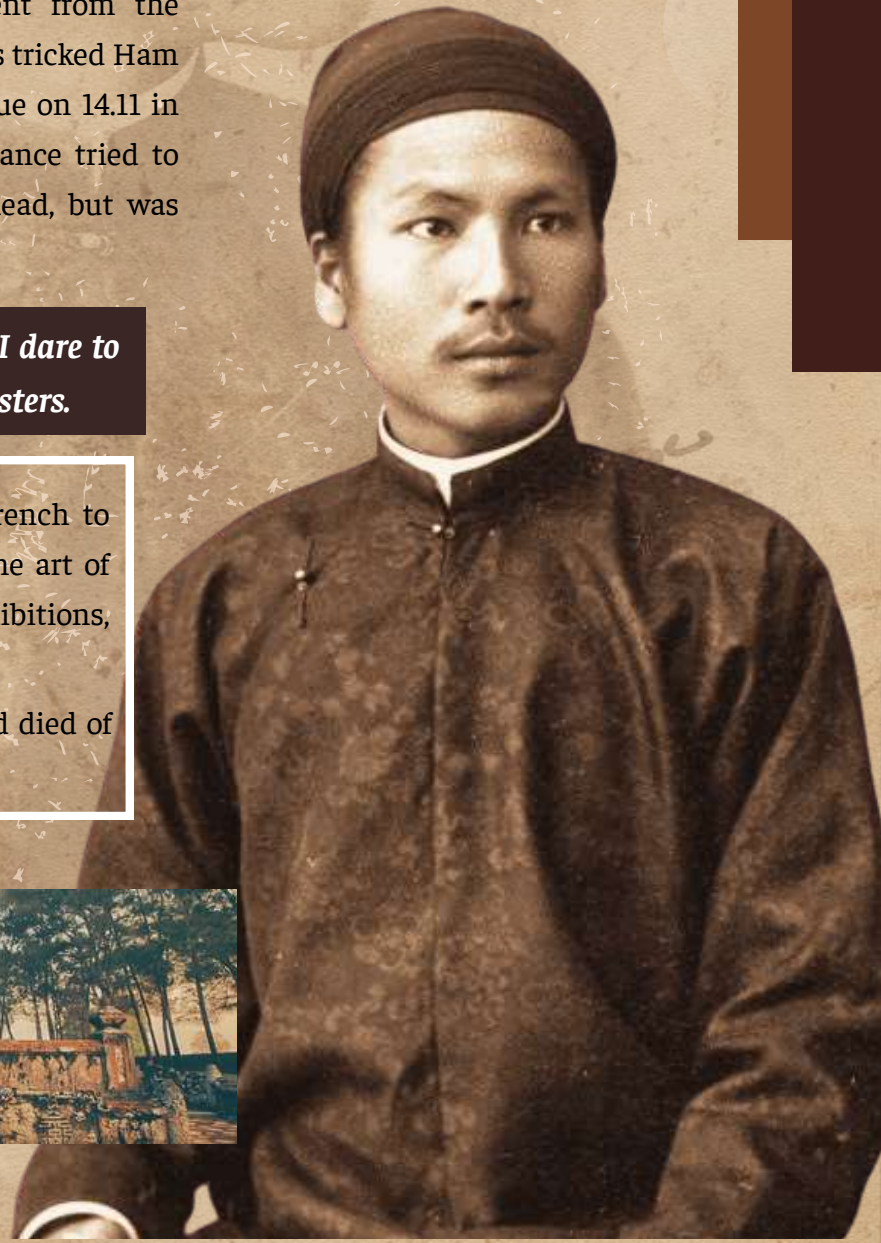
He lived in Algeria for **47 years, aged 64**, and died of stomach cancer.

- Ham Nghi is **Kien Phuc's younger sibling**.

- After Kien Phuc's death, in 1884, Ham Nghi was put on the throne by Nguyen Van Tuong and Ton That Thuyet **at the age of 13**.

- King Ham Nghi is a **bright, intelligent person**.

- Although he ascended to the throne at a relatively young age, he was **aware of the humiliation of dehydration and always agonized for an independence for the nation**.



# DONG KHANH

**Era Name:** Dong Khanh De (同慶)

**Full Name:** Nguyen Phuc Ung Duong (阮福膺禧)

**Birth:** 19/12/1864

**Throning Year:** 08/1885

**Reign Period:** 04 years (1885 - 1889)

**Death:** 28/01/1889

**Temple Name:** Canh Tong Thuan Hoang de



- Dong Khanh is one of Tu Duc - Ung Duong's adopted children.



Dong Khanh was recorded in Vietnamese history books after the Nguyen Dynasty as a reactionary king because:

- Immediately after his coronation, Dong Khanh sent a letter of gratitude to France with excessive words of praise. He also made a protective flag to hang everywhere, especially on major holidays

*(Dong Khanh Chinh Yeu)*

The French colonialists had to admit:

***“Never in any country or time has there been a king as hated by his subjects as the puppet king Dong Khanh!”***

Dong Khanh also confessed: **"There is no way I can believe that Ha Tinh, Quang Binh is loyal to me, because those two provinces have so many scholars!"**

**After reigning for four years, Dong Khanh fell seriously ill and died in early 1889.**

## SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER

In the eyes of the current Vietnamese State, King Dong Khanh is a "puppet" and "minion" of the French colonialists. This must be based on some of his acts of submitting to the French and opposing the Can Vuong movement. **However, the national spirit that the 9th king of the Nguyen Dynasty demonstrated through:**

**Resolutely demand** that the French return Thai A Kiem and other treasures of the Nguyen Dynasty, especially the golden seal "Hoang de Chi Bao"

Just like before, they still used the reign name Ham Nghi after his coronation, asking the Vietnamese State to reconsider its stance to have a fair assessment of him.

# THANH THAI



**Era Name:** Thanh thai (成泰)

**Full Name:** Nguyen Phuc Buu Lan (阮福寶麟)

**Birth:** 14/03/1879

**Throning Year:** 01/02/1889

**Reign Period:** 19 years (1889 - 1907)

**Death:** 09/03/1955

- Thanh Thai is **the biological son** of King Duc Duc, great-grandson of King Thieu Tri.

- When Tongqing died, his six sons were too young to ascend the throne and rule the country. In obedience to the will of Biton Palace (Nghi Thien Chuong, Empress – wife of Thieu Tri and Le Thien Anh, Empress – wife of Tu Duc), the court welcomed Duc Duc's 7th son (deposed) **Thanh Thai, then 8 years old, as king.**



- Thanh Thai is a king who has a **sense of national affairs and is eager to learn.**

- Thanh Thai understands the suffering of his fellow citizens, has a spirit of national self-reliance and a reform mind. However, **all plans to reform the country of the king were blocked by the French colonialists.**

- Thanh Thai often faked madness to hide the eyes of French colonialists and henchmen. However, when the incident came out. This opportunistic legal entity forced Cheng Thai to abdicate and was exiled to Reunion.



- Thanh Thai was king for 19 years, deposed at the age of 28.

- After 31 years of exile, in 1947 he was allowed to return to his homeland but was forced to stay in Saigon to make it easier for France to control.

- It was not until March 1953 that the French colonialists allowed him to visit his parents' mausoleum, and his grandparents in Hue later had to return to Saigon. Thanh Thai died in Saigon on March 24, 1954. His descendants took him to be buried in Hue, aged 74.



# DUY TAN

**Era Name:** Duy Tan (維新)

**Full Name:** Nguyen Phuc Vinh San (阮福永珊)

**Birth:** 19/09/1900

**Throning Year:** 05/09/1907

**Reign Period:** 09 years (1907 - 1916)

**Death:** 25/12/1945



- Duy Tan is **Thanh Thai's biological son.**
- After getting rid of Thanh Thai, the French colonialists intended to put the young Duy Tan on the throne so that it would be easy for him to be wronged. However, with **his intelligence and position - the head of the court,**

**Duy Tan was not only not manipulated, but also more resolutely opposed to France than his father.**

*At the end of 1916, with the help of a salvation organization, Duy Tan secretly met with two Vietnamese journalists Quang Phuc Hoi (initiated by Phan Boi Chau), Tran Cao Van and Thai Phien, to discuss the rebellion against the French.*

The king took the initiative and decided to push the date of the rebellion earlier so as not to miss the opportunity. Unfortunately, the king **was arrested by the French at a Quang Ngai pagoda on May 6, 1916** along with many other rescuers. He was placed under house arrest on the island of Réunion in the Indian Ocean.

**In October 1945, Duy Tan accepted French President's offer to return to Vietnam but was hit by a plane crash and died on his way to visit his wife and children on Reuynion Island at the age of 46.**



- Khai Dinh is **the biological son** of King Dong Khanh.
- When searching Google with the keyword "King Khai Dinh", the results returned are articles describing Khai Dinh as a strange, weak king who did not care about politics but only played around and spent money. wasteful, is a puppet king set up by the French to make it easier to control...
- Hue people also spread the popular song about Khai Dinh:

**Rumors of Khai Dinh flattering the West  
This guy is the best at this**

- Khai Dinh had poor health like his father and became an addict. He **died of tuberculosis in the Imperial City of Hue.**



**Era Name:** Khai Dinh De (啓定帝)  
**Full Name:** Nguyen Phuc Buu Dao (阮福寶嶠)  
**Birth:** 08/10/1885  
**Throning Year:** 18/05/1916  
**Reign Period:** 09 years  
**Death:** 06/11/1925  
**Temple Name:** Hoang Tong Tuyen Hoang de

# KHAI DINH

## A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES

### Victims of the Imperial war

According to Francois de Tesson, writing about King Khai Dinh published in the magazine La Revue de Paris, it was clearly recorded that King Thanh Thai hated him:  
“...They excluded him from all honor.”

Is a product of its time

Is a political pawn

Although he is a genuine puppet king, Khai Dinh still has **certain reforms and contributions to the country.**

King Khai Dinh himself designed new clothes and built Kien Trung palace, An Dinh palace and Ung Lang palace in modern architectural style. Cultural interference with the French made the king's aesthetic different from previous kings.

With the issue of agriculture, industry and commerce, in 1918, the Khai Dinh court issued regulations

**Vietnamese people who work helpfully in the field of agriculture, industry and trade will receive special rewards for officials**

This regulation is proposed to directly attack the development that comes from the Vietnamese people in order to stimulate the development of indigenous people.

He also has policies to develop traditional crafts and **create a great reputation**

**"In the late Nguyen dynasties, especially the reign of King Khai Dinh (1916-1925), the team of craftsmen not only in embroidery but also in a series of other occupations were very developed."**

*(Nguyen Huu Thong, Hue, Listening And Traditional Handicraft Villages).*

# BAO DAI

## the last King



**Era Name:** Bao Dai (保大)

**Full Name:** Nguyen Phuc Vinh Thuy (阮福永瑞)

**Birth:** 22/10/1913

**Throning Year:** 08/01/1926

**Reign Period:** 21 years (1925 - 1945)

**Death:** 31/07/1997



- Bao Dai is the **adopted son** of King Khai Dinh.

He was the last emperor of the Nguyen Dynasty, which is also the last emperor of the monarchy in Vietnamese history.



From 1922, Bao Dai was sent to France to study.



In 1925, King Khai Dinh died, Bao Dai returned home to take care of his father's funeral and officially ascended the throne. However, he lived and studied in France **until 1932 when he officially returned to his country to rule the country.**



Bao Dai has **an only hobby** is hunting in the central highlands, resting with beauties in Da Lat and many other scenic spots.

Due to **the arrangement of the French colonialists**, on March 20, 1934, Bao Dai married the daughter of a Cochinchina landowner, a French national, a Christian, named Mariette Jeanne Nguyen Thi Hao, or Nguyen Huu Thi Lan.

This marriage closed Bao Dai even further into the arms of French control.

This is the only case where a Nguyen king created an Empress while on the throne: Empress Nam Phuong.



On August 30, 1945, after 80 years of slavery, the revolutionary masses of the whole country, under the leadership of the Viet Minh and Ho President, arose like a storm.

In front of more than 5,000 people of Hue city gathered at the gate of Ngo Mon, **Bao Dai announced his abdication**, handed over the seal of the sword to representatives of the revolutionary government, and declared:


**“ it is better to be a citizen of a free country than to be king of a slave country ”**

Thus, from the time when the Hung kings built the country, to the last emperor – Bao Dai reigned, our country has experienced more than **4000 years of history with the ups and downs of more than 20 dynasties.**

In 1945, **the August Revolution succeeded** – the last emperor abdicated, ending the long period of centralized feudalism, the history of Vietnam turned a new page – forming a Vietnam-Independence-Democracy state.



**DESCENDANTS OF THE  
NGUYEN DYNASTY  
TODAY**



# CONG TON NU TRI HUE



## CONG TON NU TRI HUE

*Usually called Me*

A artist who makes royal pillows

Grandson of Hoai Duc, Duke Nguyen Phuc Mien Lam (57th son of King Minh Menh)



- When she was young, she helped her father work as a Bac pharmacist.
- At the age of 17, she entered the Imperial Palace to study sewing and embroidery like other princesses, thereby having the opportunity to come into contact with armrest pillow - armrests serving the royal family.

- During her 9 years at the palace, she worked armrest pillow and sewed clothes for Duc Tu Cung (King Bao Dai's mother).

- The pillows made by Mrs. Tri Hue herself were very popular with Duc Tu Cung and King Bao Dai. King Bao Dai many times ordered her to sew this type of pillow as a gift.



In 1963, she joined the movement to protest against the Ngo Dinh Diem government's suppression of Buddhism, volunteering to be a vegetarian to this day.

## CONCERNED ABOUT PRESERVING AND PROMOTING TRADITIONAL CRAFTS

Her daughter - Ms. Bui Thi Ngoc Diem - once shared that her mother spent half her life attached to the royal pillow. So, Mẹ

**have always wanted to teach people how to make pillows, even for free, because I am afraid that no one will do it anymore when I die.**

*She passed away in Huong Toan commune, Huong Tra town, at 9:35 pm on March 24, 2023, at the age of 101, leaving behind a will*

**"Do your work thoroughly"**

*Me's motto*



**“ If anyone wants to learn to preserve and develop this craft, to apply its techniques in more aspects of life, and even spread it across the country, our family is willing to help.**

# TON NU THI HA



Also called "Me Ha"

Born in 1943

From a royal family, according to the family genealogy, a descendant of **King Minh Menh, 16th generation**

Call Professor, Academician Ton That Tung as "uncle"



**Renowned as**

## THE HEIR TO HUE ROYAL CUISINE

In the 2004 Guinness Book of Records Vietnam, Mẹ was voted **"The Person with the Most Jobs"** with 16 jobs such as: Cooking, bonsai, medicine, photography, portrait painting, casting pots, teaching, translation, brewing wine, making cakes and sweets... the longest of which was medicine (35 years).

She is the owner of the project **"Vietnamese and World Chili Peppers"** with more than 250 chili pepper menus, revealing the culinary secrets of the king in the past.



**"Phuong Hoang vu"**, the work exhibited at the Rex Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City in October 2012, won the Asian record recognized by the Asian Records Association.



Mẹ has taken culinary art to a new level:

**Delicious,  
beautiful and  
magnificent**

Mẹ has traveled to 17 countries to teach and research cuisine from Asia, Europe to the Middle East...

Mẹ has created **"dia chi do" - Tinh Gia Vien**, which is in the top of tourist attractions in Thua Thien-Hue province.

# TON NU THI NINH



Borned in 1947

Hometown: Hue City, Thua Thien Hue

Study abroad at Paris University (France) and Cambridge University (UK)

- Vice Chairman of the Vietnam Peace Committee
- Chairman of Ho Chi Minh City Peace and Development Foundation
- Director of Tri Viet Center for Social Research and Education
- Former Ambassador of Vietnam to the EU and in Belgium
- Former Deputy Chairman of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee

**"Unique lady" of Vietnamese diplomacy**

**"Bridge" connecting the world with Vietnam**



Sharp intelligence and iron personality, determination, sharp thinking, straightforward and courageous argument, a tradition inherited from the family of Hue origin, completely different from the gentle appearance, discreet yet still seductive.

- **Becoming a diplomat started by working as an interpreter** for Prime Minister Pham Van Dong, General Vo Nguyen Giap, Mr. Xuan Thuy, Mr. Nguyen Co Thach...

- **Head of representative** of the Vietnamese delegation to the European Union in Brussels (Belgium).

- **One of eight faces of contemporary Vietnamese women** whose images are at the Vietnamese Women's Museum.

Received the First-Class Labor Medal from the state, awarded the North Star Medal by the French Government, and bestowed with the Leopold II Medal by the Belgian Government.

**"A surprising voice of modern Vietnam."**

*Daniel Sneider, an American journalist, commented about Tôn Nữ Thị Ninh.*



# CONG TANG TON NU HY KHUONG

Borned in 1935

Hometown: Vy Da - Hue

She is known as a **female poet** who actively contributes poetry and enthusiastically participates in the activities of 'Tao đàn Bạch Nga' and 'Tao đàn Quỳnh Dao' - two famous poetry lover groups in the past

**"The princess holds the record for poetry."**



She has published **numerous volumes of poetry** that are beloved by poetry enthusiasts nationwide, such as "Waiting for the Moon" (1964), "Dream of Tranquility" (1970), "Meeting Again" (1999), "Melancholic Love Songs" (2001), "Poetry of Love and Love of Poetry" (2006), "Poems Dedicated to Parents" (2007),... and the prose collection "Memories of My Father: The Life of Ứng Bình Thúc Gia" (1996, supplemented edition in 2002).

**Many poems by the poet Ton Nu Hy Khuong have deeply resonated with the public, being set to music and becoming words of shared wisdom advocating for a peaceful, contented, and gentle approach to life.**



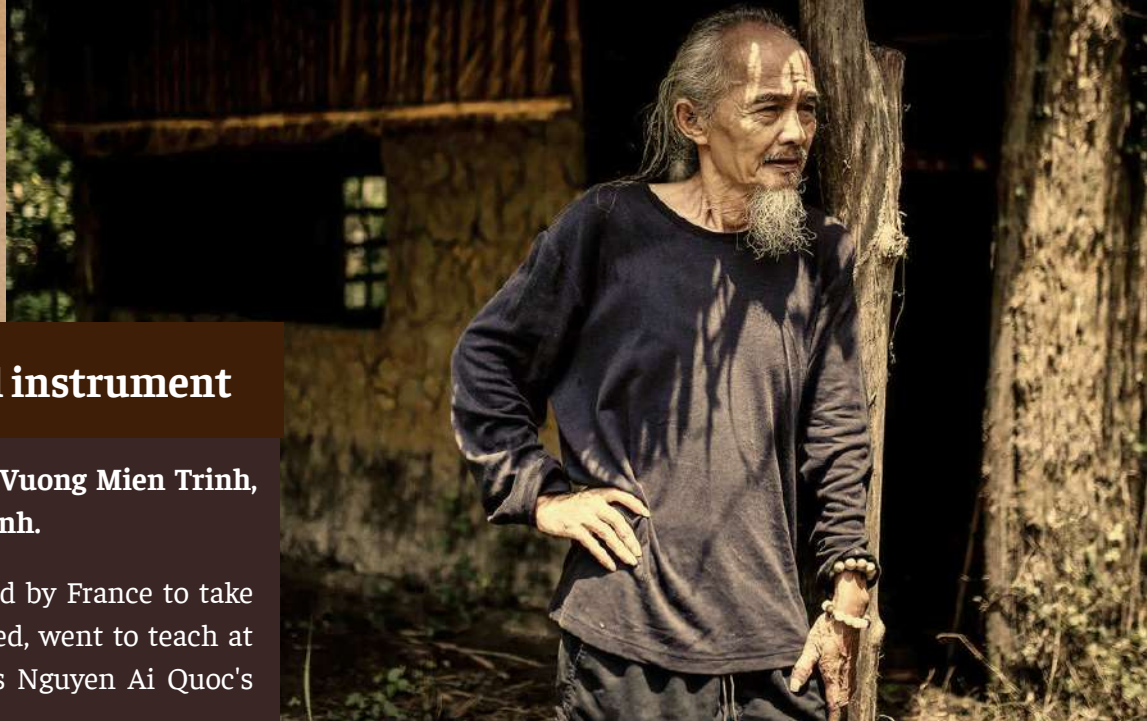
Her poetry is highly associated with calendars, thus she **holds the record**

**"The female poet with the most poems printed on calendars"**

at the Vietnam Book of Records Center.



# VINH TUAN



## Master of traditional instrument

The 4th grandson of Tuy Ly Vuong Mien Trinh, the 11th son of King Minh Menh.

Vinh Tuan's father was trained by France to take big positions, but he repudiated, went to teach at Hue National School and was Nguyen Ai Quoc's teacher.

## IMMERSED IN ETHNIC MUSIC

### STRIVE TO PRESERVE THE ANCESTAL ESSENCE PASSED DOWN



- Vinh Tuan taught at Hue Conservatory of Music before 1975, in traditional music.

- In the 1970s, Vinh Tuan organized the recording of Hue court music, when it was still quite full of grand masters.

- The war broke out, he went to the South alone, took 4 ancient royal guitars with him, left Hue, and traveled to Dong Nai.

On the occasion of celebrating the birth of his mother, the famous classical music artist of the grandfather, 95-year-old Hong Thi My Thanh, he and his family decided to donate **95 16-string zither** to classical music lovers nationwide to encourage the study of traditional music. The family is painstakingly packing boxes to send to each of them.

He did not consider making a guitar simply as creating a guitar, but also as one of the ways to preserve and spread traditional musical instruments and instruments of the nation.

He has always devoted himself to teaching the piano and composing works on ethnic music.

## “Đóng đàn không khó, chơi được đàn mới khó”

He wanted everyone, especially young people, to always join hands to protect the precious spiritual heritage of the nation.

Whoever comes to him, he also teaches very conscientiously, wholeheartedly not only the instrumental performance technique but also the beauty of traditional national music.

*Even at one point he had a stroke, paralyzed in one hand, he maintained this job*

**For him, the most meaningful work of his life is to preserve and promote Vietnamese national music.**

*Listening to Vinh Tuan playing ancient music, with the more than 200-year-old Vietnamese monk guitar of the royal family, it is possible to see a vivid and warm national history reproduced in the bustling sounds with many wishes for the flourishing life of the country today and tomorrow.*

# CHINH NGUYEN



The youngest child of Cong Huyen Ton Nu Ngoc Bich - the 5th generation of the royal family of King Minh Menh.

CEO of CTWS Group – one of the largest Asian food distribution companies in the US

CTWS is present in 32 states, the company's sales and communication teams are promoting and opening branches in Canada, Europe, Australia.

The competitive factor of CTWS to stand firm in the market is **Quality**

- She was the first person to bring Vietnamese dragon fruit officially imported into the US. Then there is milk breast, rambutan, longan, lychee ... and recently mam tom, banh nam, banh bot loc.

**THE DREAM OF BRINGING VIETNAMESE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS TO THE US AND BRINGING VIETNAMESE DISHES TO EXPATRIATE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE**

For her:

**"Eating those dishes is also a way towards the homeland culture so that young people born and raised in the US do not forget their Vietnamese roots."**

**"My wish is that where there are Vietnamese people, there are products of CTWS. Further is to get agricultural products into the Native American market."**

In the near future, she will again be **the first person to bring Dien pomelo to the US** with the hope of helping to make the lives of pomelo farmers in Hanoi better.





# **EXPANSION AND CONCLUSION**



# MERIT V/S MERIT GUILT V/S GUILT

NGUYEN DYNASTY

## WHICH IS RIGHT?

### WANTED



CÔNG RẮN CẮN  
GÀ NHÀ???

There are **many contrasting opinions** about the first king of the Nguyen Dynasty, **King Gia Long**.

Many people believe that he collaborated with Siam, France, and the Qing Dynasty to fight against the Tay Son. His act of seeking foreign aid, known as “**công răn cắn gà nhà**” in order to restore the monarchy has been heavily criticized. However, **objectively speaking, he made significant contributions to unifying the country and ending the centuries-long civil war in Vietnam.**



**After April 30, 1975**, all economic and social values of the South were abolished and replaced by new concepts and standards of the Northern Socialist. In terms of history, the Nguyen Dynasty (1802-1945) **was severely criticized and condemned as a "traitorous" dynasty.**

## STREET NAMES?

- All streets in Saigon with names of Nguyen Dynasty kings and officials **were removed and replaced with** others, such as Gia Long Street was replaced by Ly Tu Trong Street, Minh Menh Street was replaced by Ngo Gia Tu Street, etc.

## SCHOOL'S NAME?

- The famous schools in the South, once named after the kings and founding fathers of the Nguyen Dynasty, also suffered the same fate. In particular, the place name "Gia Dinh" referring to a land area that was the capital of the South for more than 200 years was also erased.

## TEXTBOOK?

- Textbooks and reference books in general schools used very **"harsh" words** when referring to the Nguyen Dynasty kings:



The lessons instilled in students' heads about a **cowardly and weak Nguyen Dynasty**, about the evil of Nguyen Anh when he appealed to the Siamese army and then lost in the glorious Rach Gam - Xoai Mut battle of King Quang Trung...

"...The Nguyen Dynasty was the most reactionary dynasty...The extremely reactionary nature of the Nguyen regime was revealed from the very beginning through the cowardly acts of terror and revenge of Nguyen Anh against the peasant leaders and the Tay Son people, including women and children..."

"The Nguyen Dynasty government was completely opposed to the people and the nation. It only represented the interests of the reactionary and decadent feudal forces, it had no other social basis than the landlord class. Therefore, all the Nguyen kings were very afraid of the people and worried about and prevented acts of overthrow. Because of being cowardly before the people's movement, the Nguyen Dynasty did not dare to establish its capital in Thang Long, and had to move to Hue".

# NGUYEN DYNASTY

Many generations of students have been taught history lessons with such extreme viewpoints, so it is not surprising that for a long time, there have been many **misunderstandings and even hatred towards the Nguyen Dynasty.**

## MERIT OR GUILT?



"**Historical fairness**" is to respect the scientific objectivity in historical cognition, compilation and teaching.

**W**hen evaluating a historical figure or period, it is necessary to **analyze the advantages and disadvantages clearly.**

In the relationship between that character and society, "**merit**" and "**guilt**" need to be **judged fairly.** It is not that when you love, sin becomes success, and when you hate, merit becomes sin.


A feudal dynasty like the Nguyen Dynasty is also the same, both a historical agent and a product of social history. During those 143 years, the country was sometimes lost and sometimes gained, **the Nguyen kings were sometimes abolished and sometimes revived.**

In fact, the Nguyen kings also had **many great contributions** to the cause of opening up the country and unifying the country, ending the civil war, leaving behind a very rich cultural heritage with special value... but for many reasons, people deliberately forget, avoid mentioning those events or interpret them in a criminal direction. **This is an unfair attitude, lacking respect for objective truth, biased and distorting history.**

**W**e need to be **clear-sighted, to evaluate objectively, fully and to have a more impartial view** of the Nguyen Dynasty.



**“ Having prosperity and decline is an inevitable law of history, the Nguyen Dynasty deserves to be recognized by future generations like any other feudal dynasty. ”**



Our country's history is an endless treasure that we need to learn and explore. These are stories about brave heroes, heroic battles and resounding victories of our ancestors. Not only stopping at memorizing historical events, but also understanding clearly about the roots, the nation, and the culture of our nation. Only then can we see the beauty of history and not see "dry, boring history".

We - the contest team hopes that their contest product will partly change the way young readers perceive history and motivate them, so that not only the Nguyen Dynasty but all feudal dynasties of Vietnam Nam, the glorious victories of our ancestors will be recognized and honored.

Let's start today, we cannot let historical knowledge become secrets of the past.

Be young people who remember their roots, who join hands to continue, build - conserve - preserve - promote the traditional values, culture, and patriotism of the nation.

During the process of perfecting the product, the contest team tried to review, check, and adjust according to the comments of the Organizing Committee. However, because of limited knowledge and experience, the product cannot avoid shortcomings. We hope readers will understand and if you have any constructive comments, the contest team would be happy to receive them through **the following link or QR code:**

**[LINK](#)**



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