

# INDOCHINA. LAND AND PEOPLE 1856

**Room 2**  
**Indochina**  
from 1908 to 1956

**4**

DECLINE AND END  
OF THE FRENCH  
EMPIRE IN THE  
FAR EAST

**3**

AT THE HEART  
OF THE INDOCHINESE  
COLONY

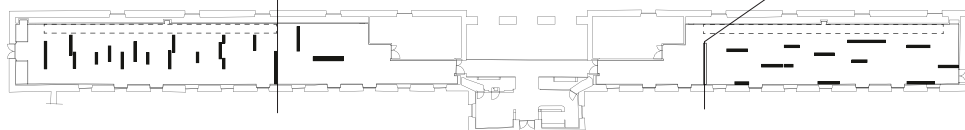
**Room 1**  
**Indochina**  
from 1858 to 1907

**1**

FRANCE'S FIRST  
STEPS BEYOND  
INDIA ROAD

**2**

THE FORMING  
OF FRENCH  
INDOCHINA



entrance

## Exhibition

-  
from 16 October 2013  
to 26 January 2014

-  
Hôtel des Invalides,  
129 rue de Grenelle,  
6 boulevard des Invalides  
(special needs access)  
Paris VII

[www.musee-armee.fr](http://www.musee-armee.fr)

-  
Open every day from 10 a.m.  
to 6 p.m. until 31 October,  
As of November 1st, from 10 a.m.  
to 5 p.m.  
Closed on 25 December and 1 January



# 1

Located at the crossroads of India and China, in the 16th century the Indochinese peninsula aroused European interest. The Pope gave the Jesuits and missionaries in the foreign missions the task of converting the local people and training a «native» clergy, while the initial commercial relations between Europe and the peninsula were inaugurated by the Portuguese, followed a century later by the Dutch and the English. France, which was only involved from the religious point of view in the 17th century, sought supply points between India and China for the ships belonging to the Compagnie des Indes Orientales (East India Company).



Sabre belonging to Gia Long, the Emperor of Annam

Late 18<sup>th</sup> - early 19<sup>th</sup> century  
Steel, gold, jade, coral, pearl,  
precious stones and vermeil  
(c) Paris, Musée de l'Armée (1891).

The civil war of 1775-1802, coming after a relatively peaceful period between the Vietnamese domains in the North and the South, gave it the opportunity, through Mgr. Pigneau de Béhaine, of signing an assistance treaty which was never applied, between the King of France Louis XVI and the heir to the Nguyen dynasty, the future Emperor Gia Long (1802-1820). At the same time as the Confucian structures of the Empire were being renovated, he modernised the army and the Vietnamese fleet with the help of French engineering and naval officers and built citadels similar to those of Vauban. At his death, his successor, Minh Mang, then Tu Duc, became closed to foreign influence, still looking for commercial concessions and treaties, and proclaimed edicts persecuting Christians, accused of collusion with the Europeans.



Prince Canh (1780-1801), crown prince and son of the «king» of Cochinchina, Nguyen Anh (future Emperor Gia Long), when he visited France to sign the Treaty of Versailles

Maupérin, 1787.

(c) Paris, Missions étrangères de Paris

Just before France's military intervention, relations between the Indochinese peninsular states, very diverse both ethnically and culturally, were unequal. The Indianised kingdoms of Cambodia and Laos, declining and weakened, were dominated by Siam, while Vietnam remained within the orbit of the Chinese political culture. Furthermore, these countries had ethnically diverse populations and relations between the mountain minorities and the people of the plains were tense.

## FRANCE'S FIRST STEPS BEYOND INDIA ROAD

Prior to  
1856

# 2



Uniform worn by Nguyen Tri Phuong,  
commander-in-chief of staff  
of the Vietnamese army

Around 1861. Silk  
(c) Paris, musée national de la Marine.

France took more than 40 years to set up its colonial empire in the Far East despite regime changes in France and political developments in the Far-East. After the first Opium War from 1839 to 1841, the French maritime presence became more accentuated in the China Sea and, from the 1840s, the Navy, to consolidate its position in this part of the world, recommended that France should take action in Vietnam.

The conquest of Indochina derived from Franco-British rivalry, economic interests linked to Chinese markets and local religious tensions. The persecutions of the Christians by the Emperor Tu Duc were felt both in French public opinion and within the highest authorities of the Second Empire. Tensions and internal weakness in Indo-Chinese societies made this conquest possible. Some Christians, members of ethnic minorities and mandarins whose social status was declining, as well as those who had run counter to the neo-Confucian policy of the Nguyen dynasty, supported the establishment of the French colonial order in Indochina or were not opposed to it.

France therefore gained mastery of the peninsula in two phases. First of all, from 1856 to 1867, the Navy of Napoleon III conquered the south of the Vietnamese territory, called Cochinchina, and extended its influence over the Kingdom of Cambodia, in this way controlling the lower Mekong basin. Then, from 1873 to 1897, continuing the Second Empire's action, the Third Republic, alert to economic pressure groups, to the glory and the «civilising mission» of France, sent an expeditionary force to conquer and pacify Annam and Tonkin where it had to confront China, both on land and at sea. The constitution of this enormous area, from 1887 called the «Indochinese Union», comprising a colony, Cochinchina, and three protectorates, Cambodia, Annam and Tonkin, was officially completed when the Laotian principalities were made protectorates in 1893 then, in 1907, when two provinces were handed over by Siam and Cambodia. But this region was «pacified» only at the end of the First World War.

## A. THE CONQUEST AND OCCUPATION OF THE SOUTHERN DELTA (COCHINCHINA AND CAMBODIA) (1856-1872)

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Cochinchinese map of the bay and the defences of the Tourane river, taken from the residence of a military mandarin, on 15 September 1859

Chinese paper, tracing paper  
(c) Paris, Musée des Archives nationales.

In 1856, the corvette *Le Catinat*, bearing gifts and diplomatic letters, moored in the Bay of Tourane. After the negotiations with the mandarins failed, the captain of the ship shelled the city's forts. Hence, this episode marked the start of a war of conquest which, from the capture of Tourane in 1858 to the annexing of western Cochin-China in 1867, cut off the southern provinces from Vietnam and extended French influence over the Kingdom of Cambodia. The expeditionary force, comprising 2,000 sailors and soldiers in 1858 then 6,000 in 1862, was increased by conscripting the first native units among the Catholics living in the areas surrounding Saigon. The French presence in Cochin-China and Cambodia took effect by the early building of military and colonial constructions, the links established between the conquered provinces and France as well as the scientific missions studying the conquered areas: all means by which France took over territories.

## B. THE CONQUEST OF NORTHERN INDOCHINA (1873-1885)

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Fifteen years after the conquest of southern Indochina, the budding Third Republic, marked by its defeat by Prussia and suffering from internal tensions, resumed the Second Empire's political expansion in the peninsula. In 1873, an initial attempt at conquest was made, then abandoned in favour of diplomacy. At the start of the 1880s, a powerful pressure group called the Colonial Party, in favour of conquering Tonkin, started up in the business community, the Navy and religious circles. Military intervention was contemplated in northern Vietnam, while Tonkin and Laos were disrupted by the migration of Chinese groups, with names deriving from the colour of their flags. French penetration ran up against Vietnamese military resistance allied with some of the Black Flags. China, although weakened by a civil war and European incursions, reacted strongly to the attack on the kingdom which it was supposed to protect.

## C. THE DEVELOPMENT OF «COLONIAL KNOWLEDGE»

From the early days of the conquest, scholarly soldiers devoted themselves to studying the populations, civilisations and territories of Indochina. They explored still unknown regions, mapped lands and river systems, made reports on local cultures and customs. Some of them even learnt indigenous languages and were fascinated by the organisation of traditional societies. However, the health officers devoted themselves to fighting against pandemics. This interest arose from scientific curiosity and opened up new fields of investigation to a large number of disciplines. It was also part of the effort to control and administer populations and territories. Hence, it was the explorer Auguste Pavie, an expert on Laos and Cambodia, who persuaded the king of Luang-Prabang in 1888 to make his kingdom a protectorate since it was being laid waste by Chinese bands and threatened by Siam. Ratified by the treaty of 1893, this protectorate was an illustration of the links between «colonial knowledge» and colonisation in the true sense of the word.



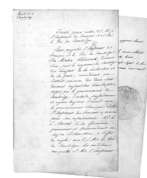
Logbook of the Pavie mission

- Auguste Pavie, 1885.

(c) Archives nationales d'outremer, Aix-en-Provence.

## D. THE «PACIFICATION OF INDOCHINA» THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COLONIAL RULE (1884-1897)

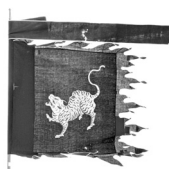
«Pacification» changed the Indochinese territory into an enormous area constantly rocked by rebellions and dogged resistance. The loss of the Emperor's sovereignty over Vietnam led to an uprising by the mandarin elite and some of the rural communities. Nevertheless, the colonial power denied the national and political nature of these movements and described the actions of the guerrillas with whom it was confronted as acts of piracy. France played on the contradictions in Vietnamese society such as antagonism between the various ethnic groups in the peninsula, using methods specific to colonial wars, already used in other parts of the empire. By these antagonisms with actions of its armed forces largely comprised of native troops, it succeeded in putting down the resistance and imposing its authority. The political and strategic choices which marked the pacification of Indochina would have a long-term influence on colonial relations in the Indochinese societies.



Treaty of peace and friendship, concerning the establishment of the French protectorate in Cambodia

- 11 August 1863. Paper.

(c) La Courneuve, Ministry of Foreign Affairs archives.



Annamite flag

- Vers 1885. Textile

(c) Paris, musée de l'Armée.



Pack of playing cards taken from the Black Flags in 1885

- Sketch.

(c) Paris, Musée de l'Armée.

Bracelet taken from a Black Flag killed in the battle of Palan on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1883

- Jade.

(c) Paris, Musée de l'Armée.

Statuette of Arhat taken on 18 September 1883 by Corporal Richard of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Marine Regiment from a pagoda in the hamlet of Ké-Mai

- Gilded wood.

(c) Paris, Musée de l'Armée. Donated by M. Richard, 1899

# 3



*Royal Cambodian dancer*

Évariste Jonchère, Towards 1933.  
Plaster with gilded patina  
(c) Boulogne-Billancourt, Musée des Années 30.



*Legionnaire of the 5<sup>th</sup> Foreign  
Infantry Regiment*

1930. Cotton, cork, metal, leather.  
(c) Paris, musée de l'Armée.



*Enlist, re-enlist in  
the colonial troupes*

J.L. Beuzon, 1931. Poster.  
(c) Eric Deroo collection

The Indochinese colony, «the pearl of the Empire», inspires exoticism and dreams of abundance for the French during the inter-war years. The economic «development», started at the end of the 19th century, spurred on by the Bank of Indochina and under the control of the colonial State, gave Indochina a rail network, roads and infrastructures. Industries were established, more land cultivated and the exploitation of mineral resources developed. From then on, power was concentrated in the hands of the representatives of France and the former royal structures which co-existed with the colonial power no longer had any other than a symbolic value.

France's «civilising mission» gave legitimacy to its domination and justified the inequality between the Europeans and the «natives». An exploitation Colony, there were only 20,000 French in Indochina in the 1910s, three-quarters of whom were living in the urban areas of Saigon-Cholon and Hanoi. Consequently, the administrations and the army, to a large extent, were made up of «natives», but the management positions were held by the French of Indochina. The governor-general Albert Sarraut (1911-1913 and 1916-1919) responded to the disorders, put down by the police and the army, by establishing a new policy associating the elite with the colonial power. This was aimed at reforming the institutions and developing public education. But it never succeeded in imposing this policy and, above all, it was not accompanied by genuine political openness.

So, the face of Indochina was changing just after the World War I. The former mandarin elites disappeared while a Vietnamese and Chinese middle-class emerged from among traders and landowners, as well as new intelligentsia educated in France and in the schools of the Union. This intellectual youth embraced radical nationalism then, during the 1930s, the communism which based its action on the discontent among the peasants, dismantled by economic changes, and on the unrest among workers, increased after the Great Depression of 1929.

AT THE HEART  
OF THE INDOCHINESE  
COLONY

1897  
1939

# 4

After the French were defeated in 1940, Indochina, which had sided with Vichy, started to collaborate with Japan which guaranteed sovereignty to its administration in exchange for installing military bases. But Japan took control of the peninsula on 9 March 1945. A few months later, in Vietnam, after it was announced that Japan had surrendered and the Emperor Bao Dai had abdicated, the Vietminh took power and, on 2 September, proclaimed the independence of the Democratic Republic Vietnam (DRV).

For the disarmament of the Japanese, the British were put in charge of Indochina in the south and the Chinese in the North. France sent an expeditionary force to restore its sovereignty while, up to 1946, carrying on negotiations with Ho Chi Minh, which failed and led to a colonial war. The coming of the People's Republic of China in October 1949 disrupted the equilibrium of parties involved. The Vietminh in fact received substantial material aid which helped it to take the initiative and force the French army, after the defeat of Cao-Bang in October 1950, to abandon the regions bordering China and to fall back around the Tonkin delta. Integrated into the rationale of block confrontation, the conflict took on an international aspect. The Fourth Republic obtained substantial military aid from the United States and set up, against the DRV, the associated States of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, while developing their national armies. Faced with the expeditionary force, the Vietnamese People's Army was supported by a population partially behind its cause and, from there on, with the means to carry out large-scale operations.

In France, where public opinion was divided between indifference and hostility to continuing the war, the rulers sought an «honourable» way out of the conflict. Paradoxically, it was the defeat of Dien-Bien-Phu, on 7 May 1954, which resolved the situation, at the time when the international conference on the subjects of Korea and Indochina opened in Geneva. On 21 July 1954, Pierre Mendès France signed an agreement there which established a ceasefire and brought an end to the war by another north-south partition of the country. The end of the French presence in Indochina was announced.

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## DECLINE AND END OF THE FRENCH EMPIRE IN THE FAR EAST

1940  
1956

# A- WORLD WAR II, THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION AND THE RETURN OF FRANCE TO INDOCHINA (1940-1946)

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Infantry lieutenant in the Japanese army

1943-1945. Textile, leather, metal.  
(c) Paris, Musée de l'Armée, Donated  
by the Fondation de la France libre, 1998



*France, Indochina is held captive...*

R. Danyach. 1943. Poster.  
(c) Collection Eric Deroo

In 1940, Indochina became a strategic stake for Tokyo which took advantage of the French defeat by Germany to control the region. The Indochinese authorities collaborated with Japan, while the Vietminh were born on the north of Tonkin. However, on 9 March 1945, the Japanese, threatened by the Allies, took control of the peninsula by an offensive. Five months later, they surrendered and the August Revolution replaced Bao Dai with an insurrectional government, run by Ho Chi Minh who, on 2 September, proclaimed the independence of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The British, responsible for disarming the Japanese south of the 16th parallel, enabled the French forces to return to this region, which was rapidly taken back from the Vietminh. France also wanted to retake Tonkin where the de facto power of the DRV was consolidated. It came to an agreement with Ho Chi Minh in March 1946: the French troops established themselves in Hanoi, while Vietnam became a «free state» within the French Union. Nevertheless, tensions became more intense, the negotiations failed and war broke out at the end of 1946.

## B- THE TURNING POINT OF 1950

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Legionnaire in the Foreign Legion's  
1<sup>st</sup> Parachute Battalion in a jumpsuit  
(Battle of Route Coloniale 4)

1950. Textile, metal, leather, wood.  
(c) Paris, Musée de l'Armée. Laurent Rouget collection

Up to 1949, the power struggle between the French troops and the Vietminh was balanced and neither belligerent succeeded in winning. However, in December 1949, the takeover by the Communist in China and the arrival of the Chinese Liberation Army on the border of northern Indochina completely changed this balance. In October 1950, the French were stunned and confused by the disaster of Cao Bang, followed by the hurried evacuation of Lang Son. To remedy the situation, General de Lattre de Tassigny was appointed high commissioner and commander-in-chief. In a short time, he mobilised energies, on several occasions broke General Giap's major offensives in the Red River delta and pushed the Associated States (Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos) into contributing to the war on the side of France. Faced with Communist China's interventionism in Korea and in Vietnam, the United States provided France with financial and military aid, which continued to grow over the years, and put pressure on it to transfer more power to the Associated States. In France, the Communist Party campaigned against the «dirty war» and for peace in Vietnam, without however succeeding in mobilising public opinion to any great extent.



## C- BETWEEN THE GUERRILLA AND CONVENTIONAL WAR (1951-1953)

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Confronted with a genuine people's war, the expeditionary force did not succeed in retaking the whole of Indochina and, even if it controlled the so-called «useful» regions, the main part of the territory remained dominated by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The two forces on the ground, closely interlinked, engaged in a struggle both military and political, the principal stake being the control of the population which not only meant convincing and engaging, but also controlling and protecting. Within the scope of the «pacification» operations, the expeditionary force came up against a tenacious and elusive adversary, perfectly integrated to the point that it was impossible to identify it; then the operations sometimes resulted in atrocities where the populations were the victims. At the same time, the build-up of the major divisional units of the People's Army of Vietnam which started in 1950, thanks to aid from Communist China, partially transformed this guerrilla war into a genuine conventional war where the belligerents clashed in decisive battles for the future of Indochina.



Map of the areas controlled by the French army and by the Vietminh (red spots), called the «carte Vérole» («Variola map»).

-  
Januar 1953. Paper.  
(c) Vincennes, Service historique de la défense (SHD)

## D-THE OUTCOME (1954-1956)

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In 1953, the French government sought to withdraw from the conflict. To cope with a People's Army of Vietnam now in a position to take the offensive everywhere, General Navarre devised a strategy aiming at forcing the adversary to negotiate eventually. In November, he decided to create an air-land operations base in the «bowl» of Dien-Bien-Phu, to counter an imminent Vietminh offensive on Laos. Simultaneously, the end of the Korean War, in July 1953, was an encouragement for all the participants in the conflict to come to an agreement: on 26 April 1954, a conference to last for three months opened in Geneva on the Korean and Indochinese questions, at the time when a decisive battle was in progress at Dien-Bien-Phu. The DRV made every effort to obtain the advantage in the field. Dien-Bien-Phu fell on 7 May 1954 and the French army's stunning defeat weighed on the negotiations starting in Geneva. On 21 July, an agreement was found which ordered a ceasefire and provided for the provisional garrisoning of the belligerents on each side of the 17th parallel. On 20 May 1955, the French Union forces handed over the last Haiphong evacuation sector to the DRV and, on 26 April 1956, the expeditionary force finally departed for France.



Vietminh trap recovered by Lieutenant Roland Bernuzeau, of the 821st signals battalion, after the Tuy-Hoa landing during the Atlante operation

-  
1954. Bamboo, metal.  
(c) Paris, Musée de l'Armée.  
Donated by M. Bernuzeau, 2007

# CHRONOLOGY

**1624-1646**

In the wake of the Portuguese missionaries, the Jesuit priest Alexandre de Rhodes preached in Tonkin then in Cochinchina and completed the Romanisation of Vietnamese (quốc ngữ).

**1664**

The Missions étrangères de Paris are founded in rue du Bac.

**Fébruar - December 1787**

are founded in rue du Bac February-December 1787 The bishop of Adran, Mgr. Pigneau de Béhaine stays in Versailles with Prince Canh, son of Nguyễn Anh, heir of the sovereigns of Cochinchina deposed by Tay Son, to re-establish the king of Cochinchina on his throne.

**28 November 1787**

Treaty of Versailles between Louis XVI and the king of Cochinchina.

**1856-1860**

Second Opium War.

**1858**

Admiral Rigault de Genouilly takes Tourane, evacuated on 30 March 1860.

**1859**

Saigon taken by the Franco-Spanish troops supported by the Vietnamese Catholic auxiliaries.

**5 June 1862**

Treaty of Saigon, ratified by Huế in 1863, ceding to France the three Cochinchinese provinces of Gia-Dinh, Bien-Hoa, Dinh-Tuong.

**15 March 1874**

Second treaty of Saigon (Philarstre convention). Free navigation on the Red River is granted to France.

**1875**

The Banque de l'Indochine founded in Paris.

**7 July 1879**

Le Myre de Vilers becomes the first civil governor of Cochinchina.

**25 April 1882**

Captain Henri Rivière seizes the citadel of Hanoi.

**30 March 1885**

Telegram announcing the «Lang-Son disaster». Defeat by the Chamber of the Ferry government. The appropriations for Tonkin are voted the next day.

**9 June 1885**

The second Tien-Tsin treaty is signed between France and China.

**July 1885**

Start of the Cần Vương; the Scholar's Revolt. The French expeditionary force is increased to 35,000 men.

**1887**

Creation of the Indochinese Union made up of the colony of Cochinchina, the protectorates of Annam, Tonkin, Cambodia, Laos and Fort-Bayart (Guangzhouwan).

**1897-1902**

Paul Doumer governor general. The administrative power is centralised in Hanoi, major public works are produced, plantations and industry developed.

**1907**

Siam cedes the last Khmer provinces (Battambang, Siem-Reap et Sisophon) and the right bank of the Laotian Mekong.

**1911**

Albert Sarraut governor general of Indochina.

**1913**

Death of Hoang Hao Tham, called Dé Tham.

(1911-1913/1916-1919). Association policy

**1927**

Viet Nam Quoc Dan Dang (VNQDD) is founded by Nguyễn Thái Hộc.

**February 1930**

The Indochinese Community Party is founded in Hong-Kong by Nguyen Ai Quoc (Ho Chi Minh). Uprising by the Yen-Bai garrison and the Xo Viet of Nghệ-Tĩnh.

**30 August 1940**

Japan recognises the integrity of the Indochinese Union and French sovereignty.

**1940-1941**

Franco-Thailand war. The territories ceded by Siam in 1907 are ceded back and re-occupied by the Bangkok troops.

**8 April 1945**

Proclamation of the independence of Laos.

**14 August 1945**

Japan surrenders. The Japanese troops are disarmed from north of 60th parallel by the Chinese troops and in the south by the British troops.

**2 September 1945**

Proclamation of the independence of Vietnam by Ho Chi Minh.

**October-December 1945**

General Leclerc arrives in Saigon. Operations in the south of the peninsula.

**27 October 1946**

Constitution of the French Union.

**19 December 1946**

Vietminh offensive in Hanoi. Start of the «Tonkin Vespers».

**5 June 1948**

Vietnam's independence is recognised as well as its status as an Associated State.

**1<sup>st</sup> October 1949**

Mao Zedong proclaims the People's Republic of China.

**1<sup>st</sup>-2 December 1952**

Vietminh defeat by the Na-San fortified camp.

**12 July 1953**

Evacuation of Na-San.

**13 March - 7 May 1954**

Battle of Dien-Bien-Phu.

**20 July 1954**

Geneva agreements partitioning Vietnam in two: to the north the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and to the south the Republic of Vietnam.

<p><b>1802</b></p> <p>Geneva agreements partitioning Vietnam in two: to the north the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and to the south the Republic of Vietnam.</p>	<p><b>1820</b></p> <p>Death of Gia Long. His son, Minh Mang, decides to close his country to all foreign influence and to eliminate the Catholic religion. His successors, Thieu Tri and Tu Duc, conduct a similar policy.</p>	<p><b>1844</b></p> <p>Treaty of Whampoa, granting five concessions to France and advantages similar to those of the English and Americans in the open ports in the Chinese Empire.</p>	<p><b>1847</b></p> <p>Shelling of Tourane by the French Navy, intended to stop the persecution of Catholics.</p>
<p><b>1863</b></p> <p>Cambodia becomes a French protectorate.</p>	<p><b>June 1866 - June 1868</b></p> <p>Mission to explore the Mekong, commanded by Navy Captain Ernest Doudart de Lagrée and Navy Lieutenant Francis Garnier.</p>	<p><b>1867</b></p> <p>La Grandière occupies the three provinces of Vinh-Long, Chau-Doc and Ha-Tien. Cochinchina becomes a French colony. Siamese recognition of the French protectorate of Cambodia.</p>	<p><b>1873</b></p> <p>Francis Garnier's mission to Tonkin.</p>
<p><b>25 August 1883</b></p> <p>Harmand treaty, which made Amman-Tonkin a French protectorate.</p>	<p><b>6 June 1884</b></p> <p>Patenôtre treaty, which consolidated the French protectorate of Annam-Tonkin, which sparked Chinese intervention in Tonkin.</p>	<p><b>1884-1885</b></p> <p>Franco-Chinese war. The expeditionary force sent to Tonkin seized Son-Tay and Bac-Ninh, while Rear-Admiral Courbet shelled Fou-Tchéou and blockaded Formosa.</p>	<p><b>1884-1886</b></p> <p>Uprising against the French troops in Cambodia.</p>
<p><b>1886-1895</b></p> <p>Pavie missions in the Middle and Upper Mekong valley and in the Laotian hinterland.</p>	<p><b>1890</b></p> <p>Submission of Déo Van Tri, Lord of the Black River.</p>	<p><b>1891-1894</b></p> <p>Jean-Louis de Lanessan, governor general Four territories were founded.</p>	<p><b>1893</b></p> <p>The French fleet blockaded Bangkok. The Lao principalities become French protectorates.</p>
<p><b>1916</b></p> <p>Several tens of thousands of people demonstrate in Phnom-Penh against the tax burden (taxes increased after World War I).</p>	<p><b>1918-1922</b></p> <p>Uprising of the Hmong in the mountainous regions of Upper Tonkin and Upper Laos.</p>	<p><b>27 October 1924</b></p> <p>Victor Tardieu sets up the Indochina School of Fine Arts in Hanoi.</p>	<p><b>1925</b></p> <p>Nguyen Ai Quoc founds the Association of Young Revolutionaries (Thanh Nien) in Canton. In Cochinchina, Bui Quang Chieu and Nguyen Phan Long found the Constitutionalist Party which sent Governor Varenne the Annamite book of greetings.</p>
<p><b>10-19 May 1941</b></p> <p>Ho Chi Minh creates the League for the Independence of Vietnam (Vietminh).</p>	<p><b>October 1943</b></p> <p>Resistance organised against the Japanese. The first members of the Secret Action Service arrive in India and are incorporated into the British «Force 136» in Calcutta.</p>	<p><b>10 November 1944</b></p> <p>Vietminh guerrilla troops set up which, on 22 December, became the «Liberation Army».</p>	<p><b>9-10 mars 1945</b></p> <p>Japanese offensive in Indochina. Cambodia proclaims independence on 10 March.</p>
<p><b>End of December</b></p> <p>Two-thirds of Cochinchina are controlled by the French administration. Cambodia goes over to France</p>	<p><b>6 March 1946</b></p> <p>Sainteny-Ho Chi Minh agreements in Hanoi. The French troops land in Haiphong</p>	<p><b>18 March 1946</b></p> <p>Leclerc enters Hanoi. Discussions with Ho Chi Minh.</p>	<p><b>6 July - 8 August 1946</b></p> <p>Fontainebleau Conference.</p>
<p><b>June 1950</b></p> <p>First delivery of American equipment to the French troops.</p>	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup>-18 October 1950</b></p> <p>Battle of the RC4.</p>	<p><b>October 1950</b></p> <p>The Vietnamese army is set up in Dalat under the auspices of Marshall de Lattre de Tassigny.</p>	<p><b>January-October 1951</b></p> <p>Failure of the Vietminh offensives in Tonkin at Vinh-Yen, Dong-Trieu, Mao-Khé, Day, Nghia-Lo and in Thai country.</p>
<p><b>September 1954</b></p> <p>Return of the French prisoners held by the Vietminh (10,754 men, i.e. 28% of the force anticipated). 63,000 men handed over by the Franco-Vietnamese.</p>	<p><b>28 April 1956</b></p> <p>Departure of the last French soldiers from Indochina.</p>		

## EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

**INDOCHINA. LAND AND PEOPLE, 1856-1956**

*Éditions Gallimard*

### Around the exhibition

#### FILM CYCLE

##### **INDOCHINE NOW !**

From 19 November to 5 December

*In partnership with MK2 and the BnF*

#### CONCERTS

From 18 October to 17 December

#### LECTURES

From 13 November to 7 December

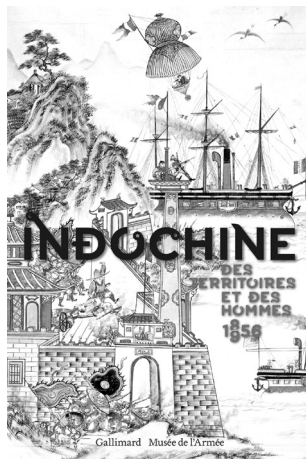
#### GUIDED TOURS

Adults and young people

Information available on

[www.musee-armee.fr/ExpoIndochina](http://www.musee-armee.fr/ExpoIndochina)

0 810 11 33 99



### EXHIBITION CURRATORS

Lieutenant-colonel Christophe Bertrand,

curator of the contemporary department - Musée de l'Armée

Emmanuel Ranvoisy,

assistant curator, contemporary department - Musée de l'Armée

Delphine Robic-Diaz,

Lecturer in cinematographic studies

in the Paul Valéry University - Montpellier 3

### EXHIBITION DESIGN AND SET UP

#### Scene design

Agence Klapisch-Claissé: Mitia Claisse, Céline Daub

#### Graphic design

Studio 923a: Thomas Oudin & Jérémy Joncheray