Vietnam’s Road to Independence

How did nationalism lead to independence in Vietnam?
Let’s Review

What is nationalism?

A feeling of pride, loyalty, and devotion to a country.
Turn to your elbow neighbor...

- Describe one time you experienced nationalism.
- Discuss how colonialism might spark a rise in nationalism among people who are under colonial rule.
Colonial Rule Weakens

Long under colonial domination, many Southeast Asian nations achieved independence in the years immediately following WWII.

The transition, however, was not always a smooth one.
Find Vietnam on the map below. Which European country controlled it until 1954?
Vietnam’s Struggle for Independence

Although some Western countries decided to end their colonial presence in Southeast Asia willingly, others did not.

In Vietnam, a group known as Vietminh fought French troops to win independence.

They were led by a man named Ho Chi Minh who was communist.

- The Vietminh received assistance from China and the Soviet Union.
- Their major goal was independence, not expansion of communism.
- After years of fighting, the Vietminh defeated France to gain independence.
Born in the colony of French Indochina, Ho Chi Minh began to fight for Vietnamese independence when he moved to France during World War I. He was inspired by U.S. president Woodrow Wilson’s Fourteen Points, which called for allowing all people to decide how they want to be governed.

When world leaders met in Paris to negotiate the post-World War I peace treaty, Ho Chi Minh sent them a petition demanding Vietnam’s independence, but received no response. He soon began to use Communist ideas in his struggle for independence, believing that peasants would play a key role in the fight for an independent Vietnam.

**Find the Main Idea** How did the Fourteen Points affect Ho Chi Minh?
1890  Born in Vietnam
1912  Travels to USA
  – to find work
1913  Travels to England
  – to find work
1919  Travels to France
  – founding member of French Communist Party
Communism: learn & practice

- 1923 Travels to Russia
  - Studies Russian communism
- 1924 Travels to China
  - Nationalists vs Communists
- 1927 Leaves China
  - Flees from Nationalists
- 1938 Returns to China
  - Becomes advisor to Communist Army
Changes Name

Nguyen Tat Thanh changes his name to Ho Chi Minh which means Bringer of Light.
Viet Minh:
Vietnam’s Communist Party

- 1941  Returns to Vietnam
  - Starts Viet Minh
  - Fights the Japanese during WWII
- 1945  World War II ends
- 1949  Mao & Communists take over China
- 1950  Meets with Stalin (Russia) and Mao
  - China will support Viet Minh with $$, supplies, and training
Vietnam vs France

• 1945 – 1954 fight for Independence
  - On again & off again fighting
  - Uses Guerrilla Tactics to fight French
• 1954 Major defeat for French
  - 10,000 French troops surrender in a battle
• 1954 Geneva Accords (peace treaty)
  - Divide Vietnam at the 17th parallel
  - North: Communist    South: non-Communist
  - 300 days for Vietnamese to get to a side
Nationalism & Independence
Different Approaches
Turn to your elbow neighbor...

- and talk about Mohandas Gandhi and Ho Chi Minh.
- What did these two men have in common?
Now…

- Complete the Venn diagram.
- Compare the life, goals, and methods of Mohandas Gandhi and Ho Chi Minh.
Let’s Summarize—Ticket Out the Door!

- Write **three** facts about Ho Chi Minh.
- Write the names of **two** countries that supported the Vietminh in their fight for independence.
- In **one** sentence, answer the essential question: How did nationalism lead to independence in Vietnam?