

Buddhism = a religion, cultural force, and philosophy or way of life with the goals of

- Leading a moral life
- Being mindful and aware of thoughts and actions
- Developing wisdom and understanding

8 right ways to live a good life and avoid the danger of craving wealth and fame: views, thought, conduct, speech, livelihood, effort, mindfulness, meditation

Animism

The belief that all things--animals, plants, rivers, mountains, sun/moon/stars –have a soul or spirit.

Each can offer help or harm to humans and thus must be worshiped or appeased.

Cao Dai

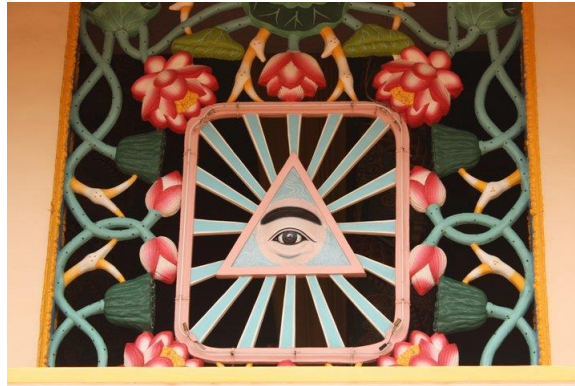
1926

Le Van Trung

Represents peace/harmony/salvation

Hierarchical; based loosely on Catholic Church (with a “pope” and “Holy See”) but blended pre-existing Vietnamese religions

Mystical and ritualistic: widely appealing in the South



Open eye inside a triangle

Gender equality, reduction of class differences, evils of colonialism

As many as 1 million members in Cochinchinese population of 4 ½ million

Developed armed militias

Provided social bonding for disrupted villages

Hoa Hao

1939

Hoa Hao = name of village of founder = conciliation or concord

Appealed to rural landless/unemployed population seeking better conditions during economic ills of 1930s

Millennialist, mystical

100,000 (?) members by 1945

Formed militias

Together, the two were “major politico-military actors, controlling . . . perhaps as much as 20 percent of the delta’s total population” (Christopher Goscha)

Catholics

1.6 million (out of 30 million) in 1945

Concentrated in the north until growth of French presence and growth of Saigon in early 1900s

Distrusted by French administrators

Vietnamese Catholics wanted to control the church in Vietnam (on own terms and in own language, with own priests and bishops)

“The rise of the Ngo brothers in the 1930s [one in the emperor’s cabinet and one a Catholic bishop] symbolized the shift from the royalist patriotism of their fathers to the emergence of a strongly nationalist Catholicism involved in politics, whether the /French or other Vietnamese liked it or not.” (Christopher Goscha)