

Research Article

VIETNAM'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE HOANG SA ISLANDS IN THE TIME OF KING MINH MANG THROUGH THE GEOGRAPHY CURRICULUM SYSTEM FROM PRIMARY SCHOOL TO UNIVERSITY LEVEL IN FRANCE PERIOD 1820-1840

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Abstract

During the period of King Minh Mang's reign in Vietnam, perhaps the country with the most geographical publications mentioning the sovereignty of the Paracels/Hoang Sa archipelago in the world was France. In particular, France seems to be the only country with a geography curriculum system that fully, consistently and synchronously recognizes the Hoang Sa archipelago as belonging to Vietnam's sovereignty at all educational levels, from elementary to high school. university Geography textbooks in French recognizing Vietnam's sovereignty over the Hoang Sa archipelago cited in the article in this issue include textbooks for elementary, middle, and high school levels high school, exam preparation books for baccalaureate degrees and books for university level.

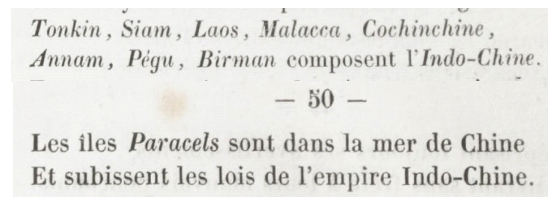
Keywords: Sovereignty, Vietnam, King Minh Mang, Hoang Sa.

INTRODUCTION

Sovereignty of the Hoang Sa archipelago of the Indo-Chinese empire in the elementary school geography curriculum in France during the period 1820-1840

Right from the first decades of the 19th century, the latest knowledge about geography popular in the world, including the issue of sovereignty over the Hoang Sa archipelago of the An Nam empire, was included in the curriculum of all students levels of education in France. In general, knowledge about the sovereignty of the Hoang Sa archipelago of the An Nam empire in the curriculum system at all levels in France is consistent and synchronous, but the amount of knowledge expressed is different, from brief to Specifically, between educational levels and how to express the entity holding sovereignty over the Hoang Sa archipelago, from belonging to the Indo-Chine/Indochina empire in general to belonging to the Cochinchine/Dang Trong kingdom of the An Nam empire or Vietnam. In particular, for the geography curriculum for elementary school [equivalent to today's elementary school], textbook editors also seek to improve the way of expressing lesson content into English verses. French has rhymes and rhythms for students to remember and understand. Typically, Fromenti, bachelor of arts, former founding president and member of the university, with the book *Récréations géographiques, ou Nouveau cours de géographie élémentaire en vers français*, 120 pages thick, published in the city of Montpellier in 1840 In the textbook, in addition to poetry expressing the world's geographical content, the book also includes descriptive tables and notes and explanations about the customs, practices and laws of each country. This textbook was recognized as being at the level of the best treatises on geography known in all educational institutions in France at that time, and was approved by the French Royal Council of Public Education.

*“Les îles Paracels sont dans la mer de Chine  
Et subissent les lois de l'empire Indo-Chine”.*



Excerpt from the recognition that the Paracels/Hoang Sa archipelago complies with the laws of the Indochina empire in the new elementary geography textbook in French poetry, published in Montpellier city in 1840: Fromenti, *Récréations géographiques, ou Nouveau cours de géographie élémentaire en vers français*, Sur le plan des meilleurs traités de géographie suivis dans tous les établissements de France et approuvés par le Conseil royal de l'Instruction publique, Montpellier: Se vend chez L. Castel, libraire, 1840, p. 44, 50. It can be understood that because the requirements for geographical knowledge at the elementary level require a high level of generalization and brevity, through poems that are easy for students to learn and remember, so the sovereignty of the Hoang Sa archipelago has only been generalized in books belongs to the "Indochina empire"; a geographical concept that includes the collection of a number of territories, including Dang Ngoai, Dang Trong and An Nam. General knowledge of this geographical area along with sovereignty over the Hoang Sa archipelago will be transformed into specifics when students enter high school, as we will see in the next sections below.

Sovereignty of the Hoang Sa archipelago of the Cochinchine kingdom of the Annam empire in geography books for middle schools in France during the period 1820-1840

At the junior high school level [equivalent to current middle school], geographical knowledge about the entity holding sovereignty over the Hoang Sa archipelago began to be

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concretized. In the book *Exposition géographique, astronomique, physique, politique et historique*, is the book "Pour l'instruction de la jeunesse - Premier degré d'enseignement", written by Augustin-Claude-Simon Legrand, professor and author of many works. on geography compiled, consisting of 233 pages, published in Paris in 1839, with contents divided into XV tables; The entity holding sovereignty over the Hoang Sa archipelago is mentioned in table XIII: "ASIE", section IX: "INDO-CHINE", in sections 63 - 68.

From sections 65 and 66, Indochina is shown to consist of 5 main parts: 1- European Assam, 2- Burmese empire, 3- kingdom of Siam, 4- Malacca peninsula, and 5- Annam empire ; and in section 67, it says that the Hoang Sa archipelago is associated with Indochina. In this book, the An Nam empire and the Hoang Sa archipelago of Indochina are shown more specifically than in elementary level books as follows:

“5° ANNAM Empire, including COCHINCHINE [Cochin China], capital is Segou [Saigon]; CAMBOIE [Cambodia], whose capital is Camboie on the May-Hang River [Mekong]; LAOS, capital is Lant-Chang [Lan Xang]; and TONQUIN [Outside], the capital is Keko [Kecho].

67. - The islands of Adaman, Nicobar and Paracels [Paracels] attached to Indo-Chin [Indochina]”

5° L'EMPIRE D'ANNAM, qui comprend la COCHINCHINE, cap. *Segou*; le CAMBOIE, cap. *Camboie*, sur le May-Hang ; le LAOS, cap. *Lant-Chang* ; le TONQUIN, cap. *Keko*.  
67. — Les îles *Adaman*, *Nicobar* et les *Paracels* se rattachent à l'Indo-Chine.

Excerpt describing the partition of the Annam empire and the archipelago associated with Indochina in the geography book for middle schools, published in Paris in 1839: Legrand (Augustin-Claude-Simon), *Exposition géographique, astronomique, physique, politique et historique, En XV tableaux, Pour l'instruction de la jeunesse, Premier degré d'enseignement*, Paris: Bulla, Éditeur, 1839, p. 185.

In addition to the general books for the middle school, there are also books for each class, such as the publication of Professor Félix Ansart, of the Royal University of Saint-Louis, entitled *Petit Abrégé de géographie, renfermant la première partie de l'ouvrage intitulé: Précis de géographie ancienne et moderne*, and the inscription below the title reads "Mis au nombre des livres classiques par le Conseil royal de l'instruction publique - A l'usage des septièmes, et de toutes les" maisons d'éducation", including 172 pages, published for the second time in Paris in 1825.

In this book for 7th grade, the main content of geography knowledge is presented in detail but not long, through questions and answers that are easy for students to grasp. In the "ASIE", section "INDE AU - DELÀ DU GANGE, ou PRESQU'ÎLE ORIENTALE DE L'INDE", pages 105 - 107, the kingdom of Annam is described in the question and answer "Quelles sont la position, les" divisions et les villes principales du royaume d'ANAM?" as follows:

“What were the location, zoning and main cities of the kingdom of ANAM [An Nam]? The Kingdom of Annam, by

which name is most widely known, lies to the east of the countries we have just described, between the kingdom and the Gulf of Siam in the west and the Gulf of Tonquin [Tonkin] in the east winter. Annam included the kingdom of Laos in the northwest, the capital being Lant-Chang [Lan Xang]; Old Cambodia [Cambodia, the region from Dong Nai to Ha Tien], with the capital of the same name on the Mekong River in the south; Tsiampa [Champa, current Ninh Thuan-Binh Thuan region] is little known in the southeast; Cochinchine [Cochinchina, from south of Gianh River to present-day Khanh Hoa], an extremely rich and fertile country, the capital is Ke-Hoa [Ke Hue]. In the coastal area that is part of former Cambodia, there is the city of Saigon [Saigon], with 180,000 inhabitants. Tonquin [Dong Ngoai, from the Gianh River to the Vietnam-China border], around the bay of the same name, the capital is Kescho [Ke Cho], although as large as Paris, but only 40,000 inhabitants. The population of the entire An Nam kingdom is estimated to be up to 20 million people.

Quelles sont la position, les divisions et les villes principales du royaume d'ANAM? — Le royaume d'Annam, en donnant à ce nom son acception la plus étendue, est situé à l'E. de ceux que nous venons de décrire, entre le royaume et le golfe de Siam, à l'O., et le golfe de Tonquin, à l'E.; il renferme les royaumes de LAOS, au N. O., capitale LANT-CHANG ; de CAMBOGE, au S. du précédent, avec une capitale du même nom, sur le Mé-Kong ; le TSIAMPA, fort peu connu, au S. E.; la COCHINCHINE, contrée extrêmement riche et fertile, dont la capitale est KE-HOA. Dans la partie maritime qui faisait autrefois partie du Camboge, se trouve la ville de Saigon, qui a 180 mille habitants. Le TONQUIN, autour du golfe du même nom ; capitale, KESCHO, qui, quoique aussi grande que Paris, ne renferme que 40 mille habitants. On porte à 20 millions d'habitans la population de tout le royaume d'Anam.

Excerpt describing the location and zoning of the An Nam kingdom in the geography textbook for grade 7, published in Paris in 1825: Ansart (Félix), *Petit Abrégé de géographie, renfermant la première partie de l'ouvrage intitulé: Précis de géographie ancienne et moderne, Mis au nombre des livres classiques par le Conseil royal de l'instruction publique, A l'usage des septièmes, et de toutes les maisons d'éducation, Deuxième Édition*, Paris: À la librairie classique de Maire-Nyon, 1825, p. 106.

Regarding the Hoang Sa archipelago in Cochinchina of the An Nam kingdom, answering the question "Quelles sont les principales îles qui dépendent de l'Inde au-delà du Gange?", the book writes:

“What are the main islands of India across the Ganges? - Among the Indian islands across the Ganges, we cite: the Andaman and Nicobar islands, forming a chain from north to south west of the kingdom of Siam; the island of Pulo-Penang or Prince de Galles, on the coast of the kingdom of Quédah, where the British have an important establishment with a population of 35,000, the capital being Georges-Town in the northeast; Condor island cluster [Con Lon/Con Dao], ten islands in number, at the mouth of the Mekong River, the main island of which is named Pulo-Condor, a resting place for ships going to China; PARACELS [Hoang Sa] Islands, east of Cochinchine [Dang Trong in An Nam]”.

Quelles sont les principales îles qui dépendent de l'Inde au-delà du Gange? — Parmi les îles qui dépendent de l'Inde au-delà du Gange, nous citerons : celles d'ANDAMAN et de NICOBAR, qui forment une chaîne, du N. au S., à l'O. du royaume de Siam; celle de PULO-PENANG ou du *Prince de Galles*, sur la côte du royaume de Quédah. Les Anglais y ont un établissement important. Population, 35 mille âmes. Capitale, *Georges-Town*, au N. E.; celles de CONDOR, au nombre de dix, à l'embouchure du Mé-Kong, et dont la principale, nommée *Pulo-Condor*, est un lieu

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de relâche pour les vaisseaux qui se rendent en Chine; l'archipel des PARACELS, à l'E. de la Cochinchine.

Excerpt from recognition of Hoang Sa archipelago belonging to Cochinchine/Cochinchine of Annam kingdom in geography textbook for grade 7, published in Paris in 1825: Ansart (Félix), *Petit Abrégé de géographie, renfermant la première partie de l'ouvrage intitulé: Précis de géographie ancienne et moderne, Mis au nombre des livres classiques par le Conseil royal de l'instruction publique, A l'usage des septièmes, et de toutes les maisons d'éducation, Deuxième Édition*, Paris: À la librairie classique de Maire-Nyon, 1825, p. 106-107.

Compared with the 7th grade book, the geography textbook for grade 8 and all French educational institutions, belonging to the textbook system of the Royal Board of Public Education, also authored by Félix Ansart compiled under the title *Petit Abrégé de géographie*, published for the 14th time in Paris in 1838, the main content of geographical knowledge is presented a little more specific, but not too long, through the questions and answers like 7th grade books. Specifically, in the "ASIE" section, in the "INDO-CHINE" section, pages 129 - 133, the Annam empire is described in the question and answer "Quelles sont la position, la population, les divisions et les villes principales de l'empire d'ANNAM?", there are some adjustments in grade 8 books such as the phrase "India across the Ganges or the East Indies peninsula" being replaced with "Eastern India". Positive"; "Annamese kingdom" was replaced by "An Nam empire"; Annam's population is adjusted from 20 million to 12 million; "Cochinchine" [Cochinchine] is also known as "Annam Meridional" [Nam An Nam]... And in the question and answer "Quelles sont les principales îles qui dépendent de l'Indo-Chine?", the book continues to affirm Con Dao and Hoang Sa archipelago were both part of Cochinchine/Cochinchina [of the Annamite empire].

Quelles sont la position, la population, les divisions et les villes principales de l'empire d'ANNAM?

L'empire d'Annam, en donnant à ce nom son acception la plus étendue, est situé à l'E. de ceux que nous venons de décrire, entre le royaume et le golfe de Siam, à l'O., et le golfe de Tonkin, à l'E.; sa population est évaluée à 12 millions d'habitans. Cet empire se divise en plusieurs royaumes ou provinces, savoir : le LAOS, au N. O., composé de la partie orientale de ce pays, dont l'O. est partagé, comme nous l'avons vu, entre l'empire Birman et le royaume de Siam. — Le CAMBODJE, au S. E. du Laos, et dont l'ancienne capitale, qui portait le même nom, a été remplacée par SAIGONG ou Saïgon, ville très-commerçante dont on porte la population à 180 mille habitans. — Le TSIAMPA, au S. E., occupé en grande partie par des peuplades belliqueuses et indépendantes. — La COCHINCHINE, ou *Annam Meridional*, le long de la côte orientale, contrée extrêmement riche et fertile, dont l'ancienne capitale, KE-HOA, est maintenant remplacée par HUE, nommée aussi *Phu-xuan* ou *Foutchouan*, près de la côte; ville considérable, munie de bonnes fortifications construites par des ingénieurs français, d'arsenaux et de chantiers de construction. C'est la capitale de tout l'empire et la résidence du souverain. — Le TONKIN, autour du golfe du même nom; capitale, BAC-KINH ou *Kécho*, qui,

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quoique aussi grande que Paris, ne renferme que 40 mille habitans.

Quelles sont les principales îles qui dépendent de l'Indo-Chine?

Parmi les îles qui dépendent de l'Indo-Chine, nous citerons : celles d'ANDAMAN et de NICOBAR, qui forment une chaîne du N. au S., au S. E. du golfe du Bengale; les Européens ont tenté, à diverses reprises, de fonder dans ces îles des établissemens que l'insalubrité du climat les a toujours forcés d'abandonner. — Celles de CONDOR, au nombre de dix, à l'embouchure du May-Kang, et dont la principale, nommée *Pulo-Condor*, est un lieu de relâche pour les vaisseaux qui se rendent en Chine, — l'archipel des PARACELS, à l'E. de la Cochinchine.

Excerpt describing the partition of the An Nam empire and recognition of the Hoang Sa archipelago as belonging to Cochinchine/Dang Trong in the geography textbook for grade 8, published in Paris in 1838: Ansart (Félix), *Petit Abrégé de géographie, Mis au nombre des livres classiques par le Conseil royal de l'instruction publique, A l'usage des classes de huitièmes et de toutes les maisons d'éducation, Quatorzième Édition*, Paris: À la librairie classique de Madame Veuve Maire-Nyon, 1838, p. 132-133.

#### Sovereignty of the Hoang Sa archipelago under the An Nam empire in high school geography books in France during the period 1820-1840

At the middle school level [equivalent to today's high school], geographical knowledge about the entity holding sovereignty over the Hoang Sa archipelago was specifically designated as belonging to the An Nam empire, instead of Cochinchine [Dang Trong] as in a book for middle school.

In the book *Exposition géographique*, also the type of book "Pour l'instruction de la jeunesse - Deuxième degré d'enseignement", compiled and published by professor and author of many works on geography Augustin-Claude-Simon Legrand in the city of Paris in 1837, the content is divided into XIV tables; then the entity holding sovereignty over the Hoang Sa archipelago is mentioned in table XIII: "ASIE" [Asia], section XI: "INDO-CHINE (presqu'île orientale de l'Inde)" [Indochina (peninsula) East India], in sections 72 - 76. Because the capacity of each section in the books for the second level is larger than the books for the first level, the total number of pages in the book is one and a half times thicker, including 384 page. With the above high school geography textbook, in section 73, Indochina is shown to consist of 5 main parts: 1- the kingdom of Assam, 2- the Burmese empire, 3- the kingdom of Siam, 4- peninsula of Malacca, and 5- empire of Annam. Regarding the content of the Annam empire, in the 76th section, it is specified as follows:

"76. ANNAM [An Nam] Empire. This country was for a long time part of the Chinese empire. Tonquin [Outside] and Cochinchine [Inside] gained independence. In 1774, the kingdom later experienced a terrible political revolution; The three brothers [Tay Son] divided the territory. One of them captured Tonquin [Outside]; A French missionary, Bishop Adran [Pigneau de Béhaine], took the young prince on the run to France. Louis XVI and the government concerned about the port of Turon [Da Nang] helped him. In 1790, he returned to the throne. Kecho [Ke Cho] is the capital of Tonquin [Outside]

or Annam septentrional [Northern Annam]. Saigou, the capital of Cochinchine [Cochinchina] or Annam méridional [Southern Annam]. Fai-Fo [Hoai Pho/Hoi An] is located near the beautiful Turon Bay [Da Nang]. Cambodge [Cambodia], Lantchang [Lan Xang/Laos], Thoanca [Thuan An] seaport".

76. Empire d'ANNAM. Cette contrée fit longtemps partie de l'empire chinois. Le Tonquin et la Cochinchine se rendirent indépendans. En 1774, ce dernier royaume éprouva une terrible révolution politique; trois frères se le partagèrent. L'un d'eux s'empara du Tonquin; un missionnaire français, l'évêque Adran, amena en France le jeune prince fugitif. Louis XVI et le gouvernement qui avaient des vues sur le port de Turon lui donnèrent des secours. En 1790, il remonta sur le trône. Kecho est la capitale du Tonquin ou Annam septentrional, Saigou, capitale de la Cochinchine ou Annam méridional. Fai-Fo, près de la belle baie de Turon. Cambodge, Lantchang, Thoanca, port de mer.

Excerpt describing the Annam empire in a geography textbook for secondary schools, published in Paris in 1837: Legrand (Augustin-Claude-Simon), Exposition géographique, En XIV tableaux, Pour l'instruction de la jeunesse, Deuxième degré d'enseignement, Paris: Bulla Éditeur, Lugan Libraire, 1837, p. 319.

As for the islands of the Annam empire, in section 73, the book clearly states that the Hoang Sa archipelago is located on the coast of Nam An Nam that:

"The Malaca Peninsula is notable for its length. Many islands lie parallel to it: these are the islands of Adaman and Nicobar; the Mergui Islands; Poulo Penang. On the southern coast of the Annam Empire there were Poulo-Condor [Con Lon/Con Dao], the Paracels [Hoang Sa] archipelago, the Pirates [Pirate] island group in Tonquin Bay [Tonkin]".

75. La presqu'île de Malaca se distingue par sa longue étendue. Beaucoup d'îles lui sont parallèles: ce sont celles d'Adaman, de Nicobar; l'archipel Mergui; Poulo-Penang. Sur la côte méridionale de l'empire d'Annam, Poulo-Condor, l'archipel des Paracels, les îles des Pirates, dans le golfe de Tonquin.

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Excerpt from the recognition of the Paracels/Hoang Sa archipelago as belonging to the An Nam empire in the geography textbook for secondary schools, published in Paris in 1837: Legrand (Augustin-Claude-Simon), Exposition géographique, En XIV tableaux, Pour l'instruction de la jeunesse, Deuxième degré d'enseignement, Paris: Bulla Éditeur, Lugan Libraire, 1837, p. 317-318.

In another edition of Professor Legrand's geography textbook for secondary schools in 1839 with the title Exposition géographique, astronomique, physique, politique et historique, the page number and content of the book were kept the same. descriptions of the Annam empire and the Paracel Islands belonging to the territory in South Annam as printed in 1837.

### Sovereignty of the Hoang Sa archipelago of the Cochinchine kingdom of the An Nam empire in books for high school and baccalaureate exams in France during the period 1820-1840

A typical textbook for high school and baccalaureate exams in France in the period 1820-1840 is the publication Précis de géographie ancienne et moderne comparée by professor Félix Ansart, of the Royal University of Saint-Louis. This book is destined to contain all the details that can facilitate the study of the history and knowledge of the classical authors, adopted by the Imperial Council of Public Education, with The target audience is high school students and those taking the baccalaureate exam.

In the 14th edition of Félix Ansart's book in 1840, in the "ASIE" [Asia] section, "INDO-CHINE" [Indo-Central/Indochina] section, from pages 129 - 133, the Annam empire was described in the Q&A "Quelles sont la position, la population, les divisions et les villes principales de l'empire d'ANNAM ?; As for the sovereignty of the Hoang Sa archipelago belonging to Cochinchina of the An Nam empire, it was affirmed in the question and answer "Quelles sont les principales îles qui dépendent de l'Indo-Chine?". Books write:

"Location, population, zoning and major cities of the ANNAM [An Nam] empire?"

The Empire of Annam, as the name most commonly means, lies east of the countries we have just described, between the kingdom of Siam and the Gulf of Siam on the west and the Gulf of Tonkin in east; The population is estimated at 12 million people. This empire was divided into several kingdoms or provinces, namely: LAOS in the northwestern part, which included the eastern part of this country, of which the western part was divided, as we have seen, between the empire Burma and the kingdom of Siam. - CAMBODJE [Cambodia, the region from Dong Nai to Ha Tien], is in the southeast of Laos, and its ancient capital of the same name was replaced by SAIGONG or Saigon [Saigon], a very commercial city with The estimated population is about 180,000 people. - TSIAMPA [Champa, Ninh Thuan-Binh Thuan region] in the southeastern part, mostly inhabited by warlike and independent tribes. - COCHINCHINE [Dang Trong], or Annam Méridional [South An Nam, from south of the Gianh River to Khanh Hoa], along the east coast, an extremely rich and fertile country, with the ancient capital KE-HOA [Ke Hoa], now replaced by HUÉ [Hue], also called Phuxuan or Foutchhouan [Phu Xuan], near the coast; A remarkable city, well built by French engineers, with arsenals and shipyards. This was the capital of the entire empire and the residence of the emperor. - TONKIN [Dong Ngoai], surrounding the bay of the same name; The capital is BAC-JINH or Kécho [Beijing or Ke Cho], although as large as Paris, it has only 40,000 inhabitants.

The main islands of Indo-Chine [Indochina]?

Among the islands of Indochina we quote: ANDAMAN and NICOBAR, forming a chain from north to south, in the southeast of the Bay of Bengal; Europeans have repeatedly tried to establish establishments in these islands, where the unstable climate always forced them to abandon them. — CONDOR [Con Lon/Con Dao] island cluster, ten in number, at the mouth of the May-Kang [Mekong] River, and the main island among them is called Poulo-Condor, a stopping place

for ships go to China; and the PARACELS [Hoang Sa] Islands, on the east bank of Cochinchine [Dang Trong, part of the An Nam empire]”.

Quelles sont la position, la population, les divisions et les villes principales de l'empire d'ANNAM?

L'empire d'Annam, en donnant à ce nom son acception la plus étendue, est situé à l'E. de ceux que nous venons de décrire, entre le royaume et le golfe de Siam, à l'O., et le golfe de Tonkin, à l'E.; sa population est évaluée à 12 millions d'habitans. Cet empire se divise en plusieurs royaumes ou provinces, savoir: le LAOS, au N. O., composé de la partie orientale de ce pays, dont l'O. est partagé, comme nous l'avons vu, entre l'empire Birman et le royaume de Siam. — Le CAMBODJE, au S. E. du Laos, et dont l'ancienne capitale, qui portait le même nom, a été remplacée par SAIGONG ou Saïgon, ville très-commerçante dont on porte la population à 180 mille habitans. — Le TSIAMPA, au S. E., occupé en grande partie par des peuplades belliqueuses et indépendantes. — La COCHINCHINE, ou *Annam Méridional*, le long de la côte orientale, contrée extrêmement riche et fertile, dont l'ancienne capitale, KE-HOA, est maintenant remplacée par HUÉ, nommée aussi *Phu-xuan* ou *Fouchhouan*, près de la côte; ville considérable, munie de bonnes fortifications construites par des ingénieurs français, d'arsenaux et de chantiers de construction. C'est la capitale de tout l'empire et la résidence du souverain. — Le TONKIN, autour du golfe du même nom; capitale, BAC-KINH ou *Kécho*, qui,

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Quelles sont les principales îles qui dépendent de l'Indo-Chine?

Parmi les îles qui dépendent de l'Indo-Chine, nous citerons: celles d'ANDAMAN et de NICOBAR, qui forment une chaîne du N. au S., au S. E. du golfe du Bengale; les Européens ont tenté, à diverses reprises, de fonder dans ces îles des établissemens que l'insalubrité du climat les a toujours forcés d'abandonner. — Celles de CONDOR, au nombre de dix, à l'embouchure du May-Kang, et dont la principale, nommée *Poulo-Condor*, est un lieu de relâche pour les vaisseaux qui se rendent en Chine; — l'archipel des PARACELS, à l'E. de la Cochinchine.

Excerpt from the recognition of the Paracels/Hoang Sa archipelago as belonging to the An Nam empire in the geography textbook for high school and baccalaureate levels, published in Paris in 1840: Ansart (Félix), Précis de géographie ancienne et moderne comparée, A l'usage des collèges et de ceux qui aspirent au baccalauréat ès-lettres, Quinzième Édition, Paris: À la librairie classique de Madame Veuve Maire-Nyon, 1840, p. 132-133.

Another geography textbook for the preparation of the baccalaureate exam is Nouveau manuel, complet et methodique, des aspirans au baccalauréat ès-lettres by Émile Lefranc, the author of many books on higher education. This book is written according to the new program, published by the Paris Academy in 1835, and has a question-and-answer set that is easy to remember as well as easy to state. In this book, a brief set of questions and answers shows the Hoang Sa archipelago of the Annamite empire, opposite the imperial capital Hue, as follows:

“5o In the AN-NAM empire (12,000,000 people), there were the kingdoms of Cochinchine [Inner Cochinchina], Tonquin [Inner Vietnam], Kambodje [Cambodia, from Dong Nai to Ha Tien], Laos [submitted by Laos] An Nam], Bao [Bon Man]...

HUÉ [Hue], mighty capital, 100,000 inhabitants, opposite groupe de Paracels [group of Hoang Sa islands].

Saigong, capital of the kingdom of Kambodje [Cambodia, from Dong Nai to Ha Tien], 100,000 inhabitants”.

5° Dans l'EMPIRE d'AN-NAM (12,000,000 h.), qui comprend les R. de Cochinchine, de Tonquin, de Kambodje, de Laos, de Bao, etc.  
HUÉ, C., v. forte, 100,000 h., vis-à-vis le groupe de Paracels. — Saigong, C. du r. de Kambodje, 100,000 h.

Excerpt from the recognition of the Paracels/Hoang Sa archipelago as belonging to the An Nam empire in the geography textbook for baccalaureate exam preparation, published in Paris in 1835: Lefranc (Émile), Nouveau manuel, complet et methodique, des aspirans au baccalauréat ès-lettres, Paris: De l'Imprimerie d'Auguste Delalain, 1835, p. 381.

### Sovereignty over the Hoang Sa archipelago under the Annam or Vietnamese empire in the geography book for undergraduates in France in the period 1820-1840

Regarding the type of book for the university level in France in the period 1820-1840, the most famous about geography is Adrien Balbi's Abrégé de géographie. This book is written on a new program, following the latest peace treaties and most recent discoveries; At the same time, under the title of the book there are the words "Ouvrage adopté par l'Université". In the book, the names of the countries have been updated to the latest, the sovereignty of the Hoang Sa archipelago belongs to the kingdom of Dang Trong of the empire of Annam or Vietnam.

In the aforementioned publication, published for the third time in Paris in 1838, in Volume II, section "ASIE", section "Empire d'An-nam ou de Viet-nam", pages 768 - 770, the book says to The Annam regime consisted of the countries and territories of Cochinchine [Cochin China], Tonquin [Tien Giang], Tsiampa (Binh-tuam) [Champa (Binh Thuan, including Ninh Thuan), Kambodje (Cambodge, Cambodia) [Cambodia] Bot, from Dong Nai to Ha Tien], Laos An-namite [Laos submitted to Annam], Bao (Boateng) [Bon Man], autonomous regions. In parts of the empire, the book recognized the Hoang Sa archipelago as belonging to the Dang Trong kingdom of the Annam empire with the regular presence of fishermen there as follows:

“An Nam Empire or Vietnam.

LIMIT. We still know very inaccurately about the western limit of this empire, founded at the beginning of the present century [nineteenth century] by Ngai-en-choung [Nguyen Chung, customary name of Lord Nguyen Anh] or brave and talented Gia-long [King Gia Long], the last descendant of the Cochinchine [Dang Trong] kings. However, it seems to us that in the present state we can draw its limits in the following way: to the north, bordering the Chinese empire; to the east is the China Sea/East Sea; To the south is also this sea; To the west is the kingdom of Siam.

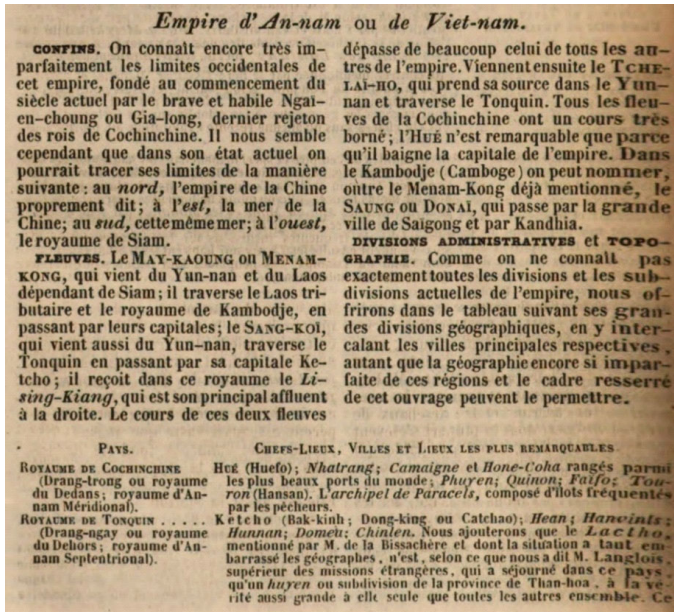
ADMINISTRATIVE REGION AND TOPOGRAPHY. Since we do not know exactly all the current divisions and subdivisions of the empire, we will provide in the following table its main geographical subdivisions, interspersed with the corresponding main cities, as well as The still imperfect geography of these areas and the tight framework of the work could allow.

Nation:

KINGDOM OF COCHINCHINE (Drang-trong ou royaume du Dedans; royaume d'An-nam Méridional) [Dang Trong (Dang Trong or inner kingdom, or kingdom of Nam An Nam)].

Capitals, cities and most prominent places:

Hué (Huefo) [Hue (Hue Palace)]; Nhatrang [Nha Trang]; Camaigne [Cam Ranh] and Hone-Coha [Hon Khoi] are ranked among the most beautiful ports in the world; Phuyen [Phu Yen]; Quinon [Qui Nhon]; Faifo [Hoai Pho/Hoi An]; Touron (Hansan) [Da Nang (Han Cang)]. The Paracels [Hoang Sa] Islands, include small islands frequented by fishermen.



Excerpts from recognition of Hoang Sa archipelago as belonging to the kingdom of Cochinchina of the empire of Annam or Vietnam with the frequent presence of fishermen there in the university geography book, published in Paris in 1838: Balbi (Adrien), *Abrégé de géographie*, Rédigé sur un nouveau plan d'après les derniers traités de paix et les découvertes les plus récentes, Ouvrage adopté par l'Université, Troisième Édition, Deuxième Édition, Paris: Renores Cheme Partie -Éditeurs, 1838, p. 768.

Adrien Balbi's books for university students were continued in 1839 and 1840, also retaining the content about the Hoang Sa archipelago belonging to the Cochinchina kingdom of the An Nam empire with the regular presence of fishermen. people there in the "ASIE" [Asia] section, section "Empire d'An-nam ou de Viet-nam" [An Nam Empire or Vietnam], pages 768 - 770.

## Conclusion

The geography textbook system has the content of recognizing the Hoang Sa archipelago as belonging to the sovereignty of the Cochinchine/Dang Trong kingdom of the An Nam empire or Vietnam in a complete, consistent and synchronized manner across educational levels. From elementary school to middle school, high school, baccalaureate exam review books and university-level books, these are no better documents on international law for Vietnam in the past and present; Because it is an official, public and solid recognition from a national

education system under the approval of the supreme state agency. Therefore, they are extremely necessary documents to help affirm Vietnam's long-standing legal sovereignty over the Hoang Sa archipelago before the international community.

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