

SUMMARY OF VIETNAMESE HISTORY THROUGH THE DYNASTIES



1. Ngô Dynasty (939–965) – Ngô Quyền

National Title: Vạn Xuân

After Ngô Quyền expelled the Southern Han forces, he declared himself king and established the Ngô Dynasty. After 28 years of rule, the Ngô Dynasty disintegrated during the reign of Ngô Xương Xí. At this time, the country was divided into 12 warlord territories. Since Dương Tam Kha usurped the Ngô throne in 944, various regions refused to submit, with local leaders rising up to seize control of areas and engaging in mutual conflicts. The period of the 12 warlords lasted for over 20 years (944–968) and ended when Đinh Bộ Lĩnh unified the country and established the Đại Cồ Việt state.

1. Ngô Xương Xí, also known as Ngô Sứ Quân, controlled Bình Kiều (Triệu Sơn, Thanh Hóa).
2. Ngô Nhật Khánh, self-styled as Ngô Lãm Công, controlled Đường Lâm (Sơn Tây, Hà Nội).
3. Đỗ Cảnh Thạc, self-styled as Đỗ Cảnh Công, controlled Đỗ Động Giang (Quốc Oai and Thanh Oai, Hà Nội).
4. Phạm Bạch Hổ, self-styled as Phạm Phòng Át, controlled Đằng Châu (Hưng Yên).
5. Kiều Công Hãn, self-styled as Kiều Tam Chế, controlled Phong Châu (Phú Thọ).

6. Kiều Thuận, self-styled as Kiều Lệnh Công, controlled Hồi Hồ (Cẩm Khê, Phú Thọ).
7. Nguyễn Khoan, self-styled as Nguyễn Thái Bình, controlled Tam Đái (Vĩnh Tường, Vĩnh Phúc).
8. Nguyễn Siêu, self-styled as Nguyễn Hữu Công, controlled Tây Phù Liệt (Thanh Trì, Hà Nội).
9. Nguyễn Thủ Tiệp, self-styled as Nguyễn Lệnh Công, controlled Tiên Du (Bắc Ninh).
10. Lý Khuê, self-styled as Lý Lãng Công, controlled Siêu Loại (Thuận Thành, Bắc Ninh).
11. Trần Lãm, self-styled as Trần Minh Công, controlled Bồ Hải Khẩu (Thái Bình).
12. Lã Đường, self-styled as Lã Tá Công, controlled Tế Giang (Văn Giang, Hưng Yên).

2. Đinh Dynasty (968–980) – Đinh Tiên Hoàng

National Title: Đại Cồ Việt



After Đinh Bộ Lĩnh quelled the chaos caused by the 12 warlords, he established the Đinh Dynasty, naming the country Đại Cồ Việt and setting the capital at Hoa Lư. Following the assassination of King Đinh Tiên Hoàng and his eldest son in 979,

Đinh Toàn ascended to the throne, but as he was still very young, power effectively lay in the hands of General Lê Hoàn.

Đinh Toàn, only 6 years old, was placed on the throne by the court officials. Taking advantage of this situation, the Song Dynasty sent troops to invade. For the sake of the nation, Empress Dowager Dương Vân Nga (the wife of King Đinh Tiên Hoàng and Đinh Toàn's mother), following the wishes of the military officers, handed the imperial robe to General Lê Hoàn, who then became King Lê Đại Hành.

3. Early Lê Dynasty (980–1010) – Lê Long Đĩnh



National Title: Đại Cồ Việt

Trước tình hình nhà Tống lăm le xâm lược nên Thái hậu Dương Vân Nga đã hỗ trợ Lê Hoàn lên ngôi vua, mở ra triều Tiền Lê để lãnh đạo quân đội chống giặc ngoại xâm.

Sau 30 năm tồn tại triều Tiền Lê được trao cho vua Lê Ngọa Triều (Lê Long Đĩnh – người mang nhiều tiếng xấu trong sử sách (độc ác, bạo tàn, dâm dăng,..) Lê Ngọa Triều làm vua được 4 năm (1005 - 1009) thì mất, thọ 24 tuổi. Long Đĩnh mất, con tên là Sạ còn bé, dưới sự đạo diễn của quan Chi Hậu Đào Cam Mộc, triều thần đã tôn Lý Công Uẩn lên ngôi Hoàng đế. Kết thúc triều Tiền Lê.

Due to the aggressive invasion by the Tống Dynasty, Empress Dowager Dương Vân Nga supported Lê Hoàn's ascension to the throne, initiating the Early Lê Dynasty to lead the army against external aggressors.

After existing for 30 years, the Early Lê Dynasty was passed to King Lê Ngoạ Triều (Lê Long Đĩnh – known for his notorious reputation in historical records as cruel, tyrannical, and debauched). Lê Ngoạ Triều ruled for 4 years (1005–1009) before passing away at the age of 24. Upon his death, his young son, named Sạ, was left under the guidance of official Chi Hậu Đào Cam Mộc. The court officials then enthroned Lý Công Uẩn as Emperor, marking the end of the Early Lê Dynasty.

4. Lý Dynasty (1010–1225) – Lý Công Uẩn



National Title: Đại Việt

The Lý Dynasty (1010-1225) began with Lý Công Uẩn (Lý Thái Tổ) ascending to the throne in the 10th month of the lunar calendar in 1009, after seizing power from the Tiền Lê Dynasty. After his mother's passing, he was adopted by the Buddhist monk Lý Văn Khanh. With exceptional intelligence and the nurturing care of Lý Vạn Hạnh and Lý Văn Khanh, he became outstanding in both literary and martial arts.

Lý Công Uẩn served under Lê Hoàn's reign as an aide to Prince Lê Long Việt. In 1005, after Lê Hoàn's death, the Tiền Lê Dynasty plunged into chaos, with descendants vying for the throne. In 1006, Lê Long Việt claimed the throne,

adopting the title Lê Trung Tông. However, just 3 days after his coronation, he was assassinated by his younger brother, Lê Long Đĩnh, who usurped the throne.

Lê Long Đĩnh's reign was marked by tyranny, causing resentment among the people. During this time, Lý Công Uẩn continued to be esteemed and was promoted to the position of Commander of the Palace Guard.

In the winter, on the 10th day of the 10th lunar month in the year Kỷ Dậu (corresponding to the Gregorian date November 25, 1009), Lê Long Đĩnh passed away. With the support of the Buddhist monk Vạn Hạnh and court officials, Lý Công Uẩn was enthroned as emperor. Taking the title Lý Thái Tổ, he ended the Tiền Lê Dynasty and ushered in the era of the Lý Dynasty, which lasted for over 200 years (1009-1225).

During this dynasty, Buddhism flourished, and it was the only era in Vietnamese history where a queen regnant ascended the throne – Lý Chiêu Hoàng, before abdicating in favor of the Trần Dynasty.

King Lý Huệ Tông retired to become a monk, passing the throne to his daughter, Princess Chiêu Thánh (who was only 7 years old at the time), with the regnal name Lý Chiêu Hoàng. Under the behind-the-scenes control of Trần Thủ Độ, Trần Cảnh (aged 8), the son of Trần Thừa, was brought into the palace as a close aide to Lý Chiêu Hoàng, and Trần Thủ Độ spread rumors that Lý Chiêu Hoàng had married Trần Cảnh.

On the 21st day of the 10th lunar month in the year Ất Dậu (corresponding to December 9, 1225), Lý Chiêu Hoàng held a grand ceremony at the Thiên An Palace. In front of the dignitaries, she removed her imperial robe and invited Trần Cảnh to ascend the throne, changing his regnal name to Kiến Trung, thereby establishing the Trần Dynasty.

The Lý Dynasty lasted for 216 years, with 9 successive kings ruling. Despite fluctuations and upheavals, it was a prosperous period with significant influence on Vietnam up to the present day. The first king of the Lý Dynasty was King Lý Công Uẩn, and the last king was King Lý Chiêu Hoàng.

The reign periods of the 9 kings of the Lý Dynasty:

- Lý Công Uẩn – reign name Lý Thái Tổ (974 – 1028), ruled for 19 years (1009 – 1028).

- Lý Phật Mã (also known as Lý Đức Chính) – reign name Lý Thái Tông (1000 – 1054), ruled for 26 years (1028 – 1054).
- Lý Nhật Tôn – reign name Lý Thánh Tông (1023 – 1072), ruled for 18 years (1054 – 1072).
- Lý Càn Đức – reign name Lý Nhân Tông (1066 – 1127), ruled for 55 years (1072 – 1127).
- Lý Dương Hoán – reign name Lý Thần Tông (1116 – 1138), ruled for 11 years (1127 – 1138).
- Lý Thiện Tộ – reign name Lý Anh Tông (1136 – 1175), ruled for 37 years (1138 – 1175).
- Lý Long Cán – reign name Lý Cao Tông (1194 – 1126), ruled for 34 years (1176 – 1210).
- Lý Hạo Sảm – reign name Lý Huệ Tông (1194 – 1226), ruled for 14 years (1211 – 1225).
- Lý Phật Kim – reign name Lý Chiêu Hoàng (1218 – 1278), ruled for 1 year (1224 – 1225).

5. Trần Dynasty (1226–1400) – Trần Quốc Tuấn



National Title: Đại Việt

In 1225, King Lý Huệ Tông, lacking a male heir, passed the throne to Princess Lý Chiêu Hoàng, who was only 8 years old. Trần Thủ Độ, a prominent figure in the court at that time, devised a plan to introduce his own grandson, Trần Cảnh, aged 7, into the palace to play with Lý Chiêu Hoàng.

Subsequently, Trần Thủ Độ orchestrated a palace coup, proclaiming that Lý Chiêu Hoàng had married Trần Cảnh. At the beginning of 1226, Lý Chiêu Hoàng abdicated in favor of Trần Cảnh.

Trần Thái Tông (July 9, 1218 – May 5, 1277) was the first king of the Trần Dynasty. During his reign, he was regarded as a wise and prudent ruler, laying the foundation for subsequent rulers. The "Đại Nam quốc sử diễn ca" praises him: "His intelligence matched that of the heavens, Enhanced by the wisdom of Thủ Độ. In literary and martial arts, he resembled Confucius and Mencius, Establishing national schools and appointing virtuous officials. Every seven years, a grand assembly was held, Talented individuals gradually emerged."

Trần Thái Tông, also known as Trần Cảnh, ascended the throne at a young age but achieved great success in military, political, and economic fields. The establishment of the Trần Dynasty with its first king, Trần Thái Tông, marked a significant turning point in the history of Đại Việt.

6. Hồ Dynasty (1400 - 1407) – Hồ Quý Ly



National Title: Đại Ngu

This is the shortest feudal dynasty in Vietnamese history, lasting only 7 years. Towards the end of the Trần Dynasty under King Trần Nghệ Tông's reign, Hồ Quý Ly gained favor from the king. Gradually, he amassed significant military power, and upon the death of King Trần Nghệ Tông, he forced King Trần Thiệu Đế to move the capital to Thanh Hóa, where he killed numerous court officials, dethroned the king, and declared himself emperor. Thus, the Hồ Dynasty was established. In 1406, the Ming Dynasty used the pretext of Hồ Quý Ly usurping the Trần Dynasty to send 800,000 troops to invade our country. The people of the Hồ Dynasty fiercely resisted but were defeated. On June 17, 1407, the Ming troops captured Hồ Quý Ly and his son, ending the short-lived 7-year reign of the Hồ Dynasty.

7. The Lê Dynasty (Early Lê – Later Lê) (1428-1527)

National Title: Đại Việt

This is the longest dynasty in our country's history, spanning 355 years of rule. Under the Later Lê period, Vietnam experienced significant development in military, economy, and territory, reaching its peak prosperity. During the feudal Later Lê dynasty, there were 26 kings.

On June 15, 1527, Mạc Đăng Dung led his army from Cổ Trai to the capital Thăng Long, forcing the king to abdicate and causing the King and Queen to commit suicide. Thus, Lê Cung Hoàng ascended to the throne for 5 years, passing away at the age of 21.

Between the Lê and Mạc dynasties, Vietnamese history witnessed the emergence of a great prophet named Nguyễn Bình Khiêm. Not only was he a prophet and strategist, but Nguyễn Bình Khiêm was also a great poet, becoming a famous literary figure in Vietnamese history.

8. Mạc Dynasty (1527 – 1593) – Mạc Đăng Dung

National Title: Đại Việt



Mạc Đăng Dung usurped the throne from King Cung Hoàng and declared himself emperor, establishing the Mạc Dynasty. This dynasty marked the division of Vietnam into two separate realms: the Southern Court and the Northern Court, with the Mạc Dynasty situated in the Northern Court. After 66 years of existence, during the reign of King Mạc Toàn, the Mạc Dynasty was defeated in battles against the Southern Court forces led by the Lê – Trịnh family. This marked the end of the Mạc Dynasty.

The Trịnh – Nguyễn conflict lasted for over 150 years.

9. Tây Sơn Dynasty (1789 – 1802) – Nguyễn Huệ

National Title: Đại Việt



The Tây Sơn brothers, Nguyễn Huệ (Nguyễn Nhạc) in particular, rebelled to unify Đàng Trong. However, when Lord Nguyễn Phúc Ánh sought to reclaim his dynasty, he twice allied with the Siamese and Qing forces to invade our country.

At this time, Nguyễn Huệ ascended the throne, assuming the title of Emperor Quang Trung, to fight against Lord Nguyễn and repel the invading forces. In 1792, as Emperor Quang Trung was preparing to lead his army south to attack Gia Định, he suddenly passed away (1792). His son, Nguyễn Quang Toản, was too young to lead effectively, leading to the rapid decline of the Tây Sơn dynasty. Internal conflicts arose.

Around 1802, Nguyễn Ánh advanced and captured Thăng Long. Nguyễn Ánh sought brutal revenge against those who supported the Tây Sơn, desecrating the tombs of King Thái Đức and Emperor Quang Trung, grinding their bones into powder and using them to make gunpowder. Female general Bùi Thị Xuân and her daughter were crushed under an elephant's foot, while Trần Quang Diệu was beheaded.

10. Nguyễn Dynasty (1802-1945) – Nguyễn Ánh



During the Nguyễn Dynasty, Vietnam had its largest territorial extent. The Nguyễn Dynasty was the last feudal dynasty in Vietnamese history. It was established after Nguyễn Ánh (Emperor Gia Long) ascended the throne in 1802 and ended when Bảo Đại abdicated in 1945, spanning a total of 143 years. The Nguyễn Dynasty marked many ups and downs in Vietnamese history, particularly the French invasion in the 19th century.

