

## Did French colonialism help or hurt Vietnam?

### A) Rudyard Kipling Writes About European Civilizations Special Role in the World in the 1890's

"Take up the White Man's burden --  
The savage wars and peace --  
Fill full the mouth of Famine  
And bid the sickness cease;  
And when your goal is nearest  
The end for others sought,  
Watch Sloth (lazyness) and heathen Folly  
Bring all your hopes to nought."

1- In your opinion, what does Rudyard Kipling believe is the role of Europeans in other parts of the world in the 1890s?

2- Based on this poem, why do you think he believes this?

3- Do you agree or disagree with Kipling? Why?

4- What country do you think Kipling is from? Why?

### B) France Explains Why It Wants to Colonize Vietnam

"We must, with unquenchable ardor, propagate our sacred religion."

- Pigneau de Béhaine, about 1800

"Will we be the only ones without possessions in Asia?"

- Committee recommendation to Napoleon III, 1850s

"Colonial policy is the daughter of industrial policy."

- Jules Ferry, French Prime Minister, 1880s

### C) Critics of French Policy

"The struggle will be long. But we are guided by the laws of Heaven and our cause will triumph."

Anonymous poster, Vietnam, 1860s

"Our side suffered not a single casualty in the uprising, but without benefit of trial sixty-four heads rolled."

- Fernand Bernard, 1850s

"The extraordinary resistance....which is opposed to us by all classes of people, is stronger now than at any time since the conquest. We must open our eyes."

- Paul Louis Philastre, French opposition leader, 1873

"Where do you keep your armies, O Wind God?..."

May heaven storm and sweep our kingdom clean, then put it back within its rightful bounds."

- Nguyen Dinh Chieu (1822-1888), Vietnamese poet

"Blood is building in your hearts. Countrymen! Draw forth your swords."

- Phan Boi Chau, Vietnamse leader, early 20th century