

Youth Movement in Phu Yen Province During the Resistance and National Construction Period (1946–1950)

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ABSTRACT: Following the August Revolution of 1945, the nascent revolutionary government in Phu Yen faced myriad challenges, confronting famine, illiteracy, and the imminent threat of re-invasion by the French colonialists. Against this backdrop, the youth forces of Phu Yen demonstrated their pioneering and vanguard role by actively participating in building and protecting the revolutionary administration, developing armed forces, promoting production, eradicating illiteracy, and mobilizing the population to join the resistance war. From organizing militia, guerrilla, and logistics transport forces to engaging in scorched-earth resistance, building a new lifestyle, and developing education, the youth of Phu Yen became the core force in the local resistance and national construction. This article clarifies the prominent roles and contributions of the Phu Yen youth movement from 1946 to 1950, thereby reaffirming the position of the youth in the cause of national liberation and defense.

KEYWORDS: Revolutionary government, resistance, national construction, Phu Yen youth.

1. INTRODUCTION

After the victory of the August Revolution in 1945, the nascent revolutionary government in Vietnam in general, and in Phu Yen province in particular, faced countless challenges including famine, illiteracy, subversive activities by reactionary forces, and especially the French colonialists' plot to re-invade. In that context, the revolutionary movement in Phu Yen developed strongly and comprehensively, with the active participation of various social classes, particularly the youth. Driven by a vanguard spirit and patriotic ideals, the youth of Phu Yen rapidly became the pioneering force in movements to build and protect the revolutionary administration, develop armed forces, engage in production, eradicate illiteracy, establish a new lifestyle, and mobilize human and material resources to support the front lines. Across the political, military, economic, and cultural fronts, the youth movement left profound imprints and made significant contributions to the province's cause of resistance and national construction.

However, in contrast to their monumental role and contributions, the Phu Yen youth movement during the 1946–1950 period has not yet been systematically and comprehensively studied. Therefore, exploring and clarifying the roles, activities, and typical contributions of Phu Yen youth during this period possesses not only scientific significance but also contributes to confirming the historical position of youth in the cause of national liberation, while educating today's generation on revolutionary traditions.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

To clarify the research contents regarding the Phu Yen youth movement, this article utilizes research methodologies from historical science:

The historical method: aimed at objectively and accurately reconstructing the development process of the Phu Yen youth movement during the resistance and national construction period (1946–1950), based on the specific historical context of both the locality and the country.

The logical method: applied to analyze, evaluate, and interpret the relationships between historical events and phenomena, highlighting the role of youth in each specific stage.

The method of analyzing and synthesizing documents: used to exploit and process numerous primary source materials, including books, Party documents, and relevant scientific research projects, ensuring the authenticity and reliability of the article's content.

The comparative and contrasting method: employed to accentuate the distinct characteristics of the Phu Yen youth movement compared to other localities, while affirming the specific role of the province within the overall national revolutionary movement.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Historical Context

The victory of the August Revolution in 1945 and the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam marked a monumental turning point in national history, ending thousands of years of feudalism and nearly a century of French colonial rule. However, the nascent revolutionary administration faced severe challenges: famine enemy, ignorance enemy, and foreign invaders, alongside collusion between internal and external reactionary forces.

Right from the end of 1945, the French colonialists, backed by British troops and with the complicity of Chiang Kai-shek's forces in the North, gradually returned to invade Vietnam. Intent on re-establishing colonial rule, French troops launched attacks to seize strategic regions from the South to the Central region, instigating a large-scale war of aggression. Although the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam negotiated repeatedly to maintain peace, the aggressive nature and colonial ambitions of the French led them to officially launch a nationwide war of aggression on December 19, 1946. In response to this situation, President Ho Chi Minh issued the Appeal for National Resistance, calling upon citizens nationwide to rise up and fight to protect national independence.

Under the leadership of the Party, the Vietnamese people entered a period of resistance full of hardships but filled with heroism. From urban to rural areas, from the plains to the mountains, movements to fight the French and save the country erupted everywhere. Military, political, economic, cultural, and ideological fronts were deployed extensively. Additionally, during the 1946–1950 period, the revolutionary government focused on building and strengthening the people's administration system from the central to the grassroots levels, organizing production, building resistance bases, educating ideology, and uniting the entire population. Movements such as Patriotic Emulation and “Fighting Hunger, Ignorance, and Foreign Invaders” spread widely, reflecting the vibrant spirit of a nation rising up for independence and freedom. This period was a challenging yet vital era, creating the prerequisites for subsequent victories in the resistance war against the French. In that context, the revolutionary movements in local provinces, including Phu Yen, played an essential role, contributing to the defense and construction of the country from the very dawn of its fragile independence.

On August 23, 1945, the people and revolutionary forces in Tuy Hoa town rose up to seize power. Subsequently, the movement spread across districts such as Dong Xuan, Tuy An, Song Cau, and Son Hoa. Within just a few days, the entire Phu Yen province was completely under the control of revolutionary forces. Following the seizure of power, the Provisional Revolutionary People's Committee of Phu Yen Province was established. This was a government of the people, elected by the people under the leadership of the Viet Minh Front. Districts and communes also quickly established grassroots revolutionary people's committees, taking charge of organizing social life, ensuring security and order, stabilizing the political situation, and preparing forces for a long-term resistance against the returning French colonial invaders.

The nascent revolutionary administration in Phu Yen during this period faced multiple difficulties: a shortage of cadres, lack of finance, limited infrastructure, and a local population living in severe deprivation. Nonetheless, the government progressively consolidated its apparatus, launched mass movements, organized self-defense and militia forces, propagated the Party's line of resistance and national construction, and stood ready to counter the French colonialists' re-invasion plots.

At the end of September 1945, a British army battalion landed in Nha Trang town, releasing 1,200 Frenchmen who had been imprisoned by the Japanese army during the coup on March 9, 1945. The British army armed the French prisoners and utilized Japanese troops to capture important targets within Nha Trang town. On October 6, 1945, the French warship Richelieu landed troops in Nha Trang, occupying the town and expanding into the Southern Central provinces. Faced with this situation, in October 1945, the Government decided to establish administrative and military zones across the country. Southern Central Vietnam included Zone 5 (the provinces of Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh, Kon Tum, Gia Lai) and Zone 6, which comprised the provinces of Phu Yen, Khanh Hoa, Ninh Thuan, Binh Thuan, Dac Lac, Lam Vien, and Dong Nai Thuong. Phu Yen province became the bridge connecting Zone 5 and Zone 6, serving as a staging and halting area for troops moving from the North to fight in the South, as well as a free zone to build and consolidate revolutionary forces.

Entering the 1946–1950 stage, Phu Yen became a strategic location in the resistance war against the French. The province was situated on key transport routes, with National Highway 1A and the North-South railway passing through, making it a transit point between the Central coastal region and the Central Highlands. Consequently, both the revolutionary government and the French placed special emphasis on this locality. At this time, the revolutionary government in Phu Yen faced numerous tests: consolidating the system of the people's democratic government, organizing armed forces, building resistance bases, and mobilizing the population to participate in a comprehensive resistance. Meanwhile, the French colonialists implemented the policy of using Vietnamese to fight Vietnamese, stepping up pacification, terrorizing and dividing the masses, and suppressing patriotic forces.

Despite facing thousands of difficulties under the leadership of the Provincial Party Committee, the resistance movement of the Phu Yen people continued to grow robustly. Within this movement, the youth forces acted as the vanguard and core in prominent movements such as Youth Ready for Three Tasks, building resistance villages, protecting revolutionary bases, participating in the militia and guerrilla forces, and mobilizing citizens against French divisive schemes. The 1946–1950 period was thus both a trial by

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fire and a time that forged the patriotism, revolutionary ideals, and unyielding will of Phu Yen's youth, laying the foundation for subsequent victories of the local resistance in the following years.

3.2. Phu Yen Youth Movement in the Resistance and National Construction Period (1946–1950)

3.2.1. Phu Yen Youth Participating in Building and Protecting the Revolutionary Government (1945–1946)

Thoroughly grasping the Directives of the Party Central Committee, the Phu Yen Provincial Party Committee identified the urgent local task at that time as maintaining and consolidating the revolutionary administration, building a new society, and establishing a new life for the people. The immediate duties were to guide the people in increasing production to fight hunger, improving living standards, calling upon citizens in the province to learn the national script (Quoc ngu), and suppressing counter-revolutionary forces. At the first session of the Provincial People's Council in May 1946, several pressing issues were slated for resolution: accelerating agricultural production under the slogan “Every inch of land is an inch of gold”, repairing the irrigation system, establishing the first secondary school named Luong Van Chanh to train a corps of cadres, and launching a mass education movement to wipe out illiteracy among the people.

Responding to the Provincial Party Committee's directive, the youth forces of Phu Yen joined hands with all walks of life to build and consolidate the revolutionary administration, and participated in building local armed forces. The youth actively encouraged compatriots to join the Viet Minh Front and its national salvation associations, such as the Workers' Association for National Salvation, Youth Association for National Salvation, Peasants' Association for National Salvation, and Women's Association for National Salvation. Phu Yen youth took the lead in consolidating the alliance among various social classes, which was the bedrock of the revolution. Most government cadres at all levels in Phu Yen were young people who had newly joined activities since the August Revolution.

In addition, the youth forces actively participated in building self-defense teams, the vanguard forces that had helped seize power. It can be said that the Self-Defense Teams and vanguard forces with youth and adolescents as the core were rapidly reinforced by young national salvation associations, growing increasingly stronger and becoming a local force that actively supported the province's regular military forces. This period marked the birth of the self-defense detachment of the Dong Bo Sugar Factory, commanded by Comrade Nguyen Thai Vinh, which later developed into a company. The self-defense detachment of the Tuy Hoa region, commanded by Comrade Nguyen Ngoc Tho, also expanded into a company. By the end of September 1945, almost every locality in the province had organized self-defense squads and platoons.

Phu Yen youth provided active support in ordnance and weapons production. In October 1945, the Cao Thang Ordnance Factory was built in Cung Son, with Comrade Do Truc serving as director and Comrade Nguyen Huu Du as political officer. The factory gathered many casting, blacksmithing, turning, carpentry, and electrical workers. Youth forces assisted by collecting materials and dismantling French machinery in Tuy Hoa and the Dong Bo Sugar Factory to transport them to the base. Initially, the ordnance factory succeeded in producing certain types of weapons to serve the battlefield.

Following the guidance of the Central Committee and President Ho Chi Minh to resolve the raging famine enemy and ignorance enemy, movements like the Gold Week, Hunger Relief Rice Pot, and the anti-illiteracy campaign took place enthusiastically nationwide. Phu Yen youth actively engaged in increasing production, implementing the every inch of land is an inch of gold spirit. Hundreds of youth production teams were formed. Together with the province's population, youth forces labored day and night in the fields with enthusiasm and excitement. Fallow lands, barren hills, and abandoned plots were thoroughly utilized. Many youth teams voluntarily took on the task of clearing wasteland to plant vegetables, beans, and taro to tackle immediate hunger.

Implementing the policy to support the Government in overcoming financial difficulties, the Phu Yen Youth Association for National Salvation encouraged members and youths to actively propagate and mobilize the people to participate in the Gold Week, contributing money and gold to build the Independence Fund. Many families and women contributed their personal jewelry, wedding rings, and gold earrings to the revolutionary forces. This campaign attracted a large amount of funding and witnessed major examples of generosity in Phu Yen, such as Mr. Tran Chien in Hoa My commune, who contributed 2 taels and 8 mace of gold. From September 17 to 24, 1945, the people of Phu Yen donated 8 kilograms of gold and 350,000 Indochinese piastres (Military Command of Phu Yen Province, 1993, p.38).

Alongside initial victories on the economic and financial fronts, the revolutionary government made great strides on the educational and cultural fronts. Following the success of the August Revolution in 1945, one of the issues that the Central Committee and Uncle Ho focused heavily on was launching an anti-illiteracy movement to broaden the knowledge of working people, enabling them to master themselves and their country. Uncle Ho stated: “An ignorant nation is a weak nation. Therefore, I propose opening a campaign against illiteracy” (Ho Chi Minh, 2002, Vol.4, p.8). He assigned this duty to the youth: “I hope young men and women will enthusiastically help in this work”.

Fulfilling President Ho Chi Minh's call that “Going to school is patriotic” and “Study for resistance and national construction”, youth members eagerly joined the anti-illiteracy movement. In the war against the ignorance enemy, Phu Yen youth participated vibrantly, mobilizing their vast membership to enthusiastically teach and learn the national script. The province's Youth Mobilization Board directly guided grassroots youth unions, selecting a team of hundreds of young popular education teachers to spread across

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the province to organize national script classes. The youth of Phu Yen acted as the vanguard in this movement, adhering to the spirit of “the knowledgeable teach the unknowledgeable” and “the more knowledgeable teach the less knowledgeable”. Many localities also proactively opened short-term training courses for teachers to meet the educational demands of the population.

The paths leading down to the ethnic villages bore the deep footprints of the youth. The most challenging task was encouraging ethnic minority communities to attend classes to learn “Uncle Ho's script”. Young people went to every house, persuading every individual day after day to assemble them into popular education classes. Youth organized classes everywhere, such as in markets, communal houses, and temples. Large classes had 20 to 30 people, while small ones had just a few, encompassing both men and women, young and old.

The campaign to build a new lifestyle was also actively embraced by Phu Yen's youth members. This was both a duty and an aspiration of the youth. Every village and hamlet had art and performance teams managed by the Youth Union. During village meetings or Youth Union gatherings, young people sang joyfully, turning the atmosphere in rural areas and urban streets vibrant and healthy. Consequently, despite encountering numerous hardships and material poverty, everyone remained joyful and enthusiastic. Youth members took the lead in eradicating social vices, such as outdated customs in funerals and weddings, drinking, gambling, opium addiction, superstition, and theft.

Amidst the joy and pride of overcoming the nation's two major enemies the ignorance enemy and famine enemy on January 6, 1946, the entire country entered the festival of the first General Election of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. To support the election atmosphere, the election boards of Phu Yen province selected a team of young people to carry out propaganda and protect the festival. Casting a ballot for the first time to elect their highest organ of power, the youth and people of Phu Yen were immensely enthusiastic. The victory of the election in Phu Yen, as well as nationwide, dealt a powerful blow to the divisive and destructive plots of domestic and foreign reactionaries; it contributed to elevating the prestige and position of the revolutionary government, demonstrated the solidary strength of brotherly ethnic groups, and educated voters on patriotism, a sense of ownership, and civic duties.

To successfully execute the set revolutionary tasks, provincial leaders concentrated on directing Party development and completely dismantling the old administrative apparatus to build a new people's government. Many active citizens who matured through the anti-Japanese movements and the August Uprising a large portion of whom were youth were selected to attend a training course for prospective Party members named the August Course and were subsequently admitted to the Party. The government system at all levels, particularly at the local level, was gradually perfected. From late 1945 to mid-1946, through two rounds of consolidation and reorganization guided by the province, most communes and villages chose active participants from the revolutionary movement to enter local leadership apparatuses, replacing old colonial functionaries. Along with Party building and government consolidation, the Viet Minh Front and mass organizations were continuously reinforced and expanded across all localities, attracting a vast number of members and youths. Thousands of youths, including many young women, eagerly joined national salvation associations, armed forces, and self-defense units. Thus, right after the joy of independence day, the youth of Phu Yen, alongside the nation's youth and people, stepped into a new battle: protecting and building the fragile, newly born revolutionary administration. The battle against ignorance and hunger and the consolidation of the government in Phu Yen achieved successes, marking the ardent patriotism of the youth and various strata of Phu Yen citizens.

3.2.2. Phu Yen Youth Participating in the Resistance, Defending and Building the Free Zone, and Mobilizing Human and Material Resources to Support the Front Lines (1947–1950)

On September 23, 1945, French troops opened fire, instigating hostilities in the South. In a letter sent to the Southern compatriots, President Ho Chi Minh commended the self-sacrificing and brave spirit of the Southern soldiers and people, affirming: “I advise compatriots to unite closely and broadly. Five fingers have short and long ones, but short or long, they all meet at the palm. Among millions of people, there are also individuals of this type or that type, but whether this or that, we are all descendants of our ancestors” (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2000, Vol. 8, p. 432).

The Southward Progress (Nam tien) movement attracted hundreds of thousands of young people to hit the road and fight in the South. The Northern and Central provinces established numerous companies and detachments composed of elite youths to urgently reinforce the struggle of the Southern people. By early 1947, Southward Progress fighters nationwide including Phu Yen with companies like Phan Thanh and the Bach Dang water detachment made up of youth members and young cadres fought shoulder-to-shoulder with the Southern people against the French invaders.

On the southern front of Phu Yen province, when French troops advanced from Nha Trang along National Highway 1 through Tu Bong and landed in Dai Lanh to strike the Deo Ca defense line, the Phu Yen Provincial Party Committee proactively established the Chu Thanh Company to join the fighting in the Khanh Hoa battlefield. The Chu Thanh Company attracted many patriotic youths and, together with Southward Progress units, held the Phuong Hoang pass defense line, fighting bravely when French troops struck down from Buon Ma Thuot to Ninh Hoa (Association of Former Young Volunteers of Phu Yen Province, 2017, p. 57).

The Provincial Party Committee directed the construction of militia, self-defense, and liberation forces; the police and security forces were also consolidated and developed by the province to maintain security, order, and social safety. In self-defense, police,

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and scout units, Phu Yen youth played a pivotal role, volunteering in training, army catering, and first aid. Fully grasping the Provincial Party Committee's Directives, the youth forces, together with the military and citizens, ambushed and annihilated French troops on the province's southern front. At Co Ma pass, young soldiers of the Tran Tao Battalion repulsed both French colonial armor and infantry. The wing of troops that landed in Dai Lanh was also beaten back by a unit of Regiment 79 led by Comrade Thu Son. Along with participating in the resistance against the French, Phu Yen youth, military, and citizens engaged in labor and production, building forces in all aspects to stand ready to defeat new French offensives.

To supply food and provisions for the battlefield, Phu Yen youth eagerly joined the production front under the slogans: "Increase production, increase production immediately, increase production further", "Not an inch of land left fallow", and "An inch of land is an inch of gold" (Ho Chi Minh, 2002, Vol. 4, p. 115). The Resistance Economic Board was established to care for and guide the development of food, provisions, and consumer goods for soldiers and people. During this time, the Phu Yen youth movement expanded extensively across districts and towns. Youth, civilian laborers, and self-defense forces in Dong Hoa district worked day and night alongside regular soldiers to dig up pass roads, drive stakes, and build ramparts. Battalion 6, commanded by Comrade An Duy Vy, along with units of the Youth Association for National Salvation and militia self-defense forces, were present day and night, ready to fight on the Deo Ca defense lines.

When the nationwide resistance broke out, the national salvation youth of Phu Yen took the lead in the scorched-earth resistance movement to impede the French advance into the Phu Yen free zone. Hundreds of sturdy brick houses in Tuy Hoa town and rural areas were dismantled with the help of youth to prevent the French from occupying them as military posts. In April 1947, the Party Central Committee Conference on Youth Mobilization pointed out that the practical duties of youth during this period were joining the army and militia to engage in combat, assisting in evacuation, popular education and primary education, uniting youth, and mobilizing youth for national salvation. President Ho Chi Minh affirmed the role of youth in the revolutionary cause, while outlining tasks for youth to strive for, practically contributing to the resistance and building the future. In a letter to the youth dated August 17, 1947, he advised: "People often say: Youth are the masters of the country. Indeed, whether the country is prosperous or declining, weak or strong, is largely due to the youth. If youth want to be worthy future masters, they must train their spirit and strength right now, working hard to prepare for that future" (Ho Chi Minh, 2002, Vol. 5, p. 185).

Following the Party Central Committee Plenum (April 1947), Party echelons in Phu Yen province organized youth conferences to thoroughly understand resistance and national construction duties, while consolidating and strengthening youth union organizations at all levels. The Phu Yen Provincial Party Committee met with district committees and the Provincial Youth Union to deploy youth work in accordance with the Central Committee's Resolution. During this period, the youth union organization developed everywhere, including in Catholic, mountainous, and coastal areas. Communes in the lowland districts and areas with strong movements established a two-level union structure (commune youth unions and branch unions); at the very least, a branch union existed with nearly a dozen members. Under the leadership of Party committees, grassroots unions and youth members exerted their revolutionary vanguard role in all activities: military training, increasing production, erasing illiteracy, helping evacuated compatriots, participating in the militia and guerrilla forces, and driving movements like enlisting to kill the enemy and scorched-earth resistance (Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union of Phu Yen Province, 2005, p. 71).

In February 1948, the Phu Yen Provincial Party Congress met in Phu Phong village (An Chan commune) to discuss urgent issues to protect and build the free zone, and to step up attacks against the French in temporarily occupied areas. The Congress also directed youth work and youth mobilization during this period to aggressively protect and build the free zone in Phu Yen, mobilizing human and material resources to serve the battlefield (Party Committee – Military Command of Phu Yen Province, 2009, p. 74). In building forces to prepare for the resistance, the Phu Yen Provincial Party Committee focused heavily on the youth stratum and regarded them as the primary force for the anti-French resistance war. After a period of force development, the majority of Phu Yen youth had joined national salvation organizations. Young women and certain young men who did not meet the criteria to join the armed forces participated in land reclamation and agricultural production to prepare food reserves for the resistance. Youth within the armed forces, besides daily military drills, actively increased production; where conditions permitted, they set up production camps to become partially self-sufficient in food and provisions.

To prevent the expansion of French occupied zones and deny them the use of infrastructure from the liberated zone, the Phu Yen Provincial Party Committee, following the Directive of the Standing Committee of the Party Central Committee, directed local party committees, authorities, and mass organizations to mobilize the population to carry out "empty gardens and houses", hide assets, build food storage facilities, and execute scorched-earth resistance. Phu Yen youth were the pioneers in this endeavor. Sparing no effort or property, tens of thousands of young men and women, especially in Song Cau, Tuy Hoa, and communes bordering both sides of the railway, demolished two-story houses. With that zealous spirit, within a short time, youth and citizens in Phu Yen erected barricades and obstacles, blocking all pathways. The Phu Yen Youth Association for National Salvation also mobilized thousands of young people to tear up entire sections of the railway track. During the days of French attacks, the youth of Phu Yen eagerly destroyed roads and planted punji stakes to slow down the enemy's advance. Even though the French conducted intense manhunts,

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adolescents and youth within the militia self-defense forces resolutely held their ground, while expanding operations to cause difficulties for the French colonialists.

Subsequently, the Resolution of the 2nd Phu Yen Provincial Party Congress emphasized the task of building strong local armed forces in all aspects, educating the province's people to deeply assimilate the national, comprehensive, and long-term nature of the resistance, relying primarily on their own strength, and strengthening Party building. From April to July 1948, the Party Central Committee outlined revolutionary tasks: stepping up guerrilla warfare in French-occupied areas; defeating the French pacification plan; turning the enemy's rear into our frontline ; building and protecting the Nam-Ngai-Binh-Phu free zone into a solid revolutionary base and rear area, not only for the Southern Central region but also for the Lower Laos and Northeastern Cambodia battlefields ; and coordinating with the Lao and Cambodian revolutions to build a combat position against the French at the Indochina Crossroads.

Grasping the guidance of the Central Committee and the Resolution of the Provincial Party Committee, the Phu Yen Youth Association for National Salvation exerted all efforts to boost production and build armed forces. Youth forces joined the nationwide arming movement with self-awareness, viewing it as an essential duty of youth. Youth in coastal areas erected signal poles to notify fishermen at sea and people inland of French naval activities offshore. Responding to the general production movement, youth forces answered the call of Comrade Pham Van Dong to “strive to develop the economy and culture, become self-sufficient in food and clothing, and raise the people's standards in all aspects...” (Association of Former Young Volunteers of Phu Yen Province, 2017, p. 63). Youth in Dong Xuan, Tuy An, and Son Hoa districts worked alongside farmers to plant rice, sweet potatoes, and other food crops to serve the battlefield, achieving significant results.

Executing the Central Committee's line on building regular and local troops to meet increasingly large-scale demands, the people's warfare movement in Phu Yen was accelerated, consolidated, and developed. Increasing production became a widespread mass movement. The human and material strength of the Phu Yen people was mobilized to the highest degree to serve the front line. The number of civilian laborers supporting battlefield transport in 1949 rose to 22,000 people with 300,000 workdays, including 7,030 laborers transporting food and weapons to the Northern Khanh Hoa battlefield (Military Command of Phu Yen Province, 1993, p. 82). Youth forces participated in transport using pack horses. Hundreds of pack horses were mobilized to transport weapons and food to supply the Khanh Hoa and Dac Lac battlefields. Alongside the vibrant civilian labor movement, the people of Phu Yen eagerly contributed 240 million piastres to troop support funds.

As the resistance and national construction cause progressed, the role of the Youth Union and youth mobilization work grew ever grander. The Party and Uncle Ho paid close attention to the work of mobilizing, educating, and training youth, shaping them into a loyal and outstanding generation to succeed the glorious revolutionary cause of the Party and nation. On July 24, 1950, the Party Central Committee Plenum issued a resolution on youth mobilization, stating clearly the importance, position, nature, and duties of youth organizations. The resolution emphasized that the task of youth mobilization was to pioneer the fulfillment of national liberation duties, develop the people's democratic regime, and advance toward socialism. Under the leadership of the Party, a generation of progressive, patriotic, and internationally solidary youth, fully capable of excellently fulfilling all revolutionary tasks, matured. The resolution set forth four immediate tasks for youth mobilization: mobilizing youth to pioneer the resistance, completing preparations to transition to a general counter-offensive; resolutely building a loyal youth organization close to the Party, broadly expanding the youth front; bringing practical benefits to youth, particularly focusing on cultural and vocational learning for youth; and educating children and adolescents.

Grasping the Central Committee's Resolution on youth work and the Resolution of the Phu Yen Provincial Party Committee, the Youth Association for National Salvation actively mobilized the population to contribute material wealth to serve the resistance. In tandem with mobilization movements, Phu Yen's youth actively boosted production, and a movement to save food and provisions was launched vigorously and enthusiastically. Phu Yen youth concentrated all mental and physical strength to defeat both the French colonialists and the famine enemy. Thanks to timely policies and favorable weather, the campaign to plant secondary crops yielded high efficiency. In the rice fields of Tuy Hoa, Tuy An, and Dong Xuan, after the Suoi Cai flume bridge over the Da Rang River was severely damaged by French bombing, youth forces worked actively with farmers to sow an additional 5,400 hectares of black rice. Youth were also mobilized to eliminate rats and protect crops. The Youth Union mobilized multiple forces to participate in constructing the Mang bridge and digging the Bau Sung ditch.

In addition, Phu Yen youth participated in repairing schools destroyed by bombing, building new schools, and encouraging everyone to attend classes. On the opening day of the 1950–1951 school year, 19,109 students went to school, an increase of 3,000 students over the previous year, including 146 lower secondary students (Military Command of Phu Yen Province, 1993, p. 102). Many youths who graduated from these schools volunteered for the army, becoming armed forces soldiers in Phu Yen.

The French forces' attacks on the free zone caused numerous atrocities, intensifying the hatred of the Phu Yen people and strengthening their resolve to fight. Many families encouraged their children to enlist, and young people eagerly joined the armed forces. During the recruitment drives of 1950, thousands of youths volunteered for the military. The number of new recruits supplemented by the province to Inter-regiment 80–83 and Regiment 84 was 1,893 people. Fulfilling the Party Congress Resolution

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to strengthen local armed forces to adequately handle local military tasks, replacing regiments in charge of localities to build a mobile regular bloc for Inter-zone V, each district established a local company based on the province's three core companies: 377, 392, and 389. Tuy An district had Company 374, Dong Xuan district had Company 371, Son Hoa district had Company 380, and Tuy Hoa had Company 245 (though it only had two platoons with a strength of 70 men). The strength of local troops at the provincial and district levels stood at 1,351 men. Additionally, the communes of Hoa Xuan, Hoa Vinh, Hoa Phong, Hoa Kien, Hoa Tan, Hoa Dinh, and Hoa Hiep each possessed a concentrated guerrilla platoon ranging from 45 to 70 men. Communes in Tuy An urgently established concentrated guerrilla platoons as well.

Youth forces were the core elements participating in regular military units stationed in Phu Yen province and contributed to glorious victories in protecting the free zone. At the end of March 1950, the Ca Lui guerrilla team, alongside youth forces, organized attacks and threw grenades into the Ma Phu post. Company 377 and the guerrilla platoons of Hoa Xuan, Hoa Tan, and Hoa Vinh were assigned to manage the Hoa Xuan fronts. Although lacking support from regular main-force troops, local troops and guerrillas still organized encirclements and ambushes, inflicting heavy damage on many French units sweeping out from Hiem mountain. On July 2, 1950, a unit of Company 377 used landmines to ambush enemy forces at Da Den, killing 15 French soldiers and wounding several others. At the end of September 1950, Company 377 again organized an ambush at the Luoi Go bridge, severely damaging a French company and eliminating 22 French soldiers on the spot. Capitalizing on these victories, in mid-October 1950, the company organized another ambush at the Lon bridge in Hoa Xuan commune, heavily damaging a French company, eliminating 25 French soldiers, and wounding one.

The victorious results of the main-force units stationed in Phu Yen province contained a significant contribution from the youth and adolescents of Phu Yen, initially protecting the Inter-zone V free zone and mobilizing human and material resources to serve the nationwide battlefield. Under the leadership of the Central Committee, the Central Youth Union, and the Phu Yen Provincial Party Committee, the youth forces made major contributions across multiple fields from 1945 to 1950. Youth forces played an active role in the anti-illiteracy movement, building a new lifestyle, maintaining security and order, and joining armed forces to fight the French colonialists. Many heroic examples sacrificed their lives for the cause of building and protecting the fragile revolutionary administration following the August Revolution.

3.3. Contributions of the Phu Yen Youth Movement in the Resistance and National Construction Period (1946–1950)

The youth forces of Phu Yen demonstrated a vanguard, creative, and dedicated spirit across all domains political, military, economic, and cultural becoming a loyal force and making monumental contributions to the victory of the anti-French resistance during the 1946–1950 period:

Building and protecting the nascent revolutionary administration: Phu Yen youth forces participated in defending the revolutionary government during the 1945–1946 stage. Many young people held roles as cadres in the communal and district government apparatuses right after the August Revolution of 1945.

Establishing and developing self-defense forces: Factory and local self-defense teams, with youth as the core, supported the seizure of power and protected the new government. Furthermore, Phu Yen youth participated in manufacturing weapons, contributing to the construction of the ordnance factory, and collecting and transporting supplies.

Socio-educational contributions: The youth movement actively organized national script classes and increased production in the spirit of "every inch of land is an inch of gold".

Participating in armed forces and defending the free zone: From 1946, Phu Yen youth readily joined armed, guerrilla, and militia self-defense units. They served as the vanguard in typical battles at Co Ma pass, Luoi Go bridge, and Lon bridge (Hoa Xuan). They participated in scorched-earth resistance by demolishing houses, railways, and bridges to impede the French, notably in Tuy Hoa town and along the railway lines.

Joining the Southward Progress forces: Joining youth nationwide to reinforce the Southern battlefield.

Mobilizing human and material resources for the front line and frontline civilian labor: Phu Yen youth actively transported weapons and food via human power and pack horses. In 1949 alone, they contributed up to 300,000 workdays and 7,030 transport shifts to the Khanh Hoa – Dak Lak battlefield. Beyond calling for financial and material contributions (such as participating in Gold Week and building the Independence Fund), youth forces engaged in large-scale production to ensure local logistics, supporting both soldiers and civilian livelihoods.

Building a new cultural life and education: Phu Yen youth mobilized the population to build a new cultural lifestyle and carry out educational work, eradicating illiteracy for ethnic minority communities by opening classes in villages, markets, communal houses, and private homes. In mass mobilization work, youth actively propagated and executed youth mobilization duties, contributing to consolidating the Viet Minh Front and national salvation mass organizations.

Building political forces, the Youth Union organization, and Party development: Phu Yen youth served as the core force to develop the Youth Association for National Salvation. During the 1946–1950 period, the union organization appeared in almost all localities, including deep and remote areas, supplying human resources for the Party. Many young people were admitted to the August Course

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for prospective Party members, becoming successive cadres who held pivotal roles in propagating revolutionary ideals and the spirit of resistance and national construction.

4. CONCLUSION

In the heroic historical flow of the nation, the resistance and national construction period (1946–1950) was a journey full of hardships but uniquely glorious. Against that backdrop, the youth of Phu Yen proved their role as a vanguard and core force, contributing actively across all fields to protect and build the nascent revolutionary government. They were not only pioneers in consolidating the administration, erasing illiteracy, and combating the enemies of hunger and ignorance, but also resilient fighters on the armed front joining guerrilla teams, self-defense forces, and frontline civilian labor to transport weapons and food to supply the front lines. They were present on every front, from labor and production to scorched-earth resistance, propaganda, education, culture, and building a new life. Under the leadership of the Party and the Phu Yen Provincial Party Committee, the youth movement grew continuously, becoming a pillar of support and the successor to the revolutionary cause.

From those monumental contributions, it can be firmly asserted that: the Phu Yen youth movement during the resistance and national construction period was not only an indispensable part of local history but also an important link in the national liberation struggle of the Vietnamese people. This provides a valuable lesson in patriotism, revolutionary will, and civic responsibility values that need to be inherited and promoted in the cause of building and protecting the Fatherland today.

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