

International women's movement as seen through the Vietnamese Press before the 1945 August Revolutionary

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During the first years of the 20th century, especially after the First World War, Vietnamese women got involved to be an important social force and became the object for use of contemporary political parties and organizations. Under the colonial restrict censorship, topics on women seemed to be rather safe for discussions on political and social issues. Thus, in accordance to the increase of published journals in Vietnamese, women issues became the focus of debates. Almost every journal published in this period included items or pages for women in which international feminist movement was introduced. On the one hand, articles written about it reflected the history of the struggles for women's equality in the world, summarizing International Women Congress as well as introducing exemplary women and women's achievements elsewhere. On the other hand, these articles also mirrored political attitude and viewpoints of different classes and social groups on feminist movements. For the communists and nationalists who fought for national independence, the international feminist movements, particularly the achievements of Soviet women, became the encouraging exemplary for Vietnamese women to be part of the national revolutionary, which is also the prerequisite for women's liberation and gender equality. At the same time, the bourgeois intellectuals were on the side with their women in the movements for equality within the frame of bourgeois society. There are also some articles describing the heavy influence of Confucianism on some scholar groups, as seen through their judgment of the international women's movements.

In sum, I conclude that, by introducing the international women's movements, the Vietnamese Press before the 1945 August Revolutionary contributed to the development of the women's mobilization movement in Vietnam.