

DOCTORAL THESIS SUMMARY

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Thesis title: Co Bon Village (Dong Thanh, Dong Son, Thanh Hoa) from its establishment to the mid-19th century

Dissertation field: Social sciences

Major: Vietnamese History

Code: 9.22.90.13

Name of the postgraduate training unit: Faculty of Social Sciences, Hong Duc University.

1. Purpose and research objects of the thesis

- *Research purpose:* The thesis clarifies the formation and development process of Co Bon village from its establishment to the mid-nineteenth century in terms of economy, society, and culture. From there, the characteristics of Co Bon village are determined in a comparative view with some traditional Vietnamese villages in the Ma River Delta and across the country.

- *Research object:* History of formation and development of Co Bon land from its establishment to the mid-19th century in the fields of economy, culture, society, and achievements in examinations.

2. Research methods used

- The thesis mainly uses historical and logical methods to clarify the history of the formation and development of villages and; the socio-economic and cultural characteristics of Co Bon land from its establishment to the mid-19th century.

- Methods of analysis, synthesis, regional studies, quantitative and fieldwork are used to synthesize and analyze sources of documents, evaluate the relationships and impacts of factors, and conduct local field surveys to highlight the economic, cultural, and social characteristics of Co Bon land in the process of regional and national history.

- The thesis also uses some research methods from related disciplines such as ethnology, cultural studies, and archaeology.

3. Main results and conclusions

3.1. Key results

- In the context of chapter 1 "Overview of the research situation and sources of documents", through survey, analysis, and evaluation, the author of the thesis found that Vietnamese villages have long been a topic attracting the attention of many domestic and foreign scientists. Many research works on traditional Vietnamese villages have been published. The research results contribute to clarifying the characteristics and roles of villages in the process of national history. However, due to the diversity and specificity of

traditional villages, there is still a great need for research works on villages from many scientific fields, including History.

In the case of Co Bon Village, there have been many research works, theses, and magazine articles published, but there has not been a systematic, comprehensive research work on Co Bon Village, especially one that delves into the socio-economic situation. Therefore, this is still a gap that needs to be thoroughly and deeply studied.

The sources of documents about Thanh Hoa land, Dong Son district, and Co Bon village are generally diverse, rich, and valuable. This is the necessary source of documents for the author of the thesis to reconstruct the overall picture of Co Bon village from its establishment to the mid-nineteenth century.

- In Chapter 2 "*The Process of Formation and Development of Co Bon Village*", the thesis analyzes and clarifies the geographical location, natural conditions; the process of formation and development of the village, and typical historical and cultural traditions.

In terms of geographical location and natural conditions, Co Bon has a "prime" geographical location and a convenient transportation system. The terrain, rivers, soil, and climate are favorable for production and people's lives. All of these have left strong marks through economic achievements and unique traditional cultural activities of the Co Bon community.

Regarding the history of the formation and development of villages, Co Bon village was initially called Ke Bon, later changed to Co Bon then Bo Lo Trang or Trang Bon. Located in the cultural space - Dong Son civilization, Co Bon land very early became a gathering place for ancient Vietnamese residents, creating densely populated areas for the birth of villages. Although traces of ancient Vietnamese settlement have not been discovered in Co Bon land, the sources of documents, names as well and evidence discovered in neighboring lands have proven the process of settlement, the formation of villages in Co Bon land from the early dawn of national history.

The common feature of the formation of villages is the process of settlement of many clans. Typical are the Nguyen, Le, Cao, Thieu, Luu clans... In the process of joining hands to transform nature and build villages, the community of generations of Co Bon residents has created many typical historical and cultural traditions. In general, Co Bon village history has both the common cultural denominator of wet rice farming residents and the appearance of "Ke Bon" - a land bordering many famous villages with a long tradition of famous Mandarin examinations in Thanh land.

- In the content of chapter 3 "*Economy, politics - society of Co Bon village*", the research results clearly show the situation of land ownership, in general, in Co Bon, there are diverse forms of ownership. Of which, public land ownership accounts for a small number with an area of 62.4.01.3 (accounting for 4.67%) and tends to narrow. Private

land is increasingly developing and has a large area in the total land of the village in Co Bon land (area 1267.5.04.7, accounting for 95.33% of public and private land area).

The history of the formation and development of villages in Co Bon from the early days until the mid-nineteenth century was closely linked to rice farming. From very early on, the agricultural economy had an important meaning for the Co Bon community. The establishment of the Bon market played an important role in the trade of goods between Co Bon and neighboring localities.

Regarding the socio-political situation, until the mid-nineteenth century, the socio-political organization of Co Bon land included official and non-official organizations and units that made up the village such as alleys, hamlets, wards, families, clans, and the Advisory Association... The socio-political organization in Co Bon village generally had the characteristics of the socio-political organization of other villages in the Ma River Delta and throughout the country.

- In the content of chapter 4 "*Culture and achievements of the examinations in Co Bon village*", the thesis focuses on clarifying the traditional culture (tangible and intangible cultural heritage) and outstanding achievements in the examinations of Co Bon land. In general, Co Bon land still has rich, diverse, and valuable historical and cultural relics. Cultural depth is also expressed through traditional festivals, customs - practices, religions - beliefs, and folk literature, especially Co Bon. However, in the process of transformation from "village to city", the traditional culture of Co Bon village is at risk of being lost, destroyed, or transformed. Therefore, there is a need for practical policies and appropriate solutions to preserve and promote the cultural values in Co Bon land to achieve optimal efficiency.

During the process of settling down for thousands of years, generations of Co Bon residents have built the locality into a famous land of mandarinates not only in Thanh Hoa but also in the whole country; contributing to making Dong Son land a famous land of learning in Thanh Hoa with "*Dong Son tu Bon, Hoang Hoa luong Bot*".

3.2. Conclusion

- Co Bon village has a geographical location, natural conditions, and a convenient transportation system for the production and living of the local community. This is a factor that has a significant impact on the settlement and development of villages in Co Bon land in the flow of local and national history.

- The research results of the thesis allow for initial conclusions: Co Bon Village has had ancient Vietnamese residents since the Dong Son culture and civilization period nearly 3000 years ago. The outstanding feature of the process of village formation is the process of settlement of many clans. Typical ones are the Nguyen, Cao, Le, Thieu, Luu, etc.

The people of Co Bon are industrious, hard-working, and creative in production; resilient and indomitable in the fight against foreign invaders; and at the same time, they are always conscious of preserving and promoting the cultural traditions of their homeland. In particular, the tradition of studiousness has made Co Bon a famous village of scholars in Thanh Hoa. That historical depth and cultural depth are a source of pride as well as a source of great strength for generations of Co Bon residents to continue to promote in the new era; contributing to building the homeland of Co Bon to become increasingly rich and civilized.

- From its establishment until the mid-nineteenth century, Co Bon village had the economic characteristics of a traditional Vietnamese village. The economic sectors in Co Bon included agriculture and trading activities. Of which, agriculture was the key economic sector, playing an important role in the economic life of the village. Bon market was the place where important trading activities took place. The stability and development of the economy were the basis for Co Bon residents to stabilize their lives and create culture.

- The characteristics of the political and social situation of Co Bon village from its establishment to the mid-nineteenth century were basically similar to other villages in Thanh Hoa and the whole country. The state managed and bound each individual through the village administrative apparatus with dignitaries such as Village Chief, Deputy Village Chief, Village Priest, and Village Chief. In addition to the administrative management apparatus and "*laws of the country*", Co Bon village also had a Council of Elders and a system of village rules that played an important role in regulating relationships in the community. The population structure was divided into four groups, including Scholars, farmers, workers, and merchants. Because it was a village of scholars, the scholars in Co Bon were quite numerous and were respected by the village. Alleys and hamlets were considered a way to gather people according to area and living space...

- In the course of history, the land of Co Bon can be considered as the convergence area, the center of cultural development of the Dong Son land, and has many contributions to local and national history. The vestiges of temples, communal houses, proverbs, folk performances, and the excellent and highly educated people of Co Bon village have gone deep into the consciousness of the local community. Although the elements that make up the cultural appearance of Co Bon land are no longer intact, the remaining vestiges have reflected the cultural characteristics of a traditional village. All of these have created for Co Bon a unique cultural appearance that not every land has.

- Conducting research on Co Bon village from its establishment to the mid-nineteenth century, many issues have been resolved by the author of the thesis.

Therefore, this can be considered a comprehensive research work on the economic, social, and cultural fields of Co Bon village from its establishment to the mid-nineteenth century. The research results of the thesis contribute to further consolidating the theory, approach, and research methods on villages in Vietnam and Thanh Hoa, and at the same time bring profound practical value in the process of building and developing the country.

COLLECTIVE GUIDANCE

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