Geography of the Film “Indochine”

Catie Karst, Jared Wachholz & Diana Bryan-Baker
Geographical Themes of Indochine

• Location
  • Map of Saigon

• Movement
  • Camille’s Journey North

• Place
  • Climate
  • Topography/Karst Distribution

• Region
  • French Culture v. Indochina Culture
  • French Imperialism/Colonialism
Theme 1: Location of Film - Saigon

Not to Scale
Theme 2: Movement - Camille’s Journey in *Indochine*

- Saigon (Start)
- Camille travels alone by Railroad
- Travel by Foot
- Camille meets Sao and Family
- Town affected by Cholera
- Missionary Food
- Halong Bay: Camille finds Jean Baptiste
- Karst Topography
- Camille and Baptiste travel by sailing
- Buddhist Temple
- Travel by carriage with Communist Theatrical Troupes
- Communist Uprisings with Theatrical Troupes
- Jean Baptiste gets captured

Start
Theme 3: Place- Climate in *Indochine*

- Indochina has **a very wet and humid** climate.
- In the movie, it rains typically when **depressing or bad things** are happening.
  - Ex. when Eliane was having intercourse in the car with Jean-Baptiste and when Camille and Jean are near death on their boat trip
- The rain also, plays a big part in their **rice farming** because it must be grown in a wet climate.
- It is clear that the temperature is **very hot** in the film as well. Jean-Baptiste complains of heat several times.
Theme 3: Place- Karst Distribution in *Indochine*

**Karst Topography**

- Karst Topography is prominent in Indochina and was shown in *Indochine*.

- In the film it was shown when Camille was being transported over Halong Bay. The Karst topography is a recognizable feature of coastal locations.
Theme 4: Region- French Culture v. Indigenous Culture in *Indochine*

**French Culture**
- Architecture consisted of **imported styles found in Asia** - combined with **Western style**
- **Motor Vehicles** as main type of transportation
- **Light Colored, plain** clothing
- **Love** in Marriage
- Brought civilization and modernity to reinforce their **High status** in Indochina
- Well **educated, literate**

**Indochina Culture**
- **Oriental, Detailed** Architecture for wealthy, or run down shacks/no housing for poor
- **Travel by foot**, or animal drawn carriages
- **Dark Colored, Light-weight** clothing.
- **Arranged** Marriage
- Were under French rule, and had relatively **lower status**
- Little education
Theme 4: Region-French Imperialism in *Indochine*

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<th>Imperialism</th>
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| - Revolts occurred all through the period of French Rule **mid 19th century to 1954**  
- French wanted region because of more land and for valuable resources such as rubber, rice, cotton, oil and timber that was abundant in the region  
- **French took over region** forced them to trade  
- French believed they were **superior to other ethnicities**  
- **Imposing** superior culture and beliefs on the people of Indochina | - The film took place throughout this time and ends with the Geneva conference in 1954  
- Ex. Elianne’s **Rubber farm**, and the rice fields seen throughout Camille’s travels.  
- Jean-Baptist and Guy (both French) both clearly **control** the indigenous population. Jean sets boats on fire and Guy controls police forces.  
- Eliane, Jean and others **frequently beat the indigenous people** and treat them with **disrespect**  
- Many Vietnamese **attended French schools** and wore French style clothing and learned the French language |

**French Empire (1919-1939)**
Resources

• https://facultystaff.richmond.edu/~ebolt/history398/Indochine.html

http://gwendolyncuizon.suite101.com/film-review-indochine-a97015

