The French Connection, Part Deux: Sects And Drugs

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The French Connection

French Connection, Part Deux

- French Expeditionary Forces
- Binh Xuyen
- Operation X
French Expeditionary Forces

- First Indochina War
- Captain Antoine Savani
  - Corsican Machiavelli
- Major Roger Trinquier
  - Scientific Tactician
- Deuxième Bureau
Modern Warfare
A French View of Counterinsurgency
Roger Trinquier
French Expeditionary Forces

- New Counterinsurgency Strategies
- Supplementary Forces
- Hill Tribes
- Binh Xuyen Pirates
SDECE

- Service de Documentation Extérieure Et de Contre-Espionnage
- French Equivalent Of The CIA
- Colonel Maurice Belleux
MACG

- Mixed Airborne Commando Group
- Hill Tribes Of Central Highlands
- Training Camp At Cap Saint Jacques
  - Vung Tau
Corsicans

- Italian Catholic Culture
- Marseille, France
- Gangsters, Cops Or Priests
- Syndicates And Underworld
Corsican Syndicates

- French Fascists, Gestapo, CIA
- Political Influence
- Marseille’s Heroin Laboratories
- International Crime
Binh Xuyyen

- River Pirates, 1920s
- Terrorism, Extortion, Paramilitary Intelligence
- Opium Refineries
- Bay Vien
  - Boss Tweed
  - Al Capone
Shifting Loyalties

- French
- Japanese
- Viet Minh
Dieuxieme Bureau – 1948

- Binh Xuyen Swore Loyalty To Bao Dai
- Viet Minh Roundup
- Increasing Control Over Saigon
- Chief Of Police
French Opium Monopoly

- 1862
  - Legal Opium Franchise
- Created Revenues For New Colony
- 1863 – 1883
  - Expanded To Other Areas In Indochina
French Opium Monopoly

- Anti-Opium Crusade
  - 1920s And 1930s
- Exploitation Of Vietnam By French
- World War II Embargoes
- Meo Tribesmen
  - Laos
  - Tonkin
Operation X

- 1946
  - Opium Monopoly Ended
  - First Indochina War Began
- Unpopular War
- Curtailed Military Funding
- Secret Opium Trafficking To Finance Covert Operations
Operation X

- Top Secret, Known To Few
- Sanctioned By
  - Colonel Maurice Belleux (SDECE)
  - General Raoul Salan (FEC)
- MACG
- Major Trinquier Supervised Purchase Of Opium From Meo
Operation X

- Opium Flown To Cap Saint Jacques
- Trucked To Saigon
- Binh Xuyen Refineries (2)
- Captain Savani
  - Dieuxième Bureau
Operation X

- Sold In Opium Dens
  - Saigon-Cholon
- Proceeds Split
  - Macg
  - Deuxième Bureau
  - Bao Dai
- Excess Sold
  - Chinese Merchants
  - Corsican Syndicates
- Export
  - Hong Kong
  - Marseille
Colonel Edward Lansdale

- 1953
  - Discovered Operation X
- Told To Keep Quiet, Don’t Embarrass Friendly Government
April 1955

- CIA And Deuxième Bureau Battle For Saigon
- Diem Holed Up In Presidential Palace
- Captain Savani At Binh Xuyen HQ In Cholon
May 1955

- Binh Xuyen Defeated
- Opium Traffic Halted In Saigon For 3 Years
- Opium Trade Becomes Purview Of Small Time Criminals
The Ghost Of Operation X
The Ghost Of Operation X

- 1958
  - Diem’s Brother Nhu Needs Money
- Opium Traffic Revived
- Corsican Charter Airline
  - Air Laos Commercial
- Dr. Tran Kim Tuyen
Nguyen Cao Ky

Nguyen Ngoc Loan
Nguyen Ngoc Loan

- Director Of Military Security Service
- Director Of Central Intelligence Organization
- Director-General Of National Police
Nguyen Ngoc Loan

- Revived Large Scale Corruption
- Organized Opium Exports
- Contacted Corsicans And Chinese
- Taxed Corsican Morphine Exports To Europe
- Taxed Chinese Morphine And Opium Exports To Hong Kong
Nguyen Van Thieu
Alfred McCoy
Counterinsurgency

- Binh Xuyen Effectively Countered Urban Guerilla Warfare
- Combination Of Counterinsurgency And Crime
- Governments And Gangsters
- Blurred Lines Between War And Law Enforcement
- Nicaragua, Afghanistan, Pakistan
Questions

• Thank You