



The Recognition of Vietnam's Paracels Island and Spratlys Island Associates Through Geographical Works Published in Germany, Italia, Bohemia, Belgium In The 19TH Century

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Abstract. In this article, we focus on exploiting materials from geographical works published in Germany, Italy, Bohemia [present-day Czech], Belgium, within the limit from 1816, when King Gia Long officially continued to claim possession of the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes, until 1909, before the Guangdong government, China jumped into the sovereignty dispute. In order to contribute to supplementing and completing documents of international legal value proving the process of peaceful exploitation and possession of Vietnam in the features in the two archipelagoes of Hoang Sa and Truong Sa taking place for many centuries. century, culminating in the official declaration of state possession in 1816 by King Gia Long under the Nguyen Dynasty and recognized by the international community.

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1. Introduction:

In the past, besides dictionaries, encyclopedias and other works of scientists, scholars, world managers had great value in terms of international legal recognition of the sovereignty of the two archipelagos. Hoang Sa and Truong Sa belong to Vietnam, there are also geographical works of the world which are also objective, internationally recognized and used for research, study, teaching, dissemination of good knowledge, etc. widely applied in society, in international or regional relations, long before China entered a dispute with Vietnam since 1909.

World geography is a kind of work that gathers multifaceted knowledge and information of human history; including geographical territories, natural conditions, area, population, economy, political institutions and territorial sovereignty, rivers and mountains, coasts and islands, etc..., of countries and territories In the world. The contents included in the geography book are the knowledge that has been formed and drawn on the stable practice, or from the results of reports on surveys, surveys, research, etc. of individuals or organizations operating activities. or management in many fields around the world have previously published, known or recognized the world before the time of publication of the work.

The internationality of world geography works is very high, closely related to the territorial sovereignty, sea and islands of all countries and territories in the world mentioned in the book. Therefore, their content is always

carefully considered, screened and verified by the individual or agency compiling and publishing, and is always verified, acknowledged/or reacted by the international community. access, receive and use the facility.

With the above characteristics, similar to the genre of dictionaries or encyclopedias, world geography works are often biased towards objective and neutral description of the issues mentioned in books, especially are world issues that have little or no relevance to the subject compiling or publishing the work. When a certain problem in the world is mentioned by many geographical works, with many authors and published in many different countries, but with similar content, they have gained valuable value. international law, based on the official recognition of many countries around the world through those widely circulated works.

2. Works recognizing the two archipelagoes of Hoang Sa and Truong Sa belonging to the geographical territory and the right to exploit and possess official state ownership in 1816 of Vietnam:

The recognition of geographical territory and the right to exploit and possess the two archipelagoes of Vietnam's Hoang Sa and Truong Sa has been included in world geographical works in Europe quite early, right from the time of the Nguyen Lords. managed the land of Dang

Trong and also at the beginning of the reign of King Gia Long of the Nguyen Dynasty.

Since King Gia Long declared official state ownership of the Hoang Sa archipelago in 1816, the issue of geographical territorial sovereignty and the right to exploit and possess the two archipelagoes of Hoang Sa and Truong Sa is Vietnam is more widely recognized by the international community; Since then, the works on geography around the world have also included this content in publications more and more specifically than before.

In Germany, the early geographical work that recognized Vietnam's sovereignty over the Paracel Islands after the declaration of King Gia Long in 1816 was a multi-volume publication titled: Die Erdkunde von Asien [Geography of Asia] (The words enclosed in brackets) of famous geographer Carl Ritter, published in Berlin for many years.

922 Ost-Asien. Hinter-Indien. II. Abschn. §. 84.

mit und Speit-Granit, nach Crawfurds und Jinslasons Beobachtung, wie derjenige, welcher den Hauptbestandtheil der Continental-Kette zu bilden scheint; eben so wenig leicht verwitterbar wie jener, daher überall nur sparsam mit geringer Erdbedecke überzogen, kaum mit Erdkrume überdeckt. Gleichartig gebildete Küstentlippen ziehen sich, von da, sparsam nachwärts, unter denen Pulo Canton (richtiger Col lao Ray) und Cham col lao (richtiger Col lao Cham), vor der Turon-Bay, und andere, nur locales Interesse haben. Der fernere abliegende, gefahrvolle, unbewohnte Klippen-Archipel, die Paracels²⁾ (zwischen 16° bis 17° N.Br. und 111° bis 113° D.L. v. Gr.), berühmt durch Schildkrötenfang und Fischeret, im S.D. der Hainan-Insel, voll Sandbänke und Riffen, welche der König von Cochinchina, seit 1816, als Theil seiner Herrschaft, ohne allen Widerspruch seiner Nachbarn in Besitz genommen hat, ist schon nicht mehr zu den Ostasien zu rechnen; sie gehören dem freien Oceane an.

Excerpts describing the coast of Cochinchina and the Paracel Islands and the fact that King Gia Long officially declared possession in 1816 in the book published in Germany in 1834: Die Erdkunde von Asien, Band III: Die Erdkunde im Verhältniss zur Natur und zur Geschichte des Menschen: oder allgemeine vergleichende Geographie, als sichere Grundlage des Studiums und Unterrichts in physikalischen und historischen Wissenschaften, Bei G. Reimer, Berlin (Deutschland), 1834, seite 922.

In volume III, published in 1834: Die Erdkunde im Verhältniss zur Natur und zur Geschichte des Menschen: oder allgemeine vergleichende Geographie, als sichere Grundlage des Studiums und Unterrichts in physikalischen und historischen people: or general comparative geography, as a safe basis for the study and teaching of the physical and historical sciences], in the section Übersicht des gegenwärtigen Cochinchinesischen Reiches [Overview of the current Cochinchinese Empire], from page 911 to page 1063, the book describes the topography

between the coast of Cochinchina and the Hoang Sa archipelago as well as the event that King Gia Long declared possession of this archipelago in 1816 as follows:

“...Everywhere was covered with only a small amount of rough soil, almost without a layer of fleshy soil. The coastal cliffs form in a slightly shifting form, cautiously, with islands, including Pulo Canton (or rather Col lao Ray) [Cu Lao Ray, ie Ly Son island] and Cham col lao (rather Collao Cham) [Cu Lao Cham] (The originals in the book, including in parentheses), Turon Bay [Da Nang], and others are local only. The remote, dangerous, unspoiled cliffs are in the Paracels [Paracel Islands, 19th century also including the Spratlys], between 16° and 17° North latitude, and 111° to 113° East longitude, famous for turtles and fish, to the southeast of Hainan Island. These sandy islets and shoals have been claimed by König von Cochinchina [King of Cochinchina] (Before 1834, the noun Cochinchina, or Cochinchine or Cochinchine, was used internationally, still having the old meaning of the land of Cochinchina) since 1816, without any objection from good neighbours, no longer a worthless wasteland in the vast ocean...” (Carl Ritter: Die Erdkunde von Asien, Band III). In 1839, another geographical work in German by Johann Gottfried Sommer was titled: Taschenbuch zur Verbreitung geographischer Kenntnisse. Eine Übersicht des Neuesten und Wissens-würdigsten im Gebiete der gesammten Länder- und Völkerkunde [Paperback book Spreading geographical knowledge - An overview of the latest and most interesting in the country and Ethnography], published The edition in the city of Prag [Prah, in the former Bohemia, now in the Czech Republic], continues to contain information about the official possession of the Paracel Islands in 1816 by King Gia Long.

In subsection VI: Cochinchina [Cochinchina], from page 283 to page 322, the book writes about the events of 1816 as follows:

“...There are many islands on the coast of Cochinchina [Cochinchina]. If we start from the tip of the Gulf of Siam, the race of Cochinchina has spread to the large island of Ko-kram [in the Gulf of Siam], located approximately below 13° north latitude, easily identifiable by the Siamese. . These and other adjacent islands to Kokong [in the Gulf of Siam, now in Cambodia] belonged to Siam. On the other hand, the entire chain of large islands from here to Pulo-Übi [Hon Khoai] belongs to Cochinchinesen [Cochinchina], including Pulo-Pandschang [Tho Chau island, also called Tho Chu] and Pulo-We [in the Gulf of Siam] La], although both are located far from the coast. Most of these islands are small, steep, covered with jungle, uninhabited and untapped. In the sea of chinesischen Gewässern [the China Sea, Vietnam calls the East Sea], the important islands under the sole sovereignty of Cochinchina are Pulo-Condore [Kun Lon, or Con Dao], Pulo-Canton, which is rather are Col-lao-Ray [Cu Lao Ray], and Tscham-col-lao, but rather Col-

lao-tschem [Cu Lao Cham]. In addition to these islands, Beherrscher von Cochinchina [Ruler of Cochinchina, ie King Gia Long] in 1816 claimed possession of the dangerous and uninhabited cliff archipelago, consisting of a large number of islands, small, rocky beaches, sand dunes and called Paracels [Hoang Sa]. It would be difficult for anyone to object to his empire over this newly established territory..." (Johann Gottfried Sommer: Taschenbuch zur Verbreitung geographischer Kenntnisse.)

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COCHINCHINA.

An der Küste von Cochinchina liegen eine Menge Inseln. Wenn man vom Siamesischen Busen anfängt, so hat sich hier die cochinchinesische Rasse bis zur grossen Insel Ko-kram verbreitet, welche fast unter 13° nördl. Br. liegt und bei heiterer Luft von der siamesischen Rheeide erkannt werden kann. Diese und andere Inseln in der Nachbarschaft, bis nach Kokong herab, gehören indessen den Siamesen. Dagegen gehört die ganze grosse Inselkette von hier an bis nach Pulo-Ubi den Cochinchinesen, mit Einschluss von Pulo-Pandschang und Pulo-We, obschon beide von der Küste weit entfernt liegen. Die meisten dieser Inseln sind klein, steil, mit dickem Wald bedeckt, unbewohnt und unangebaut. In den chinesischen Gewässern sind die einzigen bedeutenden zu Cochinchina gehörigen Inseln Pulo-Condore, Pulo-Canton, richtiger Col-lao-Ray, und Tscham-col-lao, eigentlich Col-lao-tschem. Ausser diesen Inseln nahm der Beherrscher von Cochinchina im J. 1816 Besitz von dem unbewohnten und gefährlichen Klippen-Archipel, der aus einer Menge Inselchen, Klippen und Sandbänken besteht und unter dem Namen the Paracels bekannt ist. Die Herrschaft über diesen neuen Theil seines Reichs wird ihm schwerlich von irgend Jemand streitig gemacht werden.

Excerpts about the official declaration of possession of the Paracel Islands by King Gia Long in 1816 in the German book published in Prag (Bohemia) in 1839: Taschenbuch zur Verbreitung geographischer Kenntnisse. Eine Übersicht des Neuesten und Wissens-würdigsten im Gebiete der gesammten Länder- und Völkerkunde, Für 1839, J. G. Calve'sche Buchhandlung, Prag (Bohemia), 1839, p. 296.

In particular, in Cristoforo Negri's work on world geopolitics in Italy [Italy], published in 1841 in Milano under the title: Del vario grado d'importanza degli stati odierni [The different importance of the present day], the book not only mentions the establishment of sovereignty by King Gia Long in 1816 in the Hoang Sa archipelago, but also analyzes the reasons for this event.

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fatto esplorare dal capitano Ross. È dunque a credersi, che i Cochinchinesi abbiano occupato Pulo-Sapata, od almeno la considerino siccome un loro possedimento, nè i medesimi possono tollerare che gl'Inglese si stanziino così vicino alle loro coste, blocchino i loro porti, ed intercettino le navigazioni del loro impero, che è una spiaggia marittima d'enorme lunghezza e di poca larghezza. I Cochinchinesi non sono affatto stranieri alle utili innovazioni della nostra età. La loro marina da guerra possiede una nave a vapore, che fu comperata nelle Indie, ed è diretta da ingegneri europei.

Fu opinione di molti che la flotta inglese avrebbe incominciato le operazioni col prendere possesso di Pulo-Sapata, e col fortificarla. La posizione di Pulo-Sapata è d'assai importante nel sistema del vasto commercio, perchè si è appunto all'altura di quest'isola che convergono le due linee di navigazione da Canton e da Manilla alle Indie. Ma come piazza d'armi in una guerra contro la China, Pulo-Sapata, quantunque nove gradi più vicina a Canton, che non lo sia Singapore, ne è ancora soverchiamente discosta. L'occuparla potrebbe inoltre involgere gl'Inglese in una grave contesa collo Stato potente della Cochinchina. Pulo-Sapata si trova a sole 100 miglia marittime dalle coste della Cochinchina. Questo Stato nel 1816 ha spinto le proprie occupazioni fino all'Arcipelago di Paracelso, gruppo di scogli pericolosi perduti ad immensa distanza nel Mar Chinese, e che gl'Inglese hanno

Excerpts from the reason the State of Cochinchina claimed possession of the Paracel Islands in 1816 in a book published in Italy in 1841: Del vario grado d'importanza degli stati odierni, Dalla tipografia di Giuseppe Bernardoni di Gio, Milano (Italy), 1841, pag. 421-422.

In chapter XX: China, Centro d'Asia, Giappone [China, Central Asia, Japan], from page 412 to page 435, the book mentions about Hoang Sa archipelago and the reason why King Cochinchina possessed it:

"...In the opinion of many, the British fleet would begin its operation by acquiring Pulo-Sapata [Hon Hai, or Hon Kham, 65km south of Phu Quy island] and fortifying it. Pulo-Sapata's position was important in the vast trade system, because it was at the island's height that two converging shipping routes could be controlled from Canton [old name for Guangzhou, China] and from Manilla [in the Philippines] to India. But as a "weapon" in the war against China, Pulo-Sapata, although closer to Canton at 9 latitudes than Singapore, is still too far away from itself. Occupying the island could also involve the British in a serious dispute with the powerful state of Cochinchina [Cochinchina]. Pulo-Sapata is located just 100 nautical miles off the coast of Cochinchina. The nation in 1816 pushed its possessions to the Arcipelago di Paracelso [Paracel Islands], a dangerous group of rocks submerged at great distances on the Mar Chinese [the Chinese sea, Vietnamese called it. South China Sea], to which the British sent Captain Ross [Daniel Ross, captain

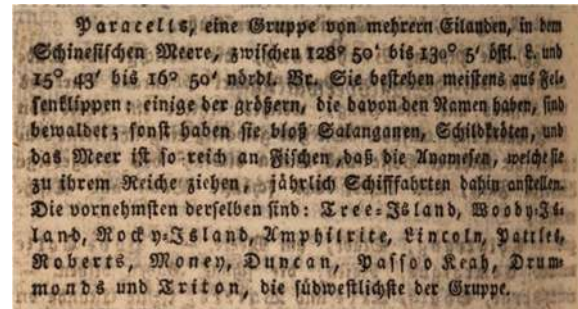
of Discovery of the British East India Company] to explore [during 1807-1810]. It is therefore believed that the Cochinchinesi [the Cochinchinese] occupied Pulo-Sapata, or at least considered it their property; nor could they tolerate the British standing near their shores, blocking their ports and blocking the shipping lanes of their empire, a sea so great in length and so narrow in breadth. Cochinchina is by no means an outsider to the useful changes of our times. Their warship owns a steamship, purchased in India, and guided by European engineers..."(Cristoforo Negri).

3. Works recognizing the two archipelagos of Hoang Sa and Truong Sa belonging to Vietnam's geographical territory and exploitation rights

In Germany, in 1822, a world geography work by a group of authors Adam Christian Gaspari, Georg Hassel, Johann Guenther Friedrich Cannabich, Johann Christoph Friedrich Guts Muths and FA Ukert was published by the Institute of Geography in Weimar, titled: *Vollständiges handbuch der neuesten erdbeschreibung* [The Complete Guide to the Latest Earth Description]. In the Asian part of the book, in section V. Das Reich Anam [Empire of Annam], from page 663 to page 744, the Paracel Islands are in subsection cc) Die Provinz Cham [Cham Province, ie Quang Nam], It was confirmed to belong to the Annam empire and every year sent people to exploit as follows:

"Paracells [Paracels], a group of several islands in the Chinesischen Sea [Chinese, Vietnamese call the East Sea], located between 128° 50' to 130° 5' East longitude and 15° 43' to 16° ° 50' North latitude. They are mainly composed of cliffs: some of the larger islands in that group have their names given up. There were only swiftlets and turtles, and the sea was so full of fish that the Anamesen [An Nam] people went there every year under the orders of their empire. The most prominent islands are: Tree-Island [Tree Island], Woody-Island [Phu Lam], Rocky-Island [Stone Island], Amphitrite [An Vinh], Lincoln [Linh Con], Pattle [Hoang Sa], Roberts [Huu Nhat], Money [Quang Anh], Duncan [Quang Hoa], Passoo Keah [Bach Quy], Drummonds [Duy Mong] and Triton [Tri Ton] are in the far southwest of the group" (Adam Christian Gaspari, Georg Hassel, Johann Guenther Friedrich Cannabich, Johann Christoph Friedrich Guts Muths und F. A. Ukert, *Vollständiges handbuch der neuesten erdbeschreibung*, Im Verlage des Geographischen instituts, Weimar (Deutschland), 1822, p. 736.).

"Paracells [Paracels], a group of several islands in the Chinesischen Sea [Chinese, Vietnamese call the East Sea], located between 128° 50' to 130° 5' East longitude and 15° 43' to 16° ° 50' North latitude. They are mainly composed of cliffs: some of the larger islands in that group have their names given up. There are only swiftlets and turtles, and the sea An excerpt about the Annam empire sends people to exploit the Paracels every year in a book published in Germany in 1822:



Vollständiges handbuch der neuesten erdbeschreibung, Im Verlage des Geographischen instituts, Weimar (Deutschland), 1822.

In Italy, also related to Vietnam's sovereignty over the Paracel Islands after the declaration of King Gia Long in 1816 is a work titled: *Geografia moderna universal, ovvero Descrizione fisica, statistica, topografica di tutti i paesi conosciuti della terra-* Volume Terzo: India, Indochina, Impero Chinese [Modern World Geography, or Physical, Statistical, Topographical Description of All Famous Countries on Earth- Third Volume: India, Indochina, Empire of China], by scholar GR Pagnozzi, published in the city of Florence in 1823.

In the book, in the section Impero d'Annam [Empire of Annam], from page 182 to page 212, the Paracel Islands are listed under Isole dell' Annam [Isles of Annam], with descriptions of the islands. swiftlet and annual activities of exploiting and trading bird's nests of Dang Trong fishermen. The book says:

"...L'arcipelago di Pracel [Paracel Islands], which maps show over an area of 6 degrees, or 360 miles, is a preferred habitat for swiftlets, or sea swallows; they built many nests, freely satisfying the desires of the Chinese [Chinese people]. In March and April, the surrounding ocean is covered with fish roe, which floats on the water, like a diluted animal glue. All the surrounding populations ensure that the swiftlets collect acorns from the water and on the cliffs, where puddles of fish eggs are deposited, for nesting. At the end of July and the beginning of August [every year], the Cochinchinesi [the Cochinchinese people] go to harvest the nests. Raynal [Guillaume Thomas François Raynal] writes that the Chinese bought from them [the Cochinchina fishermen] a thousand swans for £125 [pounds] at that time, and paid them the corresponding amount. from 1400 to 2800 lire [Italian lira]; and can buy double the price. The swifts do not fly away from the archipelago; they reside there all year round and will stay there for a long time, because the islands of Pracel have a lot of bare cliffs" (G. R. Pagnozzi).

In 1825, Felice Ripamonti published a work entitled: *Storia delle Indie Orientali* [History of the East Indies], in the Italian city of Milano. In volume I, in book XXII: Della Cocincina [Belonging to Cochinchina], from pages 123 to page 143, the book describes the ports in Cochinchina and the sailors' annual departures to the Paracels as follows:

ai tributi. Il fiume di Hane si getta nel mare per due foci, che si trovano separate dalla piccola isola di Kiam. Quest'isola forma da una parte, al nord-est, l'eccellente porto della baia di Hane o di Tourane; e dall'altra, al sud-ouest, il porto di Fai-fo o di Hué-hane. Quest'ultimo porto è meno sicuro di quello della baia per i grandi vascelli; ma è più comodo per i giunchi chinesi, i quali non pescano che dieci in dodici piedi d'acqua.

Seguendo le Coste verso il mezzogiorno si trova il terzo porto, che è quello di Nene-mane: esso appartiene alla provincia di Quan-glia.

LIBRO XXII.

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Questo porto è vasto ed il più bello della Cocincina, ma è poco frequentato a motivo della sua lontananza dalla Corte. Siccome il re è il primo mercante di questi Stati, egli è il centro, e spesso l'arbitro assoluto di tutte le operazioni del commercio. Costretti di far frequenti viaggi alla Corte per discutervi i loro interessi, i capitani dei vascelli mercantili preferiscono di approdare ai porti di Hué-hane meno lontani dalla capitale. I marinari di questi tre porti sono i più abili del paese: sono dessi che percorrono ogni anno quella lunga serie di piccole isole o di scogli, conosciuti sotto il nome di Paracel, che cingono a venti o trenta leghe di distanza tutta la Costa della Cocincina.

Excerpts describing the ports in Cochinchina and the voyages of sailors to the Paracels in books published in Italy in 1825: *Storia delle Indie Orientali*, Tomo I, Presso Ant Fort. Stella e Figli, Milano [Italy], 1825, p. 126-127.

Hane Bay or Tourane [Da Nang]; and on the other hand, to the southwest, is the port of Fai-fo or Hué-hane [Hoi An]. The latter port [Hoi An] is certainly inferior to the previous port [Da Nang] in that there is a bay for large ships to dock; but it is more convenient for the Chinese to dock with boats that only need a depth of 10 to 12 meters of water [1 yard = 0.3048m].

"Following the coast to the south there is a third port, which is Nene-mane [Nuoc Man, in Thi Nai lagoon]; it belongs to the province of Quau-glia [Quang Ngai, but rather Binh Dinh]. This port [Nuoc Man] is the largest and most beautiful in Cocincina [Cochin China], but it does not operate very often because it is far from the Imperial Court. The king was the principal merchant of these countries, he

was the center and often the absolute arbiter of all trade. Forced to make frequent trips to the Court to exchange his interests, captains of merchant ships preferred to dock at Hué-hane's ports far from the capital. The sailors of these three ports are among the most skilled in the country: they travel every year to the series of small or rocky islands, known as Paracel, that surround the shore. the Cocincina Sea at a distance of twenty or thirty sea miles [1 old sea mile longer than 5.5km]" (Felice Ripamonti: *Storia delle Indie Orientali*, Tomo I, Presso Ant. Fort. Stella e Figli, Milano).

One of the world geography works that appeared in Belgium early to recognize the Hoang Sa archipelago under the sovereignty of the Annam empire was the publication titled: *Traité élémentaire de Géographie*, contenant un abrégé methodique du précis de la géographie universelle [Basic treatise on Geography, including a concise methodological version of global geography], by Malte-Brun and collaborators Larenaudière, Balbi and Huot, published in Brussels in 1830.

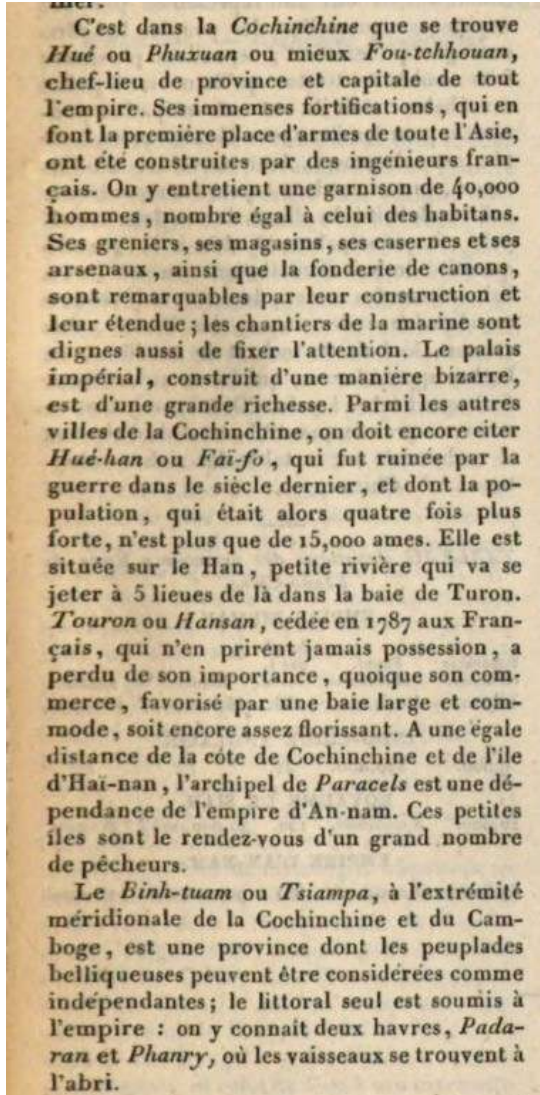
In chapter 69: *Description de l'Indo-Chine* [Description of Indochina], from pages 500 to 506, the book details the Hoang Sa archipelago on the coast of Cochinchina under the sovereignty of the Annam empire that:

"...In Cochinchine [Cochin China], Hué [Hue] or Phuxuan, or rather Fou-tchhouan [Phu Xuan], was the seat and capital of the entire [An Nam] empire. The massive ramparts that made them the earliest armed places in Asia were designed by French engineers. They maintained a garrison of 40,000 soldiers, equivalent to the number of the population there. The granaries, material depots, barracks, armories, as well as the cannon foundries in Hue are very special because of their construction and scale; Naval shipyards also deserve attention. The royal palace, nicely built, represents wealth. Among the other municipalities of Cochinchine, we must also mention Hué-han or Fai-fo [Hoi An], which had been ruined by war in the last century, and whose population, at that time more than quadrupled the current time, no more than 15,000 people. It is located on the Han River [Han River, but from Hoi An you have to follow the Co Co River to get to the Han River], a small river flowing through 5 miles of sea, from there to Turon Bay [Da Nang]."

"The Touron or Hansan [Da Nang], was ceded to the French in 1787 [meaning under the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles, 11/28/1787], but the French never owned it; It has now lost its importance, although commerce here is favored by a large and convenient bay, or is still quite prosperous. At an equal distance from the Cochinchine coast and Hainan Island, the Paracels [Paracels] were part of the Annam [Annamese] empire. These small islands are home to large numbers of fishermen."

"Binh-tuam [Binh Thuan] or Tsiampa [Champa], at the southern end of Cochinchina and Cambodia, was a province whose belligerent tribes could regard as an

independent region; the coast alone was merely subservient to the [An Nam] empire: there were two known harbors, Padaran [Phan Rang] and Phanry [Phan Ri], where ships took refuge..."(Conrad Malte-Brun et ses collaborateurs Larenaudière, Balbi et Huot).



Excerpts about the Hoang Sa archipelago under the sovereignty of the Annam empire in a book published in Belgium in 1830: *Traité élémentaire de Géographie, contenant un abrégé methodique du précis de la géographie universelle*, Berthot, Ode et Wodon, H. Rémy, et H. Tarlier, Brussels (Belgique), 1830, p. 505.

4. Works recognizing the two archipelagoes of Hoang Sa and Truong Sa as belonging to the geographical territory of Vietnam

Also after King Gia Long's declaration of possession in 1816, one of the earliest geographical works mentioning that the sovereignty of the Paracels belonged to the Annam empire was published in Bergamo in Lombardy

in the country. Italy in 1818 by Giacomo Antoine, titled: *Principj elementari di Geografia moderna, Ad uso de' giovanetti, Secondo le più recenti Geografie, e gli ultimi cangiamenti Politici, Con varie figure Geografiche per più facile istruzione modern management - For young people - According to the most recent geographical knowledge and the latest political changes, with different geographical data for more convenient education*. This is a book for teaching and learning geography for students, so the content is designed in short, concise words. In the book, in the section LEZIONE VIII: Delle Isole dell' Asia [Lesson VIII: Islands of Asia], from page 186 to page 188, the Paracel archipelago is mentioned in a brief but very succinct sentence. also in other places], that:

"The Paracels [Paracels], belonging to the Annam empire" (Giacomo Antoine: *Principj elementari di Geografia moderna, Ad uso de' giovanetti, Secondo le più recenti Geografie, e gli ultimi cangiamenti Politici, Con varie figure Geografiche per più facile istruzione*, Sesta Edizione, Presso Vincenzo Antoine, Bergamo).

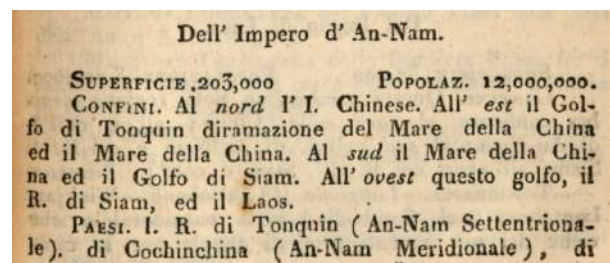
In 1824, Adriano Balbi published a work entitled: *Compendio di Geografia Universale [Abridged World Geography]* at Livorno in Italy. In this book, in the Asia section from page 243 to page 341, in the section Dell' Impero d'An-Nam [Empire of Annam] has identified the Hoang Sa archipelago under the sovereignty of this empire. The book says:

"AN NAM IMPLEMENTATION"

SURFACE AREA: 203,000 miles. POPULATION: 12,000,000.

Boundaries: To the north it borders the Chinese empire, to the east is Tonquin Bay [Tonkin] - a branch of the China Sea [China, Vietnam calls it the East Sea], and the China Sea; in the south are the China Sea and the Gulf of Siam [Siam]; To the west of this bay is the kingdom of Siam and Laos.

STATE: Kingdom of Tonquin (An-Nam Settentrionale) [Dong Ngoai (Northern An Nam, or Bac Ha)]; Cochinchina (An-Nam Meridionale) [Cochinchina (Nam An Nam, or Nam Ha)], Tsiampa (Chang) [Champa (Cham)], Cambodja (Donnai) [Cambodia (Dong Nai)], and perhaps more a small part of the kingdom of Laos. It seems that the Pracels (Paracels) [Paracels] located opposite the coast of Cochinchina also belong to this state" (Adriano Balbi: *Compendio di Geografia Universale, Quarta Edizione, Tomo Primo, Glauco Masi, Livorno*).



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Tsiampa (Chang), di Cambodja (Donnai), e forse una piccola parte del R. di Laos. Pare che l'arcipelago di Pracels (Paracels) posto dirimpetto la spiaggia della Cochinchina sia dipendente anch'esso da questo Stato.

Excerpts describing the Annam empire and identifying the Hoang Sa archipelago under the sovereignty of Cochinchina in a book published in Italy in 1824: *Compendio di Geografia Universale*, Quarta Edizione, Tomo Primo, Glauco Masi, Livorno (Italy), 1824.

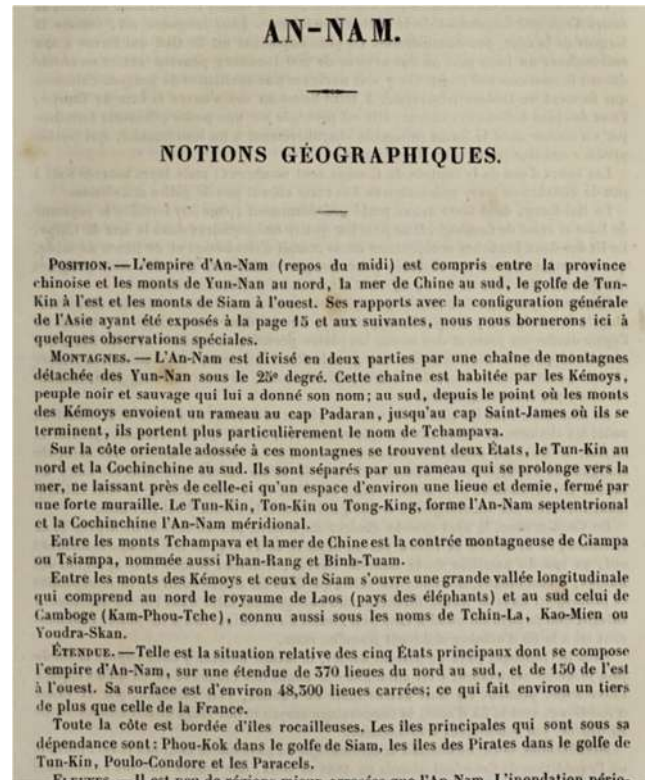
In 1843, Auguste Wahlen's work entitled: *Moeurs, usages et costumes de tous les peuples du monde - Asie* [Traditions, customs and costumes of the peoples of the world - Book of Asia], by Auguste Wahlen in the Belgian city of Brussels. In the book, in the AN-NAM section from page 235 to page 252, the NOTIONS GÉOGRAPHIQUES [Geographical Overview] section talked about the main islands, including the Hoang Sa archipelago, under the sovereignty of the Annam empire as follows:

"...LOCATION. The Annam Empire (Peaceful South) (The original text in the book, including parentheses) was located between the mountainous province of Yun-Nam [Yunnan, China] in the north, the Chine Sea [known in China as the East Sea] in the south, the Gulf of Tun.-Kin [Outside] to the east and the mountains of Siam [Siam] to the west. Its report with the general shape of Asia is presented on page 15 and beyond [in the original]; Here we will limit ourselves to a few special observations.

"HIGHLAND. Annam is divided into two parts by a mountain range that splits from Yun-Nam [Yunnan, China] below the 25th parallel. This mountain range is inhabited by black and wild people known as Kemoys [ethnic minority]. In the south, from the point where the mountain ranges inhabited by ethnic minorities, there is a branch out to Cape Padaran [Phan Rang], down to Cape Saint-James [also called Saint-Jacques, or Vung Tau], where they end, are carried special name is Tchampava [Champa]".

"On the east coast formed by these mountains are two lands, Tun-Kin [Dong Ngoai] in the north and Cochinchine [in Cochinchina] in the south. They were separated by a mountain branch extending to the sea, leaving only a gap of about a mile and a half at its edge, which was blocked by a solid wall [Hoang Son Quan]. Tun-Kin, Ton-Kin or Tong-King [Outer Region] constitutes An-Nam septentrional [Northern An Nam, or Bac Ha], and Cochinchine [Ang Trong] is An-Nam méridional [Nam An Nam, or Nam Ha]]".

The following Excerpts about the Hoang Sa archipelago under the sovereignty of the Annamite empire in a book published in Belgium in 1843: *Moeurs, usages et costumes de tous les peuples du monde - Asie*, Librairie Historique-Artistique, Bruxelles (Belgique), 1843, p. 235.



"Between the Tchampava Mountains and the Chine Sea [known in China as the East Sea] is the mountainous region of Ciampa or Tsiampa [Champa], also known as Phan-Rang [Phan Rang] and Binh-Tuam [Binh Thuan]. Between the Kémoys [Spratly] and Siamese mountain ranges opened a large longitudinal valley encompassing the north of Laos (the country of a million elephants) (The original text in the book, including parentheses) and the south of Cambodia (Kam-Phou-Tche), Cambodia], also known as Tchîn-La [Chan Lap], Kao-Mien [Cao Mien] or Youdra-Skan [also recorded as Youdrachan on Western maps]".

"RANGE. Thus, as related to the five main states, the Annam empire covered a range of 370 miles from north to south and 150 miles from east to west. The empire's area was about 48,300 square miles; about a third more than France. The entire coast is surrounded by rocky islands. The main islands under the sovereignty of the [An Nam] empire are: Phou-Kok [Phu Quoc] in the Gulf of Siam, the group of Pirates [Pirate] islands in the Gulf of Tun-Kin [Ang Outside], Poulo-Condore [Condore] Lon, or Con Dao and Paracels [Hoang Sa]..."(Auguste Wahlen).

In 1854, a work in Italian titled: *Compendio di Geografia* [Summary Geography], by Adriano Balbi, Chauchard, Muntz and other geographers, was published in the port city of Livorno region. Tuscany, Italy. In part II of the book, in the section ASIA [Asia] from page 501 to page 562, the Hoang Sa archipelago is classified under the

sovereignty of the Annam empire when describing this country as follows:

“REGNO AN-NAMITA, o DI AN-NAM o DI VIET-NAM [Kingdom of Annam, or Annam or Vietnam]”.

“BORDER: To the north it borders the Chinese delta; to the east and south is the China Sea [known as the East Sea by China and Vietnam]; to the west was the kingdom of Siam [Siam].

“RIVERS: The main rivers are: Mai-kung [Mekong] or Fiume di Camboge [Cambodia river]; Saung [Da Dung, or Da Dung, the name of the Dong Nai river upstream] or Donai [Dong Nai]; Sang-Koi [Cai River, i.e. Red River] with Lisingkiang [Song Da, tributary of Red River], and Tgelai-Ho [Song Thao, main stream of Red River]. See page 505 [in original]”.

“SURFACE AREA: 210,000 square miles”.

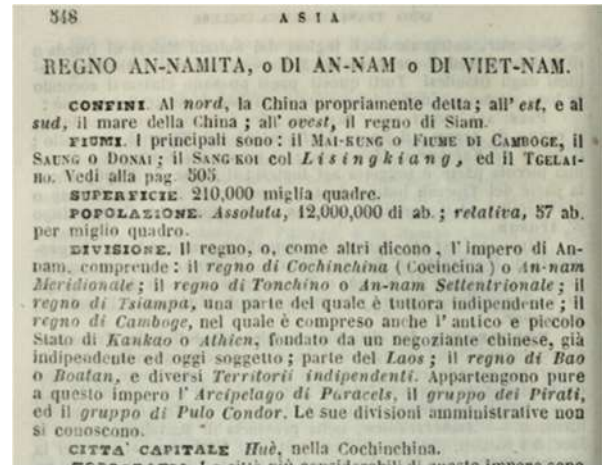
“POPULATION: Total 12,000,000 inhabitants; density equivalent to 57 people per square mile”.

“AREA: regno [kingdom], or, as others say, impero di Annam [Annamese empire], including the kingdom of Cochinchina (Cocincina) (The original text, including the words in parentheses) [Cochin China], or Annam Meridionale [Nam An Nam, or Nam Ha]; the kingdom of Tonchino [Outer Region] or Annam Settentrionale [Northern Annam, or Bắc Hà]; the court of Tsiampa [Champa, in present-day Ninh Thuan and Binh Thuan], part of which remained independent (From 1832, Emperor Minh Mang ended the limited autonomy of the descendants of Panduranga, changing Thuan Thanh Tran into Ninh Thuan government);

The kingdom of Cambodia [Cambodia, from Dong Nai down], including the state of Kankao [Gangkou] or Athien [Ha Tien] formerly founded by a Chinese merchant [i.e. Mac Cuu], became the isolated so far; part of Laos [Laos]; Kingdom of Bao or Boatan [Boatiang, the area on the Mekong River in Cambodia bordering Laos], and several independent territories. Also belonging to this empire [An Nam] were the Paracels [Hoang Sa] archipelago, the Pirati group of islands [the Pirate island group] and the Pulo Condor group [Con Lon, or Con Dao]. Their administrative area is not clear.”

“KING DO CITY: Hue [Hue], in Cochinchina [Cochinchina]...” (Adriano Balbi, Chauchard, Muntz).

In 1865, a world geography publication with more recent statistics and maps by a group of scholars Adriano Balbi, Malte-Brun, Chauchard, Muntz and Marmocchi was published in the Lombard city of Milano in northern Italy. , also titled: Summary Geography. In the ASIA [Asia] section from pages 591 to 656, the Paracel Islands continue to be classified as one of the main island groups under the sovereignty of the Annam empire in the section REGNO AN-NAMITA, o DI AN-NAM o DI VIET-NAM [Kingdom of Annam, or Annam, or Vietnam], with contents similar to books by the group of authors published in Livorno in 1854, specifically:



Excerpts on island groups, including the Paracel Islands, under the sovereignty of the Annam empire in a book published in Italy in 1854: Compendio di Geografia, Parte Seconda, Nuova Edizione Toscana, Giovanni Mazzajoli Editore, Livorno (Italy), 1854, pag. 548.

“AREA: regno [kingdom], or, as others say, impero di Annam [Annamese empire], including the kingdom of Cochinchina (Cocincina) (The original text, including the words in parentheses) [Cochin China], or Annam Meridionale [Nam An Nam, or Nam Ha]; the kingdom of Tonchino [Outer Region] or Annam Settentrionale [Northern Annam, or Bắc Hà]; the court of Tsiampa [Champa, in present-day Ninh Thuan and Binh Thuan], part of which remained independent (From 1832, Emperor Minh Mang ended the limited autonomy of the descendants of Panduranga, changing Thuan Thanh Tran into Ninh Thuan government); The kingdom of Cambodia [Cambodia, from Dong Nai down], including the state of Kankao [Gangkou] or Athien [Ha Tien] formerly founded by a Chinese merchant [i.e. Mac Cuu], became the isolated so far; part of Laos [Laos]; Kingdom of Bao or Boatan [Boatiang, the area on the Mekong River in Cambodia bordering Laos], and several independent territories. Also belonging to this empire [An Nam] were the Paracels [Hoang Sa] archipelago, the Pirati group of islands [the Pirate island group] and the Pulo Condor group [Con Lon, or Con Dao]. Their administrative area is not clear” 20.

DIVISIONE. Il regno, o come altri dicono, l'impero di An-nam, comprende: il regno di Cochinchina (Cocincina) o An-nam Meridionale; il regno di Tonchino o An-nam Settentrionale; il regno di Tsiampa, una parte del quale è tuttora indipendente; il regno di Camboge, nel quale è compreso anche l'antico e piccolo Stato di Kankao o Athien, fondato da un negoziante cinese, già indipendente ed oggi soggetto; parte del Laos; il regno di Bao o Boatan, e diversi territori indipendenti. Ap-

ARCIPELAGHI D'ANDAMAN E DI NICOBAR 643 partengono pure a questo impero l'Arcipelago di Paracels, il gruppo dei Pirati, ed il gruppo di Pulo Condor. Le sue divisioni amministrative non si conoscono.

Excerpts about groups of islands, including the Paracel Islands, under the sovereignty of the Annam empire in a book published in Italy in 1865: *Compendio di Geografia, Nuova Edizione Milanese*, Francesco Pagnoni, Tipografo-Editore, Milano (Italy), 1865, pag. 642-643.

5. Conclusion:

Up to now, many types of ancient documentary evidence have been exploited in Vietnam and around the world to prove that the international community has acknowledged or recognized the process of peaceful and legal exploitation and possession for a long time. life, as well as declaring official state ownership of the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes of Vietnam in 1816 during the reign of King Gia Long of the Nguyen Dynasty.

Among the ancient sources, world geography works play a very very important role, being the indisputable objective evidence of the international community's recognition of the sovereignty of a country, country or territory containing the assessed geographical features, when they are included in the text of the book and associated with that country or territory.

The works of world geography are said to be very popular in society, included in research and education programs in many countries, always of international stature. The Hoang Sa archipelago itself, including the Truong Sa strip, in the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries was always the obsession of international navigators, merchants, missionaries or ships of the navies of other countries. while navigating these waters. Therefore, information about King Gia Long's claim of possession in 1816 was conditioned to be quickly absorbed and spread everywhere, becoming the world's common knowledge in geographical books.

Thus, once there were many world geography books from many different countries, published at different times, dealing with long-term mining and officially declaring ownership of the land. Vietnam's state over the two archipelagoes of Hoang Sa and Truong Sa in 1816, or the simplest and largest proportion is to say that they belong to the territory of Annam or Cochinchina, which means that Vietnam has sovereignty over the islands. with these archipelagos in practice and the international community recognizes that sovereignty of Vietnam in the form of condensing into human geographical knowledge to spread around the world.

In particular, the world geography works cited in this article do not stop at the level of noting what happened in reality and recognizing the sovereignty of the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagos belonging to Vietnam. South, but from a geopolitical perspective, some works, such as that of Cristoforo Negri in Italy, also analyze the world situation, the correlation of forces in the region and the profound calculations of King Gia Long when officially declaring possession of the Paracels in 1816, in order to prevent the risk of Western forces invading the islands,

approaching the territory, controlling the maritime route along the coast of Vietnam, which was long but not wide in the East Sea. It is a useful analysis, suggesting for us issues related to the re-evaluation of the vision of the sea and islands and the great contributions of King Gia Long in particular, the Nguyen lords and the Nguyen dynasty in general. , in the process of establishing the nation's sovereignty over the sea and islands nationwide.

Finally, it is hoped that the contents of world geographical works published in Italy, Germany, Bohemia, and Belgium in the 19th century, cited and analyzed in this article, will stimulate more valuable sources of material. The price is used as international evidence to affirm Vietnam's indisputable sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes.

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