

A bitter and bloody struggle between communists forces and French Union troops has been raging in Indo China since Dec. 19, 1946. This civil war has been going on throughout the former French colonies as the people of Indo China endeavor to mold themselves into three sovereign nations.

Fostered by a violent decade of Japanese conquest, Allied reoccupation, and civil war, Indochinese nationalism has come into its own. From the old French colony arose the states of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, to become associate members of the French Union and recognized citizens of the world community.

In assuming the sponsorship of these new states, France has recognized the legitimacy of their claims to a greater role in developing their own future. The Associated States, in return, recognize their continuing need for close association with the Republic of France.

But many Indochinese have been disaffected by the policies of colonialism - which France has since renounced - and still want to see the French leave. The Communists use this sentiment as a rallying cry and around it have organized a popular front. It is this organization, with its high (but decreasing) percentage of genuine nationalists dominated by its Communists leaders, which is conducting warfare against the governments of the three Associated States and France.

The battle for control of Indo China would be of moment to the world at any time. *is going on.* Thousnads of lives have been taken in the struggle, and the lives of 27 million people will be affected by its outcome. But a glance at the map shows the importance of the war for Indo China goes beyond this.

To the north lies China, already under communists control. This pressure in weighting on Indo China; ruled by China for a thousnad years and many chinese still there.

Thailand, one sixth of whose population of 18 millions is Chinese is also feeling this pressure.

Burma is also in the picture and the three cornered civil war there could be ended disastrously by the advance of communist forces.