

Southeast Asia



China and India have influenced
Southeast Asia

Early History

- China rules northern Vietnam from 111 B.C. to A.D. 393
- India's Hinduism, Buddhism influence regional religion, art
- Early Southeast Asian states don't have set borders
 - *Mandalas*-rings of state power around central court
 - Khmer Empire-Cambodian *mandala* that lasts from 800s to 1400s



Colonialism and its Aftermath

European Control

- States trade with Arabian, Indian merchants; Islam grows in islands
- In 1509, Europeans mostly seek money, not colonies
- Europe controls area's trade, money goes to Europe
- By 1900, all of region, except Siam (Thailand), is colonized
- Colonies forced to farm commodities: rubber, sugar, rice, tea, coffee
- Nationalism unites allies against rulers



Independence



- After WWII many Asian countries demand independence
- Indochina-French colonial Cambodia, Laos, North, South Vietnam
 - Vietnamese defeat French in 1954, win independence for all Indochina
- U.S. becomes involved in Vietnam War (1957-1975)
 - tries to stop Communist control of South Vietnam
 - U.S. leaves in 1973, South Vietnam surrenders in 1975
 - Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos become Communist

Economy

Traditional Economies

- Agriculture is region's main income source; rice is chief food crop
 - Myanmar is heavily forested; produces teak wood
- Lack of industry
 - Vietnam War destroyed factories, roads
 - war refugees left region, reduced work force
 - political turmoil in Cambodia, Myanmar blocks growth
- Vietnam builds industry, seeks foreign investment and trade

Thailand



Philippines



Economy

Industry and Finance

- Some countries have more highly developed economies
 - Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand
 - form economic alliance ASEAN—Association of Southeast Asian Nations
 - other four Southeast Asian countries join ASEAN after 1994
- Nations don't industrialize until 1960s
 - industries: agriculture, textile, clothing, electronic products
 - Singapore is a finance center

Culture

Religious Diversity

- Includes Buddhism; Catholicism (Philippines); Islam (Indonesia)
 - other religions are Hinduism and traditional, local beliefs

Rich Artistic Legacy

- Buddhism, Hinduism influence region's sculpture, architecture
 - Cambodia's ancient temple complex of Angkor Wat
 - Thailand's Buddhist temples show modern religious architecture

Angkor Wat
Combodia



ToThailand.com



Lifestyles

The Villages

- Wood houses on stilts protect against floods
- In Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Buddhist temple is center of village life
- Traditional clothing includes *longyi*—long, wrapped skirt of Myanmar

The Cities

- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Singapore are modern business cities
- Housing shortage forces migrants into slums





