

SOUTHEAST ASIA – Part 1

Defining the Realm

A world map showing the continents in light gray and the oceans in light blue. A red rectangular box is drawn around the Southeast Asian archipelago, highlighting its location in the world. Below the map, there is a small text block: "Locator - Southeast Asia", "World Regional Geography, Fifth Edition", and "© 2011 W. H. Freeman and Company".



Figure 10.1
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Figure 10A-1
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A Geographic Overview

- Mainland and Insular physiographies
- Realm's Giant: Indonesia
 - ▣ Size of area and population
- Borders of the realm:
 - ▣ India and China: source of immigrants, cultural infusion, economic interaction, and more



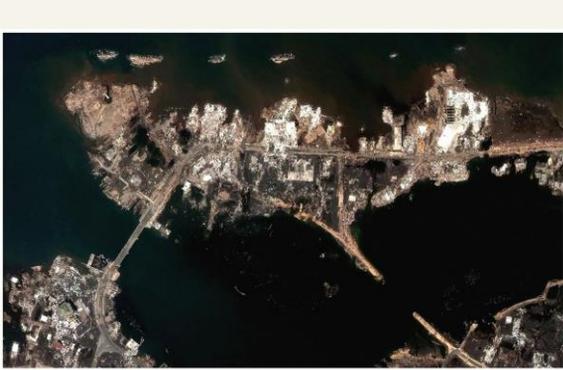


Figure 10.5b
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Southeast Asia's Physical Geography: Exceptional Borneo

- "Mini-continent" amid a mass of volcanic activity:
 - No volcanoes and negligible tremors
 - Slab of ancient crust uplifted above sea level and subsequently eroded
- Ecosystems:
 - Equatorial rainforests once a sanctuary to countless plant and animal species
 - Today, much destroyed by logging, roads, and farms



Figure 10.1
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Photo Essay 10.1a
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Palm-Oil Plantations and Deforestation

- Versatile palm oil
- Today, very lucrative agricultural crop
 - High yields and demand
 - Rising prices
- Plantation expansion single largest threat to tropical forests and habitat
- Pressures for sustainability





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Southeast Asia's Physical Geography: *Relative Location and Biodiversity*

- Destination for migrating species:
 - Animal and human migrations during shifting climactic periods or new modes of transportation
 - Know for its **biodiversity**: estimates that 10% of world's plant and animals species are found there

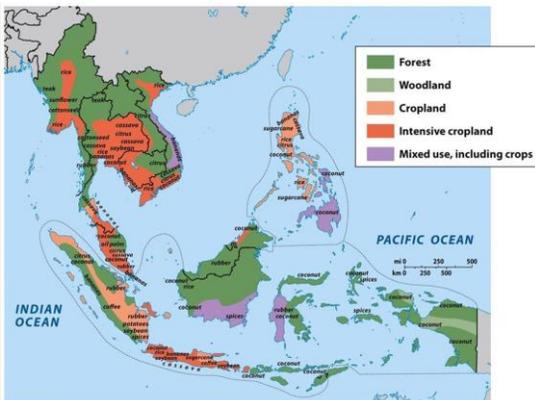


Figure 10.9
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Shifting Cultivation

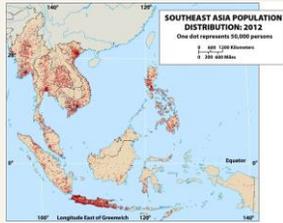
- ❑ *Shifting cultivation* is also known as *slash and burn* or *swidden* cultivation
- ❑ To maintain soil fertility in these warm wet environments, farmers move their fields every 3 years or so, letting old plots lie fallow for 15 years or more
- ❑ The regrowth of forest on once-cleared fields not only regenerates the soil, it also absorbs significant amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere



Figure 10.3c.
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Southeast Asia's Physical Geography: Four Major Rivers

- Lots of moisture
- Population distribution highlights relationship between people and rivers:
 - Not just for water and agriculture
 - Also as transportation arteries
- Coastal clusters at river deltas



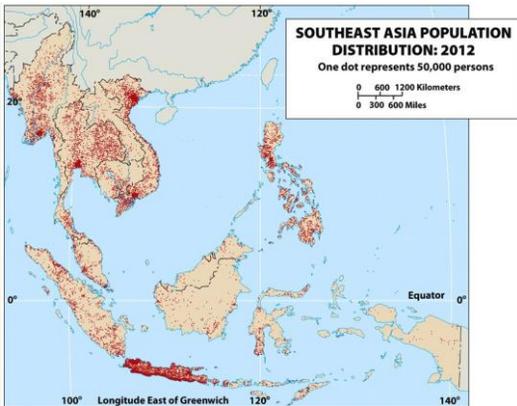


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Southeast Asia's Physical Geography: Four Major Rivers

The Mighty Mekong

- ❑ Source in China's Tibetan Plateau
- ❑ Borders five of the realm's countries
- ❑ Supports farm and fishing livelihoods
- ❑ Upstream politics:
 - China's dam projects
 - Managing flow volumes
 - Intra-realm development projects



Southeast Asia's Physical Geography: Four Major Rivers

Rivers and States

- ❑ Other rivers in the realm are local:
 - Red River of Vietnam and its capital Hanoi
 - Chao Phraya River in Thailand and its capital, Bangkok
 - Irrawaddy River in Myanmar with its largest city, Yangon, sitting on the delta



Population Geography

- ❑ Indonesia's noteworthy Javan population cluster:
 - More than half the country's population
 - Fertile volcanic soils, ample water and warmth
- ❑ Other clusters are fast-growing urban areas.



Population Geography: *The Ethnic Mosaic*

- Common stock with local ethnic/cultural groups
- Mainland spatial coincidence: major ethnic groups and political states
- Island nations ethnic groups
- In both, minorities present in remote peripheries:
 - Uplands or dense forests



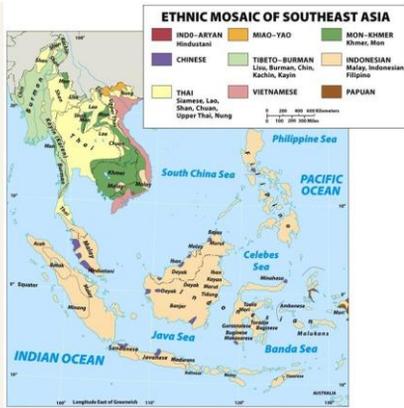
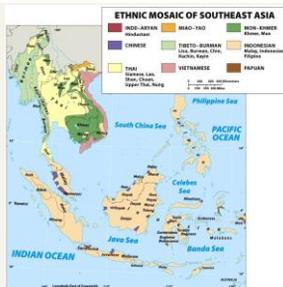


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Population Geography: *Immigrants*

- Some major ethnic minorities come from outside the realm
- South Asian peoples:
 - Some during European colonial period
 - Others from early Buddhist migrations



Regional Issue: *The Chinese Presence in Southeast Asia*

THE CHINESE ARE TOO INFLUENTIAL!

- ❑ Chinese were given privilege and separateness.
- ❑ Chinese act on their own behalf, not as part of the country that they live and work in.
- ❑ Chinese exploit Southeast Asian opportunities and shared resources.

THE CHINESE ARE INDISPENSIBLE!

- ❑ All minorities have troubles.
- ❑ Others are resentful of Chinese resourcefulness and success.
- ❑ Chinese aloofness depends on the state context.
- ❑ Chinese have made great contributions.

Religions of Southeast Asia

- ❑ Historic crossroads of religions:
 - ❑ Hinduism and Buddhism from South Asia
 - ❑ Islam from Southwest Asia
- ❑ Leads to great cultural diversity:
 - ❑ Different countries trend toward one religious system, yet presence of other significant religious groups
- ❑ Much cultural expression has been through infusion of foreign elements



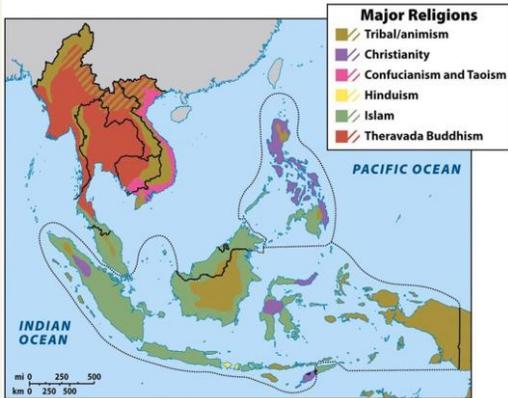


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Colonialism's Heritage: How the Political Map Evolved

- ❑ Europeans arrived to a politically fragmented realm:
 - ❑ Mainland river basins and plains as well as the islands produced a cultural diversity of societies.
- ❑ European colonization involved "divide and rule:"
 - ❑ Out of that strategy they *forged* comparatively large, multicultural states.
 - ❑ Foreign intervention created the contemporary political map.

Colonialism's Heritage: How the Political Map Evolved: *The Colonial Imprint*

French Indochina

- Southeast Asian empire called *Indochina*.
- *Indo-* referred to South Asian cultural imprints.
- ❑ Five French dependencies into three political states:
 - ❑ Vietnam
 - ❑ Laos
 - ❑ Cambodia



Colonialism's Heritage: How the Political Map Evolved: *The Colonial Imprint*

British Imperialism

- Burma: part of the South Asian British Empire:
 - Not part of South Asian religious-borne partition
- Malaya: system of colonies and protectorates:
 - *Malaya* refers to the geographic area of the Malaysian peninsula.
 - Eventually became complex Malaysian Federation.



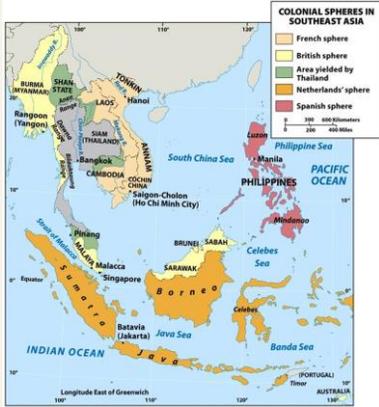


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Colonialism's Heritage: How the Political Map Evolved: *The Colonial Imprint*

Netherlands "East Indies"

- "Spice Islands": Name came from lucrative spice commerce between Arab, Indian, and Chinese traders.
- Europeans' great lengths to control the trade:
 - Spices to conserve food and add flavor
 - Very high demand, and thus very lucrative in Europe
- Jawa: the focus of Dutch colonial administration:
 - Dutch East India Company and the Dutch government extended influence over the smaller islands over time.
- Colonialism paved the way for creation of realm's largest state.

Colonialism's Heritage: How the Political Map Evolved: *The Colonial Imprint*

From Spain to the United States

- Spanish control of the Philippines:
 - Spread Catholicism and stave off Islamic incursions in the south
 - Manila: a profitable way-station in travel across the Pacific
- Spanish-American war:
 - Already the Spanish were facing indigenous uprising.
 - Spain forced to settle following the brief war:
 - Ceded the Philippines to the United States
 - Local revolt for a time, but ultimately unsuccessful

Southeast Asia's Emerging Markets: *Singapore's Centrality*

- Leading **node**, or point of connectivity to wider economic network:
 - Top-tier world city due to its international linkages and global influence
- Symbol of modernity:
 - Skyline, industries, and economic prowess



- Exceptional regional position:
 - Relative location for trade and shipping
 - Physiography with large and deep natural harbor

Southeast Asia's Emerging Markets: *Prospects of Realmwide Integration: ASEAN*

- **ASEAN**, Association of Southeast Asian Nations:
 - Supranational organization with goals of realmwide political stability and increased regional integration
 - Constant challenges:
 - Diversity of its member-states: economic and cultural differences
 - Conflict between member-states: cultural contention and competing territorial claims
 - Environmental problems: realmwide pollution

Southeast Asia's Emerging Markets: *Prospects of Realmwide Integration: ASEAN*

- **AFTA**, the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement:
 - Organization's expansion into the economic domain:
 - Lowering of tariffs has encourage a intra-realm trade boom.
- Realm and foreign spheres of influence:
 - Previously integrated into the Japanese empire and the yen bloc
 - Chinese global resurgence:
 - AFTA allows it to hold its own, somewhat
 - Integration via Chinese investment and infrastructure

Tourism

- ❑ International tourism is an important and rapidly growing economic activity in most Southeast Asian countries
- ❑ By 2008 international visitors numbered more than 65 million
- ❑ Close to 50 percent of tourists in ASEAN countries were from within the region
- ❑ This is a positive trend because familiarity between neighbors lays the groundwork for various forms of regional cooperation

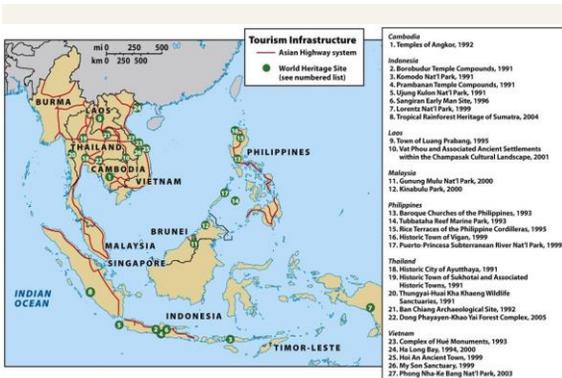


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Urbanization

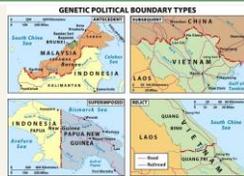
- ❑ Southeast Asia as a whole is only 43 percent urban
- ❑ The rural–urban balance is shifting steadily in response to declining agricultural employment and booming urban industries
- ❑ The forces driving farmers into the cities are called the push factors (rising cost of farming)
- ❑ Pull factors, in contrast, are those that attract people to the city (abundant manufacturing jobs)

States and Boundaries: *Classifying Boundaries*

- Types of boundaries:
 - **Physiographic:** conform to elongated features of the natural landscape.
 - **Ethnocultural:** coincide with historic breaks or transitions in the cultural landscape.
 - **Geometric:** simple straight lines defined by endpoints.
- History of realm's boundaries:
 - Most defined by European colonial powers.
 - Does more judiciously than elsewhere, but still cause problems.

States and Boundaries: *Boundaries in Changing Times*

- **Antecedent boundary:** existing before the cultural landscape emerged
- **Subsequent boundary:** evolved as the cultural landscape took shape
- **Superimposed boundary:** drawn across an existing cultural landscape, often with little consideration of pre-existing patterns
- **Relict boundary:** border that has ceased to function but for its evident imprint on the cultural landscape



GENETIC POLITICAL BOUNDARY TYPES



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States and Boundaries: State and Territorial Morphology

- ❑ **Territorial morphology:** the shape of a state's territory:
 - ❑ Affects a state's condition and even survival
- ❑ Five dominant territorial configurations:
 - ❑ **Compact states:** near round or rectangular shapes with no major indentations



States and Boundaries: State and Territorial Morphology

- ❑ **Protruded states:** substantial, usually compact territory with an extended peninsular corridor
- ❑ **Elongated states:** territorial dimensions where length is much greater than the average width; result in cultural and environmental transitions



States and Boundaries: State and Territorial Morphology

- ❑ **Fragmented states:** two or more territorial units separated by foreign territory or substantial body of water
- ❑ **Perforated states:** completely surrounded by the territory of another state; appear as a "hole" in another state



TABLE 10.3 Gender comparisons for Southeast Asia and selected countries: Income and education level differentials

HDI rank	Country	Estimated earned income, female, 2007 (PPP U.S.\$)	Estimated earned income, male, 2007 (PPP U.S.\$)	Female earned income as a percent of male earned income, 2007	Combined gross enrollment ratio in education (all levels), 2007	Combined gross enrollment ratio in education (all levels), 2007
					Percent female	Percent male
Southeast Asia						
30	Brunei	36,838	62,631	59	79.1	76.5
138	Burma (Myanmar)	640	1043	61	No data	No data
137	Cambodia	1465	2158	68	54.8	62.1
111	Indonesia	2263	5163	44	66.8	69.5
133	Laos	1877	2455	77	54.3	64.8
66	Malaysia	7972	18,886	42	73.1	69.8
105	Philippines	2506	4293	58	81.6	77.8
23	Singapore	34,554	64,656	53	No data	No data
87	Thailand	6341	10,018	63	79.6	76.6
162	Timor-Leste	493	934	53	62.1	64.2
116	Vietnam	2131	3069	69	60.7	63.9
Selected countries for comparison						
13	United States	34,996	56,536	62	96.9	88.1
53	Mexico	8375	20,107	42	79.0	81.5
92	China	4323	6375	68	68.5	68.9

Source: United Nations Human Development Report 2009 (New York: United Nations Human Development Programme), Table J.

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