

## **Srivijaya vs Ghana**

Ghana and Srivijaya were two formidable empires that existed at various historical points and on several continents. Ghana was a land-based kingdom in West Africa that existed from the 6th to the 13th centuries, while Srivijaya was a marine empire that thrived in Southeast Asia from the 7th to the 13th century. These two kingdoms/empires have many similarities as well as many differences too. Some similarities between the two are that both empires had a reputation for prosperity and trade. While Ghana dominated the trans-Saharan trade routes that connected West Africa to North Africa and the Mediterranean region, Srivijaya controlled the Malacca Straits, a crucial trading route between China and India(Lotha et al., 2023). The two served as significant hubs for learning and culture. Ghana was famed for its Islamic architecture and scholarship, whereas Srivijaya was known for its Buddhist art and scholarship(*Kingdom of Ghana*, n.d). Although to various degrees, the slave trade was practiced by both empires. Srivijaya trafficked slaves, but the activity was not as common or organized as it was in Ghana, a country that mainly relied on the selling of slaves to Muslim traders and the slavery of prisoners of war.

Next to mention some of their differences are that Ghana was a land-based empire, but Srivijaya was a maritime one. While Ghana's strength was founded on its control of the gold trade and its placement on the Saharan trade routes, Srivijaya's authority was based on its dominance of the sea. While Ghana was predominately Muslim, Srivijaya was primarily Hindu and Buddhist. While Ghana's kings and elites converted to Islam and funded Islamic education, Srivijaya's rulers and elites adopted a hybridized version of Buddhism and Hinduism(*Srivijaya Empire*, n.d). Whereas Ghana's decline was primarily caused by internal issues like political instability, environmental deterioration, and the establishment of competitor nations, Srivijaya's

decline was primarily caused by foreign factors like assaults by the Chola Empire and the decline of the Indian Ocean trade(Lotha et al., 2023). In conclusion, Srivijaya and Ghana differed in their geographical and religious orientations as well as the reasons for their decline, although sharing significant parallels in terms of riches, trade, and cultural accomplishments.

## Resources

*Kingdom of Ghana*. StudySmarter US. (n.d.). Retrieved March 21, 2023, from <https://www.studysmarter.us/explanations/history/modern-world-history/kingdom-of-ghana/>

*Srivijaya Empire*. StudySmarter US. (n.d.). Retrieved March 21, 2023, from <https://www.studysmarter.us/explanations/history/modern-world-history/srivijaya-empire/>

Lotha, G., Augustyn, A., Pletcher, K., Triyadi, M., Chauhan, Y., Sinha, S., & Gorlinski, V. (2023, March 7). *Srivijaya Empire*. Encyclopædia Britannica. Retrieved March 21, 2023, from <https://www.britannica.com/place/Srivijaya-empire>