

Southeast Asia

Physical Geography:

Mainland Southeast Asia:

- The Malay Peninsula – (Myanmar, Thailand, and half of Malaysia) Mountainous in the north, central fertile river valley, Korat Plateau to the east
 - The **Irrawaddy River** Valley is the key physical feature of **Myanmar**. It is where most of the people live
- The Indochina Peninsula – (Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam) Mountains cover the north. Cambodia in the south is mostly flat.
 - **Laos** is the **only landlocked country** in Southeast Asia
 - The **Hong (Red) River** provides the space for the major population center in northern **Vietnam**. It flows through the capital, **Hanoi**.

Island Southeast Asia

- The Malay Archipelago – contains five and a half countries. **Indonesia** is the **largest country** in Southeast Asia with 17,508 separate islands (only 6,000 permanently inhabited). Stretches three thousand miles.
 - Five main islands – Sumatra, Borneo, Java, Sulawesi, and New Guinea
 - **Brunei** shares part of northern **Borneo** with Malaysia
- The **Philippine Archipelago** – **7,641 islands**. Bookended by the two largest islands – Luzon and Mindanao. Stretches one thousand miles from north to south.

“The Japanese called Southeast Asia, and particularly the islands of Indonesia, the southern resource area because of its many natural resources. The rivers and deltas provide perfect conditions for growing the **main crop, rice.**”

Human Geography:

History

- **Thailand** is the **only country in this region to avoid being colonized** by Europeans. It served as a buffer zone between British forces in Myanmar and French forces in Indochina.

- Vietnam was a central conflict zone of the Cold War. The United States supported the government of South Vietnam against invasion from the North and helped them fight the Communist insurgents in the South, the Viet Cong.
- When South Vietnam was defeated, the Communist Pathet Lao took over Laos and the Communist **Khmer Rouge** took over **Cambodia**. During the rule of Khmer Rouge, authorities killed one-fifth of the population.
- The Philippines was the first Southeast Asian country to be colonized and the only one to be colonized by Spain. It gained full independence in 1946.
- Rebels fought and won independence from Indonesia and West Timor in 2002; they named their new country **Timor-Leste** (East Timor)

Governments

- Ten of the eleven nations are members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (**ASEAN**), which was founded in 1967 to **promote political and economic cooperation and regional stability**.
- **Singapore** is a parliamentary republic. The people accept restrictions in order to enjoy a **seemingly ordered and stable** city-state that has continued to experience **economic growth**.

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- Buddhism p510

Vocabulary:

- Domino Theory
- diasporas
- Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)
- Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI)