

1. Kingdoms and Empires

- i. Southeast Asia is known as “the crossroads of the world”
- ii. Trade has exposed the region to many different cultural influences

b. Prehistoric Cultures

- i. Humans have lived in Southeast Asia for at least 40,000 years
- ii. At one time much of the Continental shelf laid above water as dry land
 1. Mainland connected to islands
- iii. Agriculture began about 6,000 years ago

c. Powerful Societies Emerge

- i. 100 BC China and India began to exert a powerful influence
 1. India’s culture and its religions (Hinduism and Buddhism) spread along trade routes into Southeast Asia
 2. Angkor Wat forms the largest single religious site in the world
- ii. Islamic States
 1. Islam, the religion of Muslims
 2. By the 1200’s two Islamic kingdoms had been established in northern Sumatra
 3. Sultan ---- A king

d. Western Colonization

- i. Europeans made the long voyages to Southwest Asia in search of?
 1. Gold, Silver, Spices, and wealth
 2. To spread Christianity

e. European Traders

- i. Some spices were worth more than gold
- ii. Fabulous wealth of the spice trade led European powers to seek ocean routes to the source of the spices, and to gain control of the trade.
- iii. Ferdinand Magellan crossed the Pacific from Mexico and reached the Philippines.
 1. Philippines became a Spanish colony

f. Colonial Rule

- i. Burma and Malaysia became colonies of Great Britain
- ii. Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia became colonies of France
- iii. Plantation --- large farms

g. Thailand (Siam)

- i. Only state in Southeast Asia that Europeans did not colonize

h. Independent Countries

- i. Early 1900 most Southeast Asia under the control of foreign powers
- ii. United States took control of the colony in 1898 after defeating Spain in the Spanish-American War
- iii. Japanese took over Southeast Asia for their oil rubber and timber
 1. Japanese rule lasted till the end of WWII 1945
 2. Philippines 1st to get independence 1946 from US
 3. Last country to gain its freedom was East Timor in 2002

i. Regional Conflicts

1. Vietnam War --- North vs South will last till 1975

j. Modern Southeast Asia

- i. By late 1900’s economic growth of East Asian countries such as China and Taiwan helped other countries in the region.
 1. Singapore, became one of the world’s most prosperous countries in Asia
- ii. Myanmar struggled for independence
 1. Military seized power and closed off the country
 - a. Cyclone in 2008 killed more than 100,000 people
- iii. What colonial power ruled Vietnam before 1954?