

What You Will Learn...

Main Ideas

1. Southeast Asia's early history includes empires, colonial rule, and independence.
2. The modern history of Southeast Asia involves struggles with war and communism.
3. Southeast Asia's culture reflects its Chinese, Indian, and European heritage.

The Big Idea

People, ideas, and traditions from China, India, Europe, and elsewhere have shaped Southeast Asia's history and culture.

Key Terms and Places

Timor, p. 625

domino theory, p. 626

wats, p. 626

TAKING NOTES

As you read, use a chart like the one here to help you take notes on the history and culture of Southeast Asia.

History	Culture

History and Culture

If YOU lived there...

You and your friends are strolling through the market in Jakarta, Indonesia, looking for a snack. You have many choices—tents along the street, carts called gerobak, and vendors on bicycles all sell food. You might choose satay, strips of chicken or lamb grilled on a stick. Or you might pick one of many rice dishes. For dessert, you can buy fruit or order an ice cream cone.

What do you like about living in Jakarta?

BUILDING BACKGROUND Colonial rule helped shape Southeast Asia's history and culture—including foods. Throughout the region you can see not only a blend of different Asian influences but also a blend of American, Dutch, French, and Spanish influences.

Early History

Southeast Asia lies south of China and east of India, and both countries have played a strong role in the region's history. Over time, many people from China and India settled in Southeast Asia. As settlements grew, trade developed with China and India.

Early Civilization

The region's most advanced early civilization was the Khmer (kuh-MER). From the AD 800s to the mid-1200s the Khmer controlled a large empire in what is now Cambodia. The remains of Angkor Wat, a huge temple complex the Khmer built in the 1100s, reflects their advanced civilization and Hindu religion.

In the 1200s the Thai (TY) from southern China settled in the Khmer area. Around the same time, Buddhism, introduced earlier from India and Sri Lanka, began replacing Hinduism in the region.



Colonial Rule and Independence

As in many parts of the world, European powers started colonizing Southeast Asia during the 1500s. Led by Portugal, European powers came to the region in search of spices and other trade goods.

In 1521 explorer Ferdinand Magellan reached the Philippines and claimed the islands for Spain. The Spaniards who followed came to colonize, trade, and spread Roman Catholicism. This religion remains the main faith in the Philippines today.

In the 1600s and 1700s Dutch traders drove the Portuguese out of much of the region. Portugal kept only the small island of **Timor**. The Dutch gained control of the tea and spice trade on what became the Dutch East Indies, now Indonesia.

In the 1800s the British and French set up colonies with plantations, railroads, and mines. Many people from China and India came to work in the colonies. The British and French spread Christianity as well.

In 1898 the United States entered the region when it won the Philippines from Spain after the Spanish-American War. By the early 1900s, colonial powers ruled most of the region, as the map on the next page shows. Only Siam (sy-AM), now Thailand, was never colonized, although it lost land.

In World War II (1939–1945), Japan invaded and occupied most of Southeast Asia. After Japan lost the war, the United States gave the Philippines independence. Soon, other people in the region began to fight for their independence.

One of the bloodiest wars for independence was in French Indochina. In 1954 the French left. Indochina then split into the independent countries of Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. By 1970, most of Southeast Asia had thrown off colonial rule.

READING CHECK Identifying Cause and

Effect What reasons led other countries to set up colonies across most of Southeast Asia?

Angkor Wat

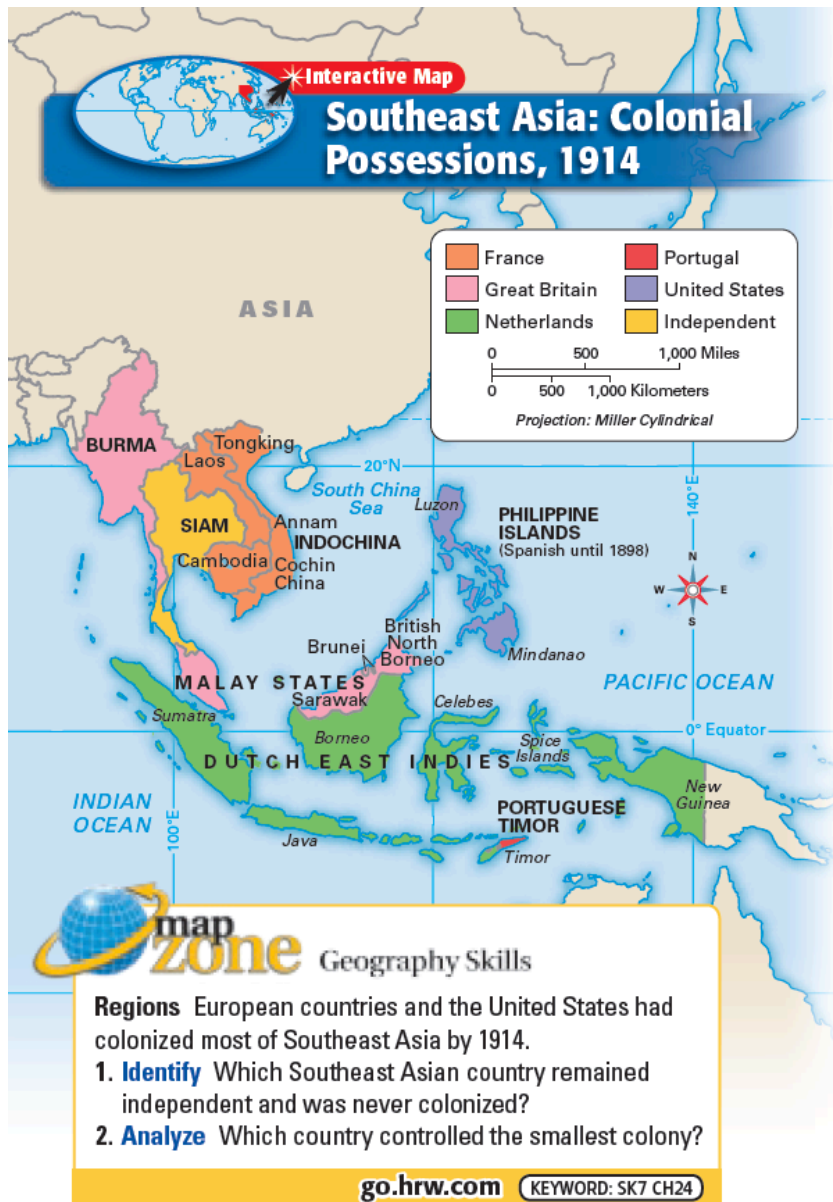
The stone towers of Angkor Wat rise from the rain forest in what is now Cambodia. To the Khmer, Angkor Wat symbolized the center of the universe.

ANALYZING VISUALS
What conclusions can you draw about the Khmer based on Angkor Wat?

The towers represent the peaks of Mount Meru, the home of the gods in Hindu mythology.

The pathway represents the rainbow bridge, the link between the gods and people in Hindu mythology.

Angkor Wat was built in the mid-1100s as a Hindu temple. It later became a Buddhist temple.



Years of war caused millions of deaths and terrible destruction. In the end, North and South Vietnam reunited as one Communist country. As the Communists took over, about 1 million refugees fled South Vietnam. Many went to the United States.

Civil wars also raged in Cambodia and Laos. In 1975 Communist forces took over both countries. The government in Cambodia was brutal, causing the deaths of more than 1 million people there. Then in 1978 Vietnam helped to overthrow Cambodia's government. This event sparked further fighting, which continued off and on until the mid-1990s. The United Nations then helped Cambodia achieve peace.

READING CHECK **Summarizing** What are some key events in the region's modern history?

Culture

The many groups that influenced Southeast Asia's history also shaped its culture. This diverse culture blends native, Chinese, Indian, and European ways of life.

People and Languages

The countries in Southeast Asia have many ethnic groups. As an example, Indonesia has more than 300 ethnic groups. Most of the countries have one main ethnic group plus many smaller ethnic groups.

Not surprisingly, many languages are spoken in Southeast Asia. These languages include native languages and dialects as well as Chinese and European languages.

Religions

The main religions in Southeast Asia are Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, and Islam. Buddhism is the main faith on the mainland. This area features many beautiful **wats**, Buddhist temples that also serve as monasteries.

Modern History

The move toward independence was not easy. In Vietnam, the fighting to oust the French left the country divided into North and South Vietnam. A civil war then broke out in the South. To defend South Vietnam from Communist forces in that war, the United States sent in troops in the 1960s.

The United States based its decision to send troops on one criterion—the potential spread of communism. According to the **domino theory**, if one country fell to communism, other countries nearby would follow like falling dominoes.

FOCUS ON READING

How does the context help explain the meaning of the term *oust* in the paragraph to the right?

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

criterion rules or standards for defining

Islam is the main religion in Malaysia, Brunei, and Indonesia. In fact, Indonesia has more Muslims than any other country. In the Philippines, most people are Roman Catholic. Hinduism is practiced in Indian communities and on the island of Bali.

Customs

Customs differ widely across the region, but some similarities exist. For example, religion often shapes life, and people celebrate many religious festivals. Some people continue to practice traditional customs, such as dances and music. These customs are especially popular in rural areas. In addition, many people wear traditional clothing, such as sarongs, strips of cloth worn wrapped around the body.

READING CHECK **Generalizing** How has Southeast Asia's history influenced its culture?

SUMMARY AND PREVIEW Southeast Asia has a long history that has helped shape its diverse culture. Next, you will read about Mainland Southeast Asia.

FOCUS ON CULTURE

Thai Teenage Buddhist Monks

Would you be willing to serve as a monk for a few months? In Thailand, many Buddhist boys and young men serve as monks for a short period. This period might last from one week to a few months. These temporary monks follow the lifestyle of actual Buddhist monks, shaving their heads, wearing robes, and maintaining a life of simplicity. During their stay, the teenage monks learn about Buddhism and practice meditation. Some Thai teens decide to become Buddhist monks permanently. This decision is considered a great honor for their families.

Summarizing What are some of the things that Thai boys and young men do while serving as Buddhist monks?



Section 2 Assessment

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Online Quiz

KEYWORD: SK7 HP24

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places

- a. **Describe** What was the significance of the Khmer Empire?

b. **Identify Cause and Effect** What was the result of the war for independence in French Indochina?

c. **Elaborate** How did European colonization shape Southeast Asia's history?
- a. **Define** What was the **domino theory**?

b. **Summarize** What role has communism played in Southeast Asia's modern history?
- a. **Define** What is a **wat**?

b. **Contrast** How does religion in the mainland and island countries differ?

c. **Elaborate** How has the history of Southeast Asia shaped the region's culture?

Critical Thinking

- Sequencing** Copy the time line shown below. Using your notes, identify on the time line the important people, periods, events, and years in Southeast Asia's history.



FOCUS ON SPEAKING

- Writing Questions about History and Culture** What interesting questions could you ask about the history and culture of Southeast Asia? Write two questions and their answers to add to your notes.