

Diverse Traditions of Southeast Asia

Indian and Chinese cultures influenced the kingdoms of Southeast Asia.

Southeast Asia consists of mainland areas and scattered islands located between China and India. The region covers the countries of Myanmar (Burma), Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Brunei, and Malaysia.



Cargo ships traveling between China and India had to pass through Southeast Asia. During the monsoon seasons, ships waited out the storms in the Southeast Asian ports, developing them as centers of trade and culture.

Indians traveling to Southeast Asia brought ideas about government, law, art, and architecture. They introduced Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam to the region.

In 111 B.C.E., China conquered Northern Vietnam and ruled the region for 1,000 years. During this time, the Vietnamese people adapted many Chinese ideas.

Individual kingdoms merged that blended Indian and Southeast Asian ways. However, in 1044 C.E., the ruler of the **Kingdom of Pagan** united the region and introduced Buddhism. The **Khmer Empire** thrived between 800 C.E. and 1350 C.E. The majority of the rulers were Hindus. The **Srivijaya nation** prospered between 600 C.E. and 1200 C.E. As in other nations in the region, its people added Hindu and Buddhist ideas to their own religious practices.

KINGDOMS AND EMPIRES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

KINGDOM OF PAGAN	KHMER EMPIRE	SRIVIJAYA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Located where Myanmar (Burma) is today * King Anawrata united the region in 1044 C.E. * Anawrata brought Buddhism to the area * The city of Pagan was an important Buddhist center that had many stupas (dome-shaped shrines) * Conquered by the Mongols in 1287 C.E. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Controlled much of present-day Cambodia, Thailand, and Malaysia * Most powerful region between 800 C.E. and 1350 C.E. * Adapted Indian writing, mathematics, art, and architecture * Most rulers were Hindu * Most people were Buddhists * King Suryavarman II built the great temple complex at Angkor Wat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Located where Indonesia is today * Powerful from 600 C.E. until 1200 C.E. * Combined Hinduism and Buddhism with traditional beliefs in nature * Became a major trading empire due to location and climatic seasonal changes * Controlled the Strait of Malacca which is between Singapore and Malaysia in the north and Indonesia in the south.



The ancient temple of Angkor Wat in Cambodia

Built between roughly 1113 and 1150 C.E., and encompassing an area of about 500 acres, Angkor Wat is one of the largest religious monuments ever constructed. Its name means "temple city."

Originally built as a Hindu temple dedicated to the god Vishnu, it was converted into a Buddhist temple in the 14th century, and statues of Buddha were added to its already rich artwork.