

# Southeast Asia

# Mainland Southeast Asia



# Mainland Natural Environments

- Landforms & Rivers
  - Rugged mountains in the north
  - Central plains & plateaus
  - Rivers, valleys & deltas
  - Major Rivers: Irawaddy & Mekong





- Region has tropical climates influenced by monsoons
- Climates support rain forests & a variety of animals like monkeys, birds & marine life



# Resources

- Hardwoods—mahogany, teak, ebony
- Minerals—iron, tin, gems, etc
- Energy—natural gas (Thailand) oil (Myanmar) coal (Vietnam), hydropower potential



Teak plantation in Myanmar



Sawmill in Myanmar

# Historical Events

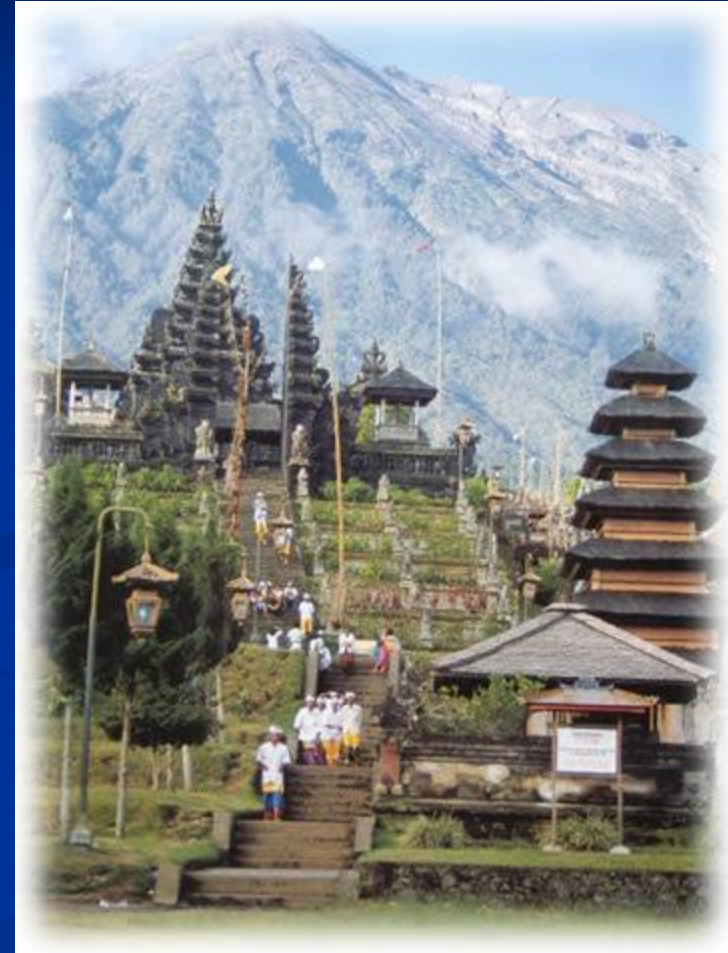
- Khmer civilization emerged in AD 800
- 1500s Europeans arrived
- During colonization the British & French set up plantations
- Chinese & Indians arrived
- WWII-occupied by the Japanese
- Vietnam, Cambodia, & Laos gained independence when French Indochina split
- Vietnam War



Khmer kite procession in Cambodia

# Cultural Features

- Each country has one main cultural group with various minorities
- Minority groups maintain traditional lifestyles in mountainous areas
- Buddhism is the dominant faith & greatly influences thoughts & customs





# Economic & Political features

- Thailand has a dynamic market economy & constitutional monarchy
- Laos is a very poor, communist country trying to achieve gradual market reforms
- Cambodia is also poor with an elected government
- Myanmar has resources but also has a very closed government & poor economy
- Vietnam has a communist government with some capitalist features, but they are still poor



# Agriculture

- Paddy farming—intensive rice production where water is plentiful
- Shifting, subsistence farming—in poor areas, farmers shift fields after a few years
- Plantations—large farms growing export crops
- Opium grown in rugged northern mountains









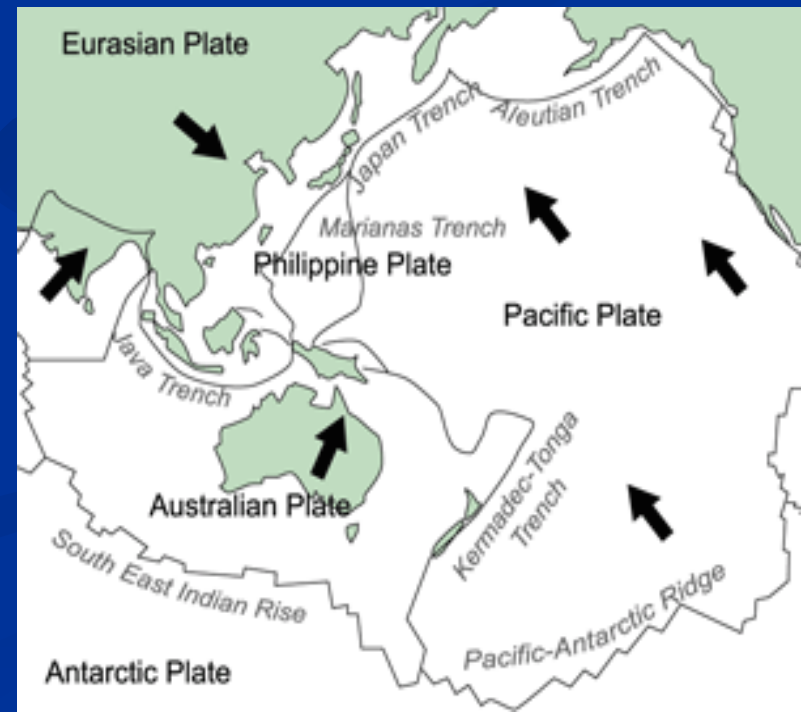
# Issues & Challenges

- Cambodia is trying to recover from the terrifying rule of Khmer rouge
- Myanmar is a harsh military dictatorship with a poor human rights record
- Vietnam & Laos are poor countries trying to enact economic reforms
- Thailand's once booming economy has slowed, economic reforms are on the way



# Island Southeast Asia: Landforms

- Landforms of island SE Asia were partially shaped by tectonic forces
- Malay archipelago—an archipelago of 20,000 islands (Borneo & the Philippines)
- Seas & narrow straits between islands & the mainland
- Geologically active area -earthquakes & volcanoes



# Climates & Biomes

- Tropical climates in much of the region.
- Most is hot & damp.
- Cooler climates at higher peaks
- Tropical rain forests & mangroves
- Variety of plants & Animals
  - Komodo Dragon



# Natural Resources

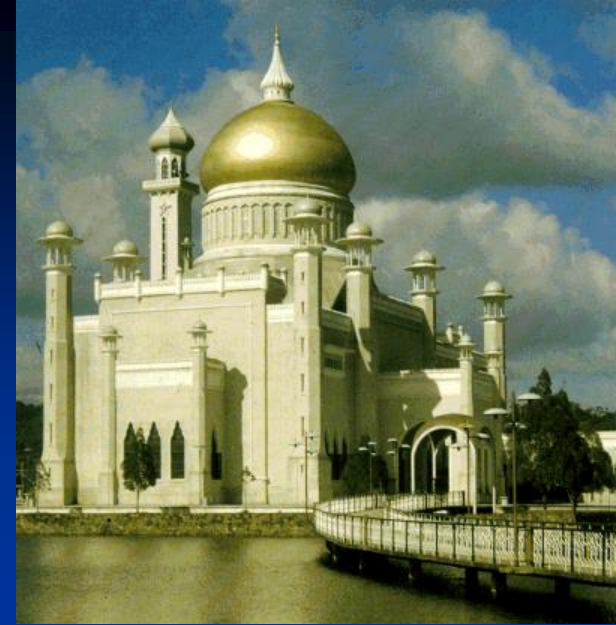
- Forests
- Fisheries
- Volcanic Soils-fertile
- Copper, gold, tin, oil & natural Gas





# Early Peoples

- Malay people arrived from Asia in 2000BC
- Indian Hindus came later
- Chinese merchants arrived forming a large minority
- Arab traders came in the 1300s, spread Islam



Bandar Seri Bagawan  
Mosque in Brunei, one of  
the largest in Asia



Angkor Wat in Cambodia

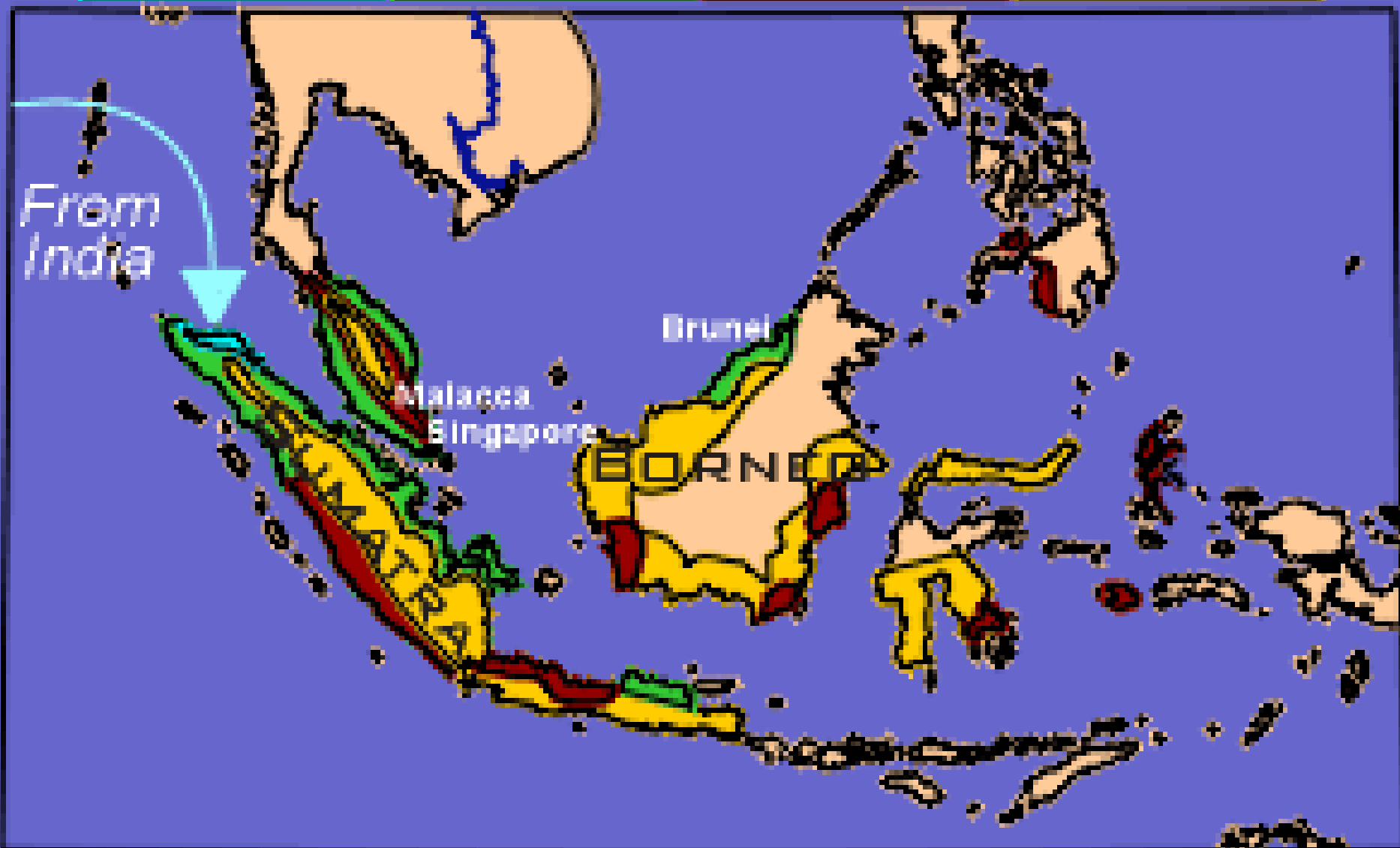
# The Spread of Islam in Southeast Asia

13th and 14th  
centuries

15th century

16th century

17th and 18th  
centuries



# Colonization

- Spain brought Catholicism to the Philippines
- Manila became a trade link between the U.S. and China, later became a U.S. colony.
- Holland controlled (the Dutch East Indies) Indonesia for the spice trade
- Britain colonized Malaysia and founded Singapore—built roads, plantations, schools & brought in Chinese & Indian workers, now large ethnic groups

The Philippines are the only Southeastern Asian nation that has been primarily Christian for hundreds of years. The Philippines are 85 percent Roman Catholic



Vigan, Philippines



Semarang shows the mixture of Javanese, Dutch & Arabic cultures in Indonesia



# People & Culture

- Diverse population with many languages
- Some large cities but mostly rural
- The major religions are Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, & Christianity (Philippines)
- Rice cultivation



Historic Borobudur Temple Complex near Yogyakarta on the island of Java. Borobudur is the world's largest Buddhist temple - and has been for about 1000 years.

# Economic Changes

- Growing trade & investment links; ASEAN
- Rapid industrialization & modernization in the 1980s and 1990s
- Improved standards of living in Singapore, Brunei & Malaysia
- Singapore is the wealthiest, cleanest and most orderly city, strict laws restrict behavior



Singapore

# Challenges



Manila, Philippines

- Urban Growth
- Environmental damage—deforestation, loss of wildlife, over fishing, pollution
- Poverty & economic development
- Protecting political & personal freedoms
- Ethnic & political tensions in Indonesia
- Muslim separatism & conflict in the Philippines

The Site of the  
Terrorist Bombing in

