

24. South-East Asia

= very important places for conquests and trade of Europeans

Location and physical borders

= enormous *vertical* (Himalayas and large river flows) *and horizontal* (volcanoes, earthquakes, large lowlands => farmers) *segmentation*

Sea = *source of food and main mean of transport*

- 20% of total area = arable land => deforestation of large equatorial (tropical) rainforests
- great influence of monsoons (wet season = 3000 mm of rainfall)

Seas to remember: Andaman, South Chinese, Java, Celebes, Timor, Arafura

Islands to remember: Sumatra, Java, Borneo/Kalimantan, Sulawesi/Celebes, Mindanao, Luzon, New Guinea

Main characteristics

- fragmented into many islands
- culture fragmentation (language and religion)
- “buffer” belt, pressure from abroad was always huge
- large external influences – formation of culture
- instability, conflicts
- huge concentration of population in rural areas
- low population density (in comparison with other regions)
- islands = high population growth during 20th century
- low internal relations, more important external relations
- uncertain borders



Asian tigers of the 1st wave: South Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan

Asian tigers of the 2nd wave: Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines

Large intraregional inequalities:

- underdeveloped agriculture rural areas
- developed industrial urban regions

Population

= great population boom during 1930s-1960s.

Everywhere large migration flows ⇔

- *WWII* (parts of population come back to their mother countries)
- *Army operations* (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia)
- *Resettlement of sparsely populated regions* (Indonesia, Philippines)

Densely populated countries/regions (inh./km²): Macao (17,000), Hong Kong + Singapore (6,000), Taiwan (640)

Most populous countries: Indonesia (127 mil.), Jakarta = fastest growing population

Religion

Indonesia = the largest *Muslim* country (former Dutch colony)

Philippines = largest *Christian* country (consequence of Spanish colonisation)

Malaysia = diverse country (Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, Hinduists)

Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam = *Buddhism* (tolerant)

Industries

Investments to main industries – textile, tourism, labour-intensive industries.

Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei = large oil reserves (Java Sea, South Chinese Sea)

Agriculture = growing of rice, vegetables, corn, rearing of animals, plantations

Singapore

- ❖ 1 of the greatest exporters of microchips. Hi-tech sub-supplies.



Vietnam

- ❖ 75 million inhabitants, south = agriculture region (Mekong estuary)

Indonesia

- ❖ 200 million inhabitants, subsistence agriculture (rice), mountainous country, Java = 60% of population concentrated in 7% of total area
- ❖ deforestation ⇔ plantations, lack of engineering, developed electro-technical + textile industries.



Malaysia

- ❖ former British colony, large development, religion tolerance, Petronas towers (KL)

Thailand

- ❖ 60 million inhabitants, rubber plantations, large cultural heritage => importance of tourism => cultural sites, beaches, sex-tourism
- ❖ relative cheap country + political order, Bangkok (Krungthep) = localised in Menan lowland



South East Asia

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