Regions
Mainland Southeast Asia

- Mainland region includes five states:
  - Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Myanmar
- Multicultural, multiethnic region
  - Exceptions: Buddhist dominance and low urbanization
- Observation of the *domino theory*:
  - Destabilization and conflict from one country can diffuse into neighboring countries.
  - Did not materialize in initial context, but *diffusion* in North Africa is an example of the process.
Mainland Southeast Asia: Vietnam

French Legacy

- French division into three units based on different regional peoples: Tonkin/Bac Bo; Cochin China/ Nam Bo; and Annam/Trung Bo
- Linguistic unity, although accents vary in North or South
  - French made the lingua franca
- Japanese occupation made French control after more difficult
Mainland Southeast Asia: Vietnam

North and South

- Elongation’s role:
  - Communist North at Hanoi
  - Anticommunist South at Saigon
  - Inability of French and American forces to impose order
    - Led to terrible loss of life and displacement
- Today, contrasts remain but are diminishing:
  - From cities to rural areas, some areas are catching up
Mainland Southeast Asia: Vietnam

Vietnam in Transition

- Increasing agricultural production:
  - Coffee for export and rice, cotton, rubber, tea, and spices
  - But, deforestation and flooding
- Fast-growing economy
  - Special Economic Zones based on the Chinese model
  - Admission to the World Trade Organization, so more changes on the horizon

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Among the Realm’s Great Cities: Saigon

- Officially, Ho Chi Minh City, but in common usage is Saigon:
  - Northerners made the name change for this southern city
- Suffering city:
  - Deterioration and undependable
- Advantage: accessible Saigon River
  - Chinese role in development
  - Vietnamese government nationalized Chinese-owned firms

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Mainland Southeast Asia: Cambodia

- Heir to the Khmer Empire:
  - Khmers the largest ethnic group today
  - Vietnamese and Chinese minorities
- Geographic advantages:
  - Compact state
  - Cultural homogeneity
Mainland Southeast Asia: Cambodia

Postwar Problems

- Indochina War and Khmer Rouge regime:
  - Communist revolutionaries that set out to violently reconstruct a rural society
- Political instability remains:
  - Disrupted agriculture and economy
  - Hopes on oil and tourism
Mainland Southeast Asia: Laos

- Landlocked and encircled by more powerful, populous neighbors:
  - No real infrastructure or economy
  - Not much land suitable for agriculture
  - Part of its lands within the “Golden Triangle” of opium-poppy fame
  - Reliant on foreign aid as an exchange for crackdown on illicit activity
- Communist government slow to open up its economy
Mainland Southeast Asia: Thailand

- Leading state of the Mainland:
  - Strong leader in economic development
  - Largest urban center in the region
  - Somewhat inhibited by instability and uncertainty

- Example of protrusion:
  - Compact heartland, core
  - Protrusion corridor runs to border with Malaysia
Mainland Southeast Asia: The Restive Peninsular South

- Distant from the capital
- Porous border with Malaysia
  - Malay ethnic population extending northward
  - Majority Muslim in the south
- Thai government’s hands-off approach
- New context of Islamic militancy:
  - Now seen as a “Southern Frontier”
Mainland Southeast Asia: The Restive Peninsular South

Bangkok on the Chao Phraya

- Chao Phraya: one of many streams
  - Forms a highway of sorts
- Bangkok sprawls along both sides of the floodplain
- West side klong neighborhoods
Among the Realm’s Great Cities: Bangkok

- Mainland’s largest city:
  - Sprawling metropolis without a center
  - Aggregation of neighborhoods
  - Connected by choked roadways or a diminishing network of waterways

- Hybrid skyline of modern skyscrapers and golden Buddhist pagodas
Mainland Southeast Asia: Myanmar

- Of the world’s poorest and most isolated:
  - Corrupt and brutal dictatorship
  - Promise will only come with regime change

- Core shift in the past:
  - From Mandalay to Yangon

- Cultural diversity:
  - Peripheral minorities dominate, yet Burman rule
Larger combined territory than Mainland

Insular region includes six very diverse states:
- Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei, the Philippines, and East Timor (Timor-Leste)

Many insular states are severely fragmented:
- Such politico-geographical divisions pose significant challenges for states

Other sovereign entities:
- Singapore city-state
- Sultanate of Brunei
Insular Southeast Asia: Mainland-Island Malaysia

Ethnic Components

- Malay:
  - Traditionally rural peoples, they displaced older aboriginal communities in the area.
  - Strong cultural identity expressed in Muslim, common language, and sense of territoriality.

- Foreign influences:
  - Chinese came during the colonial period, forming a significant proportion of the population.
  - Hindu South Asians came before Europeans, form a clustered minority.
Insular Southeast Asia: Mainland-Island Malaysia

West Malaysia: The Dominant Peninsula

- Malay-dominated politics, economy:
  - Strict control of economic and social policies pushing modernization
  - Recurrent ethnic troubles
- Colonial period primacy
  - British-created economy based on plantations and mining
  - Site of the crucial *choke point*
Insular Southeast Asia: Mainland-Island Malaysia

East Malaysian Borneo

- Combination of the mainland sultanates with those on Borneo:
  - Large territorial footprint, but the two states have small population.
  - Malaysia has access to energy resources and timber.

- Complication of ethnic complexion:
  - Each Borneo State has dozens of indigenous groups.
  - These states claim they are treated more like colonies.
Insular Southeast Asia: *Brunei*

- Rich, oil-exporting Islamic sultanate on Borneo
- Territorially fragmented:
  - Separated by a sliver of Malaysian land
  - Connected by ports
- Rapid growth through immigration
- Rural, indigenous, and isolated interior
Insular Southeast Asia: Singapore

- Tiger ministate:
  - To save space, developed high-tech and service industries
  - Benefits of its relative location: as an entrepôt on the Pacific Rim
- Building a Growth Triangle with its developing neighbors

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Insular Southeast Asia: *Indonesia*

- Globe’s most expansive **archipelago**:
  - Country is spread across a series of geologically formed volcanic islands.
  - Population is separated by water, clustered on the islands.
  - Five larger islands dominate territory and activities.
Figure 10B-7
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Insular Southeast Asia: Indonesia

The Major Islands

- **Jawa**: Indonesia’s core:
  - One of the world’s most densely populated and agriculturally productive places atop a very tectonically active zone
  - Most highly urbanized part of the country: Jabotabek conurbation

- **Sumatera**: western connections:
  - High-relief topography and rich agricultural potential
  - Indigenous rebels: from colonialism to today
    - Affected by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami
Insular Southeast Asia: Indonesia

The Major Islands

- **Kalimantan**: Indonesia’s Borneo:
  - Borneo has dense and biodiverse rainforest with many indigenous peoples.
  - Logging and farming impact its tropical habitat.

- **Sulawesi**: insular contrasts:
  - Dutch developed urban focus, Manado, amid a rugged and remote terrain.

- **Papua**: Indonesian colony:
  - Economically important for its gold and copper reserves.
  - Indigenous people are behind a Free Papua Movement.
Among the Realm’s Great Cities: Jakarta

- **Urban contrasts:**
  - Poverty like nowhere else in the realm
  - Contradictory economic progress bursting while slow

- **Cosmopolitan city:** wider Indonesian cross-section
  - Muslim, Christian, and Hindu

- **Advantageous situation on Jawa**
Insular Southeast Asia: Indonesia

Diversity in Unity

- Indonesia’s national motto: *bhinneka tunggal ika*
  - Powerful potential of centrifugal forces
- Forefront challenge: terrorism
  - In tourist areas of Bali and Jakarta

Transmigration and the Outer Islands

- Transmigration policy: dispersing population away from dense areas to sparsely inhabited islands
  - To manage booming, yet uneven, population growth
  - To strengthen the core’s power over outlying areas
Insular Southeast Asia: East Timor

- Split by colonial powers:
  - Portuguese in the East
  - Indonesian rule:
    - Incited a violent struggle for independence
    - Mass destruction of peoples and already underdeveloped infrastructure

- Independence achieved in 2002 as Timor-Leste
Insular Southeast Asia: East Timor

**Nation-Building Nightmare**

- Australian negotiations over maritime boundaries:
  - Disadvantaged East Timor
- Fragmented, devastated, and impoverished:
  - In need of competent government
  - Long independence battled transitioned into criminality
  - Explosive growth complicates matters further

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Physiologically fragmented

- Over 7000 islands
- Divided into three main groups:
  - Luzon
  - Visaya
  - Mindanao

Archipelago of contrasts:

- Overlapping colonial cultural imprints
- Cultural diffusion into insurgency
Insular Southeast Asia: The Philippines

Muslim Insurgency
- Marginalized Muslims represented by numerous Muslim organizations
- Promotion of Muslim cause through varying tactics

People and Culture
- Hybrid Filipino culture
- Population in good farming areas
- Filipinos abroad and reliance on remittances

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Among the Realm’s Great Cities: Manila

- Founded by the Spanish in Luzon area
- Advantageous site and situation:
  - Well-defined commercial center, but lacking a landscape that indicates a booming Pacific Rim city
  - Retained economic and government functions when new de jure capital, Quezon City, was created

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Prospects

- Government mismanagement and inconsistent trade linkages
- More challenges:
  - Territorial dispute in South China Sea
  - Dominant agriculture and high unemployment
  - Need for social restructuring
- Economic progress:
  - Expansion of electronics, textiles
  - Foreign investment