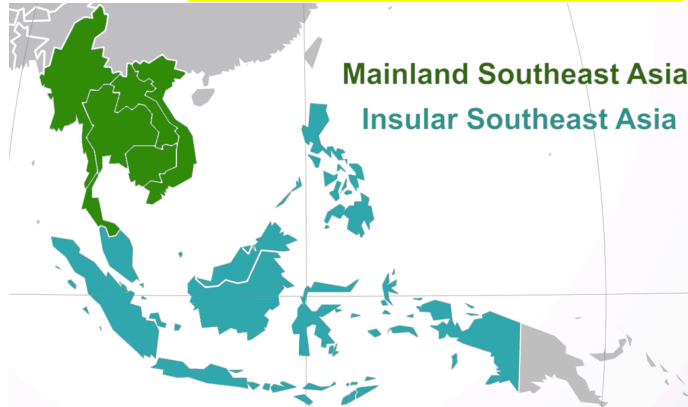


Week 1: Introduction

SEA nations are some of Australia's closest neighbouring countries.

- Australia is a convenient study location for **SEA students**, with the total number **greater than 100,000**, with just under half enrolled in higher education institutions.
- **Popular migration destination.**
- **600 million people living in SEA.**

SEA is politically and economically significant for Australia and nations such as USA and China who want to access **natural resources and strategic locations** e.g. shipping.



Shaped by similar location and natural environment driving economics
Shaped by trade with harsher environments.

Colonialism was shared by all SEA nations bar Thailand from the French, British, Dutch, Portuguese, and Americans.

Historians are split on whether SEA countries have a common identity as the British where the first to see it as a unified region, Amitav Archaya on the other hand believes that there is a long history of interaction and trade between these nations which links these nations as a region.

All SEA countries are now members of **ASEAN** bar Timor-Leste.

The **end of WWII** was the period in which **SEA began to be acknowledged as a distinct region.**

The **Japanese occupation of the region** involved the encouraging of Southeast Asian nationalists and **stoked a regional consciousness** by destroying the "colonial partition" of the region. This in turn encouraged a greater recognition of the distinctive of the Southeast Asia and its culture and gave it greater significance. The importance given to Southeast Asian by Japan is seen especially through the Greater East Asian Co-Prosperity Scheme which was based upon in part Japan's concerns on its own lack of natural resources.

Week 2: Geography

SEA includes **Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Timor Leste, Brunei, Singapore, and Malaysia.**

It is estimated there **hundreds to thousands of language spoken** in SEA, most have never been recorded and have no writing systems.

There are **five major language families** which include **Tibeto-Burman, Austroasiatic, Tai (Daic), Hmong-Mien** and **Austronesian.**

Some states are dominated by particular ethnic groups e.g. Burmans in Myanmar and Thai in Thailand.

Indonesia straddles both sections of SEA whilst the other nations can be grouped as one of the two regions.

Whilst some nations share **geographical borders**, such as **Cambodia and Thailand**, and **Vietnam and Laos**, others are purely based upon **colonial rule** such as the separation between **Malaysian and Indonesian Borneo**.

Scholars Peter Bellwood and Ian Glover argue that the **native peoples of SEA do in fact have ancestry grounded in the region** that is reflected in **culture, language, and genotype**, and in the **similarities between language and physical appearance**.

- Most inhabitants belong to the **Southern Mongoloid biological group**.
- A **separate identity** was maintained despite influence from India, China, Islam, and Europe.

One of the **major issues in identifying SEA as a region** is the **diversity across the region** as well as the **influence from outsiders**.

Scholars Bentley and Hill argue for the **influence of Indian, Chinese, Arab, and Indian influence upon SEA**.

- Emergence of the **state as a political and religious institution** whereby the **King is a living deity** can be traced back to **Indian models of rule**.
- **Chinese influence** can be seen in **Vietnam**, and a number of **colonies were established between Myanmar and Borneo**, leading to influence in particular in **food, dress and religious practices**.

With the **emergence of trade patterns**, both within the region and from other regions, **ideas also flowed**.

Willem van Schendel argues that the scope of the area can be better understood through the **flow of goods and people** that occur across the space. This may include factors such as the flow of **refugees** or the flow of **illicit drugs** and **arms and ammunition**.

- This may **change over time** or cease such as due to periods of war, decreases in demand, or economic crisis.

Trade played an important role from the 1400s, especially due to **maritime trade**, in the shaping of fortunes of kingdoms and **established relationships** across both mainland and island SEA.

- During this period, **controlling port cities and route became desirable** e.g. the **Malacca Strait**.

