



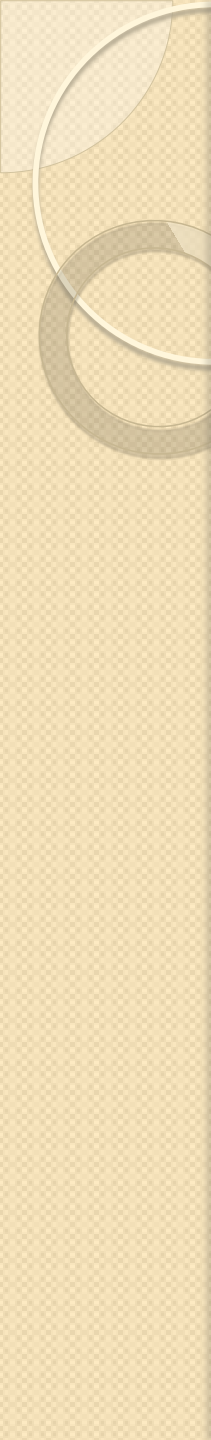
Southeast Asian

Cultural

Characteristics

A. Family Values

- I. Need for everyone to be married & have a family
 - a. exception for homosexuals – basis for their social exclusion (but not persecution)



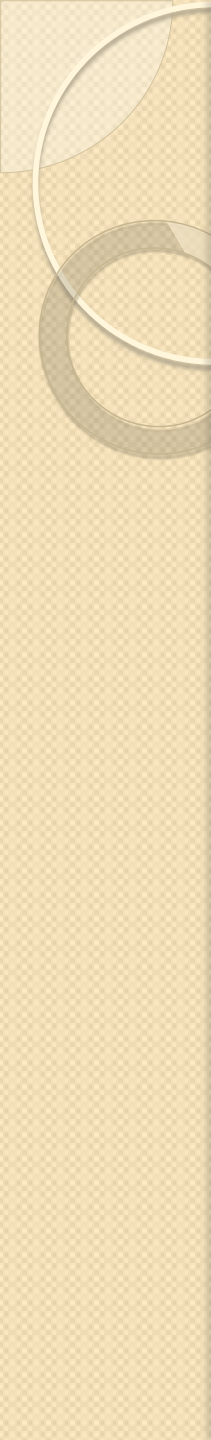
b. exception (sort of) for
Buddhist monks & Filipino
priests

c. modern educated women
(especially in rural areas)
often single for lack of
suitable prospects



2. Bi-lateral kinship

- a. ancestral descent gives equal weight to maternal & paternal sides of families
- b. greater equality for women
 - l.) equal inheritance (or at least not male only)

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- 2.) no requirement for male heir
 - 3.) pre-European naming practices not always based on the individual's family
 - 4.) no dowry (man works for bride's family)
 - 5.) post-marriage residence often with woman's kin

3. Traditional match-makers

a. marriages are family affairs

– not just the bride &
groom

b. freedom in “dating” is not
possible

3. Divorce

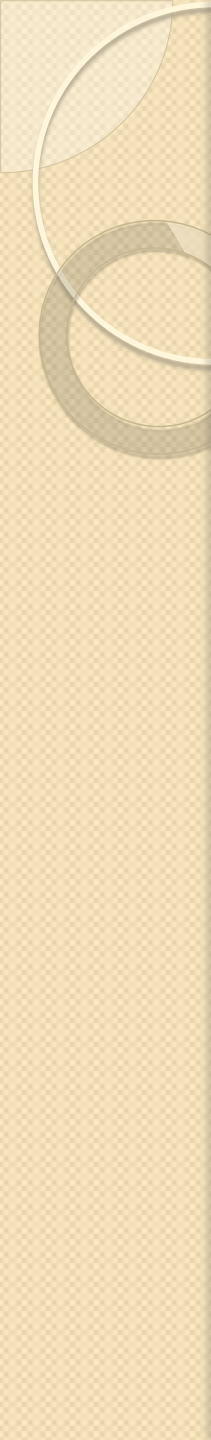
- a. traditionally (pre-European & pre-Islamic) women had great freedom to divorce
- b. divorce still allowed today but often more controlled
- c. the Philippine Catholic divorce problem

4. The “Fictive” Family

a. “extra-familial” friendships

1.) similar to ours =

fraternities, clubs, neighborhood associations, work groups BUT ...



2.) often lifetime & a major force
in the individual's life –
Philippine examples

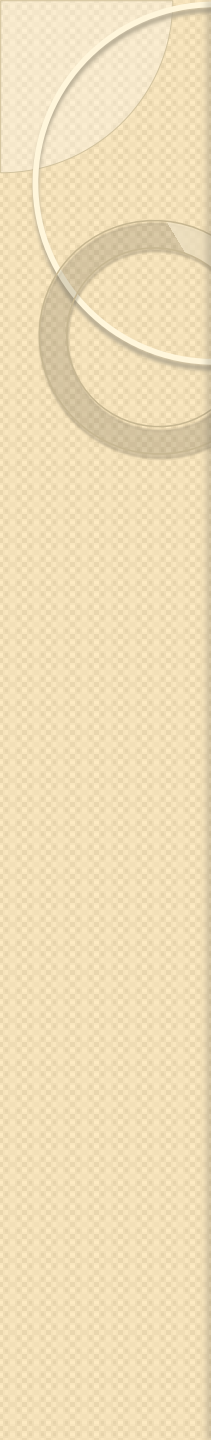
b. ritual kinship

1.) sponsors/witnesses at
weddings, baptisms, or
Qu'ran recitations

2.) ritual kinship as family
and allies

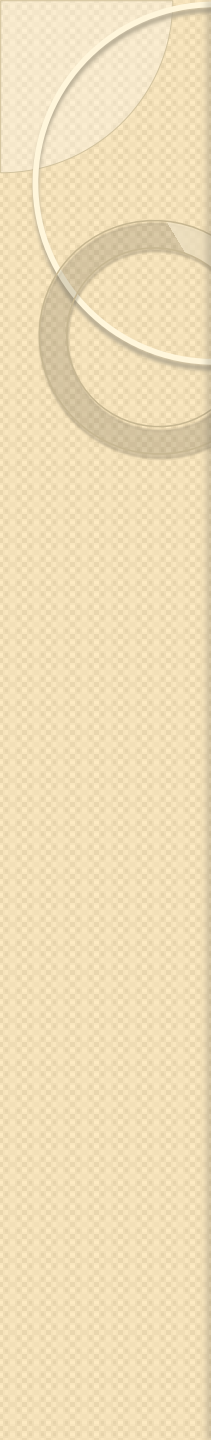
B. Relationship with the State

1. “The Emperor’s Law stops at the village gate” – Vietnamese folk saying
2. Needs of the state & local level a balancing act – warfare, irrigation projects, etc.



3. hill tribes out of range of control
– rice farmers & river/coastal
dwellers in range

(importance of geography +
agricultural practices –
paddy rice cultivation vs.
upland slash & burn)



4. mainland polities = coercive
control of rice paddy “wet rice”
agriculture → leads to stronger
states

5. island polities = geographic
autonomy → leads to sharing of
resources with numerous semi-
independent local leaders weak
central government