

*The India-Southeast Asia
Connection*

- I. India and Early SE Asia
- A. Need to keep in mind vs. today's China
(India had a MUCH stronger influence than China which was still a northern state and had not expanded to today's southern coast)

■ B. Early Religious Borrowing

■ 1. Hinduism –

- a. traced even as far as the Philippines
- b. clear influence on mainland SE Asia
- c. continues in today's Bali

(strict code of behavior required for salvation + notions of “caste” are too alien for acceptance, except by ruling elite)

- 2. Buddhism –

- a. Theravada Buddhism – early form

- (Strict codes of conduct present in most of today's Mainland Southeast Asia)

- b. Mahayana Buddhism – Chinese modified

- (Easier religion with Bodhisattvas to help faithful to Nirvana. Present in today's Vietnam)

- 3. Islam – India serves as filter for Islam as it makes its way into Southeast Asia

- C. Economic importance of the India-Southeast Asia Connection
- 1. The “Aquatic Silk Road”
(maritime counterpart to the land route)
- 2. Monsoon dictates for travel & commerce
- 3. Dominance of Coromandel Coast
(+ Malabar Coast & Sri Lanka)

■ D. Impact of Chola Empire

(military, political, *AND* commercial)

1. Rise of Chola from kingdom of Pandya ca. 9th Century
2. Rivalry between Pandya, Pallava, and Chola

- 3. Aggressive Chola
- a. invasion of Sri Lanka 1017-1070
(hold capital of Anuradhapura)
- b. 1025 defeat of Sri Vijaya navy ends
dominance of the Southeast Asian
trade empire of Sri Vijaya
- c. 1068 return to SE Asia to protect its
dependencies

- 4. Wealth of south Indian states
- a. indication of importance of Southeast Asian trade + productive irrigated agriculture
- b. manifested in urban culture
- c. temple complexes at
 - Tanjore – Chola
 - Madurai – Pandya

- II. Southeast Asian Trade & Polities

- A. Early trade forays

(Indonesian double-out-rigger ships to
Ceylon & East Africa – 1st millennium
B.C.)

- B. Sri Vijaya – 7th-11th centuries

- a. medieval trading empire

- b. capital at Palembang on Sumatra

- c. 1025 Chola attack ends dominance

- C. Majapahit 1293-1528
 - 1. based in central Java
 - 2. combines trade + rice agriculture
 - 3. area of influence 3x that of Sri Vijaya
 - 4. spice trade with Europe
 - 5. active trade relationship with China
 - 6. competition from new Islamic states
 - a. Melaka new trade state (15th century)
 - b. Mataram with ports on Java's north coast + "wet rice" agriculture inland

- E. Melaka 1511
- 1. subjugated by Portugal to circumvent Venice & Ottoman Empire
- 2. Malay & Indian traders shift to other centers – principally Jahore
- 3. supplanted by British in Singapore 1819