

Nationalism in Southeast Asia

Southeast Asia before WWII

- Colonized by the west:
 - Indonesia = Dutch
 - Philippines = United States
 - Indochina (including Vietnam) = French
 - Malaysia and Burma = British
- Nationalist movements were prevalent throughout the region.
- Example: Vietnam
 - 1920s: Rising nationalism centered around the Vietnamese Nationalist Party
 - A failed 1929 revolt weakened the party.
 - The Communist Party of Vietnam was left to rally resistance to the French.
 - Ho Chi Minh led the party and adapted Marxism to work for the peasant majority in Vietnam.
 - Mixed nationalism with communism

Japanese Empire in WWII

- In addition to China, Japan captures colonial territories of the British (Hong Kong, Malaysia, Burma), Dutch East Indies, French Indochina, and the American Philippines to control oil reserves.
- Southeast Asian natives see
 - Japanese domination of former white colonizers.
 - Death Marches
- Yet Japanese treatment of their new colonies is brutal.
 - Forced labor
 - Executions at the hint of resistance
 - Much harsher than Western colonization.
- Local resistance fighters cooperated with British and American forces against the Japanese.



The Impact of WWII

- The devastation of World War II drained the resources of the European powers, but WWII also enhanced the power of the United States and the USSR.
- Atlantic Charter of 1941: an agreement between the United States and Great Britain that outlined goals of the war (later agreed to by all Allies)
 - Restore self-government to colonies
 - 1946: US grants Philippines independence
 - France resists: Algeria and Indochina stay French colonies



Postwar Decolonization in Southeast Asia

- Leaders were charismatic, very educated (often in schools run by colonizers), and very familiar with western culture.
- Members of the elite.
 - Sukarno in Indonesia
 - Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam
- Nations struggled after independence.
 - Poor, fragmented, lacked economic/industrial infrastructure.
 - West continued to exert influence as a result of the Cold War.
- Dictatorial military regimes often seized power.
 - Created stability at the expense of development.

Postwar Decolonization in Southeast Asia

- Postwar Decolonization in Southeast Asia
- Peaceful
 - Negotiated, rapid independence for British colonies (Myanmar)
 - Once Britain lost India, which was the colonial lynchpin, independence of other colonies followed.
 - The Philippines
 - Independent from the U.S.



Indonesia

- War between nationalist forces led by Sukarno against the Dutch.
 - Dutch lost, Indonesia achieved nation status.
- Sukarno was Indonesia's leader.
- Sukarno's difficulties were very similar to other regions (Africa, for example).
 - Inherited a poor, fragmented nation
 - Economically disadvantaged (due to colonization)
 - Lack of education for masses
 - The U.S. exerted heavy Cold War influence.
- Sukarno and his government did not have the skills or resources to create a stable nation.
- Military leaders seized power overthrowing Sukarno.

Ho Chi Minh and Vietnamese Marxism

- Under French colonial rule, the emperor, bureaucracy, and Confucianism are discredited.
- French attempt to maximize profits: exacerbated overcrowding and migration of peasants to urban areas.
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 - Ho Chi Minh led the party and adapted Marxism to work for the peasant majority in Vietnam.
 - Mixed nationalism with communism
- After Japanese invasion of Vietnam in WWII, France wanted to regain its colony but was vulnerable to rebellion.
- 1945: Ho Chi Minh declares an independent Vietnam.



Vietnam War (1956-1975)

- First French Indochina War (1946-1954)
 - Viet Minh (communist-dominated nationalist party) used guerilla fighting against the French and Japanese to gain control of northern Vietnam.
 - 1946: French try to stabilize southern Vietnam.
 - 1954: French were defeated at Dien Bien Phu; withdraw.
 - 1954: Geneva Conference determined Vietnam will be divided into Viet Minh-controlled north and French south.
- 1955: In accordance with “containment,” US installed Ngo Dinh Diem as president of South Vietnam.
- Vietnam War (Second French Indochina War; 1956-1975)
 - 1956: Communists in the south (Viet Cong) vs. Diem and Americans → increased communist support Viet Minh.
 - US sent increasing support, including nearly 500,000 troops in 1968, but was finally forced to retreat in the 1970s.
 - 1975: government in south fell; Communists rule north and south

Outcomes of Colonialism

- These are generalizations, but they tend to apply to Sub-Saharan Africa, much of the Middle East, and much of Southeast Asia.
- Note the information from earlier in the PowerPoint
 - Charismatic, western-educated leaders.
 - Failures of those leaders.
 - The rise of military dictatorships.
 - Cold War Politics.

Outcomes of Colonialism

- European colonizers established arbitrary boundaries and often combined hostile ethnic/religious groups.
 - Under colonial rule, regional wars and famine had been much reduced due to European control
 - Now in newly-independent countries, regional wars and famine are not as well controlled.
 - These become the two major barriers to population growth in newly-independent regions.
- Overall, however, populations increased after colonial rule because Europeans had aided with the eradication of diseases and had improved medical treatment, hygiene, and water purification.

Neocolonial Economy

- Largest barrier to economic breakthrough: soaring populations
- Newly independent nations often lacked complete resources and had challenges distributing those they did have.
 - Rivalries and civil wars consumed many resources that could have been devoted to economic development.
 - Most post-colonial nations wanted to finish industrialization and began rapid economic development.
 - Gold, copper, diamonds exported from South African mines
- Neocolonial Economy: global economy dominated by industrialized and mostly Western nations
 - Mostly yields limited returns for Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.
 - Most newly independent countries rely on the export of two or three cash crops or raw materials.
 - These products fluctuate in price → strain economies (this revenue is used to plan government projects).
 - Many of these countries rely on international organizations for assistance (World Bank; International Monetary Fund)

Parasitic Cities and Endangered Ecosystems

- As populations increased in rural areas, mass migrations to urban areas occurred.
 - Little available land; few jobs in cities with heavy competition
 - Crime in cities increases
 - Slum areas (makeshift shelters) often seen in close proximity to large, wealthy urban areas.
- Rural overpopulation has led to soil depletion and alarming rates of deforestation for livestock grazing and farming.
 - Many animals are endangered or extinct
 - Massive pollution of air and water



Gender Issues

- In many African and Asian countries, there has been resistance to birth control efforts to control population growth.
 - Result of deeply entrenched social patterns, religious beliefs, and skepticism of Western influence
 - Africa: children are critical additions to the lineage.
 - In developing countries, a high percentage of the population (40% in some places) is under the age of 15.
- Women's suffrage, but little else, was often written into post-colonial constitutions.
 - Religious revivalism sometimes erodes women's rights.
 - Male-centric customs and tradition often result in malnutrition in women and children.
 - Women saw increased educational and employment opportunities.
 - Early marriages expected; confine women.
 - *Shariah* law imposed in many Muslim countries.
- Female politicians were often connected to powerful male politicians (Indira Gandhi)

