**SOUTHEAST ASIA**

**MAJOR GEOGRAPHIC QUALITIES**

A **FRAGMENTED REALM** OF NUMEROUS ISLAND COUNTRIES AND PENINSULAS

**PHYSIOGRAPHY** DOMINATED BY HIGH RELIEF, CRUSTAL INSTABILITY, AND TROPICAL CLIMATES

**POLITICAL INSTABILITY** AND CONFLICT

**CLUSTERED POPULATION** PATTERNS

**CULTURAL FRAGMENTATION** (COMPLEX ETHNIC, LINGUISTIC, AND RELIGIOUS PATTERNS)

**SHAPES   
OF   
STATES**

**REGIONS OF THE REALM**

**Mainland Region**

**Vietnam** (previously North & South Vietnam)

**Cambodia** (previously French Indo-China)

**Laos** (previously French Indo-China)

**Thailand** (previously Siam)

**Myanmar** (previously Burma)

83.5 million people

French delimited Vietnam

Not a homogenous colony

Divided into three units

Tonkin (Hanoi)

Cochin China (Saigon)

Annam (Hue)

**VIETNAM**

***Issues/Concerns***

**Population** (83.5 million) has **doubled** since the end of war in 1975

A classic “**elongated country”**

**New strategy**- retain communist political system but pursue market economics

Mekong River

Core area in the interior

Culturally homogenous (Khmers)

***Khmer Rouge*** (communist revolutionaries)

Drove people from urban to rural areas

Vietnam invaded in 1978

UN sponsored elections 1993

**CAMBODIA**

A classic “**compact state**”

**Population** of 13.7 million, with strong ethnic and cultural homogeneity- 85% **Khmers**

**Phnom Penh** (1.3 million) principal city and capital

A **victim of wars and insurgencies**

Vietnam spillover

1970 - military deposes of the king

1975 - communist revolutionaries (Khmer Rouge)

Invaded by Vietnam in the late 1970s

Independence 1949

Lao People’s Democratic Republic (1975)

Communist government

**Landlocked**

Rural-based population

Little infrastructure and industry

**LAOS**

A former French colony (1893-1953)

**Population** of 6.1 million, with 50% ethnic Lao

19% urbanized

**Undeveloped** with no railroads, little industry, and few roads

The realm’s poorest country

Leading state of the region

Only country in the realm that was **not** colonized. Self-Westernized. See movie, “Anna and the King” (based on a true story).

**Economic growth**

Although some of it stifled by mismanagement

**Bangkok** (Venice of Asia)

**Problems**

Surface communications

Influx of refugees

Drugs

**THAILAND**

A classic “**protruded state**”

**Population** of 64.7 million -- has the slowest growth rate in the realm

**Per capita GNI** is higher than Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar combined

**Bangkok**- a classic “**primate city**” of 6.8 million

**Economic success**

One of world’s poorest countries

Independence: 1948

Military government (1962)

Core areas: Yangon & Mandalay

Ethnic diversity

Burman 55%

Karen 10%

Shan 7%

**MYANMAR**

A “**protruded state**”, with an unserviced extension

A former British colony - **Burma**, which became independent in 1948

**Population** of 51.5 million, 84 % literate, and culturally diverse

**Agricultural potential** is good; varied soil and environmental conditions; self-sufficient in rice

World’s leading producer of **opium** poppies

**INSULAR SOUTHEAST ASIA**

A sub-realm of **peninsulas** and **islands**

Southeast Asia’s southern and eastern periphery

**Comprised of 6 States, all of which have colonial histories**

**Malaysia**

**Indonesia**

**Philippines**

**Singapore**

**Brunei**

**East Timor**

**MALAYSIA**

**Fragmented state** - mainland-island type

A **former British colony**

***Malaysia*** came into being in 1963, referring to the federal organization and expansion of **Malaya** (on the **Malay peninsula**) to include parts of Borneo

**Population** of 26.7 million with strong adherence to Islam

**Rapidly growing economy, with the 3rd highest GNI in the realm**

**SINGAPORE**

A **city-state**

Seceded from Malaysia in 1965

**Population** of 4.3 million (77% are Chinese, 14% Malay, 8% South Asian)

**Per capita GNI: $24,180 (very high!)**

**INDONESIA**

A **fragmented state** of more than 17,000 islands

A **Dutch colonial creation**

**Population** of 225.8 million

**Major islands** (**Greater Sunda Islands**):

**Jawa (Java)**

**Sumatera (Sumatra)**

**Kalimantan (part of Borneo)**

**Sulawesi (Celebes)**

**West Papua**

**Jawa is the core** with 130 million

Largest **Muslim population** in the world

**EAST TIMOR**

Former Portuguese colony

Annexed by Indonesia in 1976

Became an independent state in 2002

Population of 800,000

Oil and gas reserves

**Brunei Darussalam**

An anomaly in Southeast Asia - an **oil exporting Islamic Sultanate**

A British protected remnant

Gained **independence in 1984**

**410,000 people** within 2,228 sq mi

Oil discovered in 1929, natural gas in 1965

**Population** is 64% Malay, 11% Chinese

**PHILIPPINES**

**Archipelago** of >7,000 islands, most of which are < 1 square mile

**Former Spanish colony** for 300+ years; U.S. possession (1898-1946)

**3 main island groups**

**Luzon and Mindoro** (north)

**Visayan group** (central)

**Mindanao** (south)

87.1 million people; 81% catholic

Agricultural economy

**Manila**: primate city