

A History of ASIA

Seventh Edition



Rhoads Murphey with Kristin Stapleton

A HISTORY OF ASIA

Rhoads Murphey
Professor Emeritus of History
University of Michigan

with Kristin Stapleton
The University at Buffalo, SUNY

SEVENTH EDITION

 **Routledge**
Taylor & Francis Group
LONDON AND NEW YORK

First published 2014, 2009, 2006 by Pearson Education, Inc.

Published 2016 by Routledge

2 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4RN

711 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017, USA

Routledge is an imprint of the Taylor & Francis Group, an informa business

Copyright © 2014, 2009, 2006 Taylor & Francis.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reprinted or reproduced or utilised in any form or by any electronic, mechanical, or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publishers.

Notice:

Product or corporate names may be trademarks or registered trademarks, and are used only for identification and explanation without intent to infringe.

Many of the designations by manufacturers and seller to distinguish their products are claimed as trademarks. Where those designations appear in this book, and the publisher was aware of a trademark claim, the designations have been printed in initial caps or all caps.

Credits and acknowledgments borrowed from other sources and reproduced, with permission, in this textbook appear on appropriate page within text.

Cover Design: Suzanne Duda

ISBN-13:978-0-205-16855-2 (pbk)

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Murphey, Rhoads

A history of Asia / Rhoads Murphey, Professor Emeritus of History, University of Michigan.

pages cm

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-0-205-16855-2

1. Asia—History. I. Title.

DS33.M87 2013

950—dc23

2013031738

*To my lifelong teacher and friend, John Fairbank, who died on September 14, 1991,
before I had the chance to present him with this book, so much of which stems from
his inspiration and example.*

BRIEF CONTENTS

Introduction	Monsoon Asia as a Unit of Study	1	12	Tokugawa Japan	231
1	Prehistoric Asia	10	13	The European Advance into Asia	245
2	Asian Religions and Their Cultures	28	14	British India	266
3	The Societies of Asia	48	15	The Triumph of Imperialism in Asia	297
4	The Civilization of Ancient India	68	16	Nationalism and Revolution in China and India	327
5	The Civilization of Ancient China	83	17	Japan and the Struggle for Asia, 1920–1945	359
6	Medieval India	105	18	Revival and Revolution in Japan and China	382
7	Early and Medieval Southeast Asia	119	19	Korea and Southeast Asia: Decolonization, Cold War, and After	412
8	China: A Golden Age	134	20	South Asia: Independence, Political Division, and Development	440
9	Early, Classical, and Medieval Japan and Korea	154	21	Asia in the Twenty-First Century	467
10	Mughal India	179			
11	New Imperial Splendor in China: The Ming and Early Qing Dynasties	200			

CONTENTS

Contents by Country or Region ix

List of Maps x

List of Documents xi

Preface xiii

Author's Note to the Reader xvii

About the Author xviii

A Note on the Spelling of Asian Names and Words xix

Map: Monsoon Asia xx

Chronology xxii

Introduction Monsoon Asia as a Unit of Study 1

Geography 2

Population Densities 3

Common Cultural Patterns 4

The Study of Monsoon Asia 7

1. Prehistoric Asia 10

Early and Paleolithic Cultures 10

The Neolithic Revolution 12

Origins of Civilization in India 14

The Indus Civilization 14

The Aryans 19

Agricultural Origins in Southeast Asia 20

Peoples and Early Kingdoms of Southeast Asia 21

Prehistoric China 22

Korea and Japan 24

Early Asian Commercial and Cultural
Networking 25

2. Asian Religions and Their Cultures 28

Hinduism 28

Buddhism in India and Its Spread Eastward 32

A CLOSER LOOK: *Gautama Buddha* 32

READING ACROSS CULTURES: *The Divine Couple
and the Human Family* 33

Confucianism 36

Daoism 39

Judaism and Christianity in Monsoon Asia 40

Islam in Asia 41

Shinto 43

Asian Religions: Some Reflections 44

3. The Societies of Asia 48

Social Hierarchies 50

The Family 52

Sexual Behavior 55

The Status of Women 56

Education, Literacy, and the Printed Word 58

Material Welfare 60

4. The Civilization of Ancient India 68

The Rise of Empire: Mauryan India 69

The Maurya Dynasty 70

Pataliputra and the Glory of Mauryan India 71

A CLOSER LOOK: *The Emperor Ashoka, "Beloved
of the Gods"* 72

Kushans and Greeks 73

Southern India and the City of Madurai 74

Ceylon 75

The Guptas and the Empire of Harsha 76

Women in Ancient India 78

The Indian Heritage 79

The Gupta Legacy in the Bay of Bengal Region 81

5. The Civilization of Ancient China 83

The Origins of China 84

The Shang Dynasty 85

The Zhou Dynasty 86

A CLOSER LOOK: *Confucius, the Sage* 89

The Qin Conquest 90

Qin Authoritarianism 92

The Han Dynasty 93

- A CLOSER LOOK: *Cities in Ancient China* 101
 READING ACROSS CULTURES: *Han Civilization in Vietnam* 102
 Han Achievements 102
-
6. Medieval India 105
 Early Islamic Influence in Northern India 105
 The Islamic Advance into Northern India 106
 The Delhi Sultanate (also called the Slave Dynasty) 108
 A CLOSER LOOK: *Notable Sultans: Ala-ud-din Khalji* 110
 Southern India 113
 The Cholas 116
-
7. Early and Medieval Southeast Asia 119
 The Setting 119
 Origin of Peoples 120
 The Eastward Spread of Islam 121
 READING ACROSS CULTURES: *Conversions to Islam* 122
 Indianized Southeast Asia 123
 Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam 124
 A CLOSER LOOK: *Angkor: City of Monumental Splendor* 125
 Medieval Pagan and Thai Ayudhya 127
 A CLOSER LOOK: *"Zomia": A New Concept in Political Geography* 128
 Malaya, Indonesia, and the Philippines 128
 READING ACROSS CULTURES: *Borobudur* 131
 Melaka and the Entry of the West 131
-
8. China: A Golden Age 134
 Reunification in China 134
 The Splendor of the Tang 135
 A CLOSER LOOK: *Chang'an in an Age of Imperial Splendor* 138
 Cultural Brilliance and Political Decay 139
 The Song Achievement 140
 The Southern Song Period 146
 The Mongol Conquest and the Yuan Dynasty 148
 Chinese Culture and the Empire 151
-
9. Early, Classical, and Medieval Japan and Korea 154
 Japan 154
 Ties with Korea and the Tomb Builders 156
- The Link with China 158
 Heian Culture 164
 A CLOSER LOOK: *Murasaki Shikibu (Lady Murasaki)* 165
 Pressures on the Environment 167
 The Kamakura Period 168
 Ashikaga Japan 170
 Maritime Contacts Between Medieval Japan and the Continent 171
 Korea 172
-
10. Mughal India 179
 The Mughals in India 179
 Babur and the New Dynasty 179
 A CLOSER LOOK: *Akbar, the Man* 182
 The Reign of Aurangzeb: Repression and Revolt 186
 A CLOSER LOOK: *Commerce at the Mughal Port of Surat* 189
 The Central Asia Connection 192
 READING ACROSS CULTURES: *Women in Asia* 195
 Iran: A Brief History 196
-
11. New Imperial Splendor in China: The Ming and Early Qing Dynasties 200
 The Founding of the Ming 200
 A CLOSER LOOK: *Hongwu: The Rebel Emperor* 201
 The Ming Tributary System 204
 Ming Maritime Expeditions 205
 READING ACROSS CULTURES: *Piracy in Southeast Asia* 206
 Prosperity and Conservatism 207
 Commerce and Culture 209
 A CLOSER LOOK: *Imperial Beijing: Axis of the Ming World* 215
 Factionalism and Decline 216
 The Manchu Conquest 218
 China Under the Manchus 219
 Prosperity and Population Increases 222
-
12. Tokugawa Japan 231
 The Tokugawa Unification 231
 READING ACROSS CULTURES: *Japanese Overseas Trade in the Tokugawa Era* 237
 A CLOSER LOOK: *Edo and the "Floating World"* 238
 A CLOSER LOOK: *Hokusai, Master Artist* 240
 Foreign Pressures for Change 241

-
13. The European Advance into Asia 245
- Independent Development 245
 - The Portuguese in Asia 246
 - Motives for Expansion 247
 - The Spanish in the Philippines 249
 - Trading Bases in Asia 249
 - READING ACROSS CULTURES: *The Manila Galleon Trade* 250
 - “Christians and Spices” 253
 - A CLOSER LOOK: *Matteo Ricci: Missionary to the Ming Court* 254
 - The Russian Advance in Asia 256
 - Japan’s Christian Century 256
 - The Dutch in Asia 258
 - The English in Asia 260
 - The English in Seventeenth-Century India 262
-
14. British India 266
- The Mughal Collapse 267
 - Westerners in India 269
 - The Early English Presence 270
 - The Mughal and Post-Mughal Contexts 272
 - Anglo-French Rivalry and the Conquest of Bengal 273
 - A CLOSER LOOK: *Robert Clive and the Beginnings of British India* 274
 - The Orientalists and the Bengal Renaissance 278
 - A CLOSER LOOK: *Calcutta, Colonial Capital* 280
 - From Tolerance to Arrogance 281
 - The Revolt of 1857 283
 - The Consolidation of the British Empire in India 284
 - British Imperial India 287
 - A CLOSER LOOK: *New Delhi: Indian Summer of the Raj* 291
-
15. The Triumph of Imperialism in Asia 297
- The New Imperialism 298
 - The Decline of The Qing 300
 - The Opium War 304
 - China Besieged 305
 - Choson Korea in Decline 309
 - Japan Among the Powers 312
 - A CLOSER LOOK: *Ito Hirobumi: Meiji Statesman* 315
 - Colonial Regimes in Southeast Asia 315
 - Imperialism and Americans in Asia 319
 - Imperialism and Cultural Change 321
 - READING ACROSS CULTURES: *Imperialism and Asia* 322
 - The Legacy of Western Control 324
-
16. Nationalism and Revolution in China and India 327
- The Fall of the Qing, 1860–1911 329
 - Chaos and Warlordism 335
 - A CLOSER LOOK: *Prominent Figures in the May Fourth Movement* 337
 - China in the 1920s and 1930s 339
 - A CLOSER LOOK: *Shanghai: The Model Treaty Port* 342
 - India Under Colonial Rule 343
 - The Beginnings of Indian Nationalism 348
 - READING ACROSS CULTURES: *The Rise of Asian Nationalism* 351
 - Enter Gandhi 352
 - India Moves Toward Independence 353
-
17. Japan and the Struggle for Asia, 1920–1945 359
- Japan in the 1920s: Taisho Democracy and Its Fate 360
 - Japan’s Economy and Military 362
 - READING ACROSS CULTURES: *The Interwar Years* 363
 - The War in China 365
 - A CLOSER LOOK: *Chongqing: Beleaguered Wartime Capital* 369
 - The Rise of Southeast Asian Nationalism 370
 - The Outbreak of the Pacific War 375
 - Burma and India 378
-
18. Revival and Revolution in Japan and China 382
- The Revival of Japan 382
 - A CLOSER LOOK: *Tokyo and the Modern World* 389
 - China in Revolution 392
 - A CLOSER LOOK: *Jiang Qing and the Gang of Four* 400
 - Taiwan 406
 - Hong Kong 407
 - China, Taiwan, and Overseas Chinese 409

19. Korea and Southeast Asia: Decolonization, Cold War, and After 412

Korea Under Japanese Rule 414

Division and War 414

Korea Since 1960 416

Southeast Asia Since World War II 419

Vietnam 419

Bloody Cambodia 425

Laos: The Forgotten Country 426

READING ACROSS CULTURES: *The Rediscovery and Restoration of Angkor* 427

Burma, Thailand, Malaya, and Singapore 428

Indonesia 432

The Philippines 435

Regional Cooperation in ASEAN 437

20. South Asia: Independence, Political Division, and Development 440

Partition and Independence 440

Bangladesh and Pakistan 444

Afghanistan 448

Sri Lanka 449

Nepal 450

India After Independence 451

A CLOSER LOOK: *Female Leaders of South Asia* 457

Indian and South Asian Achievements and

Shortcomings 458

READING ACROSS CULTURES: *India and the Global Market* 460

21. Asia in the Twenty-First Century 467

Population Growth 470

Pollution 472

Urbanization 473

Economic Growth Rates 477

Cultural Tradition in Modern Asia 478

A Country-by-Country Survey 480

Index 487

CONTENTS BY COUNTRY OR REGION

INDIA

- Chapter 1, pp. 14–19
- Chapter 2, pp. 32–36
- Chapter 3, p. 56
- Chapter 4
- Chapter 6
- Chapter 10, pp. 179–192
- Chapter 13, pp. 262–263
- Chapter 14
- Chapter 15
- Chapter 16, pp. 343–356
- Chapter 17, pp. 378–380
- Chapter 20, including Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka
- Chapter 21, pp. 480–481

CHINA

- Chapter 1, pp. 22–24
- Chapter 2, pp. 36–40
- Chapter 3
- Chapter 5
- Chapter 8
- Chapter 9, pp. 158–164
- Chapter 11
- Chapter 12, p. 237
- Chapter 13, pp. 254–256
- Chapter 15, pp. 305–309
- Chapter 16, pp. 329–343
- Chapter 17, pp. 365–370

Chapter 18, pp. 392–409

Chapter 19

Chapter 20

Chapter 21, pp. 481–483

JAPAN AND KOREA

Chapter 1, pp. 24–25

Chapter 9

Chapter 12

Chapter 13, pp. 256–258

Chapter 15, pp. 309–315

Chapter 17, pp. 359–365

Chapter 18, pp. 382–392

Chapter 19, pp. 414–419

Chapter 21, pp. 484–485

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Chapter 1, pp. 20–22

Chapter 3

Chapter 7

Chapter 11

Chapter 15, pp. 315–319

Chapter 17, pp. 370–375, 378–380

Chapter 19, pp. 419–437

Chapter 21, pp. 484–485

CENTRAL ASIA

Nomad Lifestyles, pp. 192–194

Nomad Warriors, pp. 194–196

LIST OF MAPS

Monsoon Asia	xxi	Asia in the Age of Early European Expansion	252
Precipitation in Monsoon Asia	2	India	269
Population Density, Monsoon Asia	3	Growth of the British Empire in India	290
Ancient India	15	Colonial Empires in Asia	300
China in the Sixth Century B.C.E.	88	Major Ports and Commercially Productive Areas in East Asia, 1600–1940	316
China and Korea in Han Times	95	China in the 1930s	340
The Han Empire	97	Growth of India's Railway Network	345
Medieval India	107	Minerals and Economic Patterns in Southeast Asia	372
Southeast Asia	123	World War II in Eastern Asia	375
China Under the Tang	137	The China-Burma-India Theater in World War II	378
China and Korea in 1050	141	Modern Japan	384
Korea and Japan, c. 500–1000	156	Modern China	393
Korea's Three Kingdoms	173	Modern Korea	416
Korea During the Choson Era	175	Southeast Asia	420
India at the Height of the Mughal Power	184	South Asia Today	445
Central Asia and the Mongol Empire	193	Sri Lanka	450
Ming China	202	Major Languages of India	452
China Proper Under the Qing	223		
Tokugawa Japan	232		

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

- Creation: Hindu Views 31
Buddhist Teachings 35
Sayings of Confucius 38
The Dao 39
Islamic Ideals 42
Kalidasa on Children 55
Wives in India 56
Women Traders 58
Advice to Indian Princes 70
Ashoka's Goals 71
The Port of Puhar 74
Tamil Love Poetry 76
In Praise of Women 79
Reflections on Social Reform 89
Mencius on Good Government 90
The Fall of the Han 100
Hindu-Muslim Conflict 109
The Mongols: An Eyewitness Account 111
The Bhakti Synthesis 111
Marco Polo on South India 114
Hindu Devotion 115
The "Ever-Normal Granary" System 144
The Confucian Revival 145
Advice to a Chinese Emperor 145
Escapist Poetry 149
Drink Tea and Prolong Life from the Kissa yojo-ki 171
The Origins of Haiku 172
Admonition to the New King 174
Babur in Battle 181
The Court of Akbar 182
The Mongols in Battle 194
A Ming Naval Expedition 207
Letter to My Sons 210
A Censor Accuses a Eunuch 217
An Earthquake at Beijing, 1626 218
A Missionary Describes the Manchus 221
The Qing Takeover of Nanjing 224
Why China Downgraded Science 227
Hideyoshi's Sword Collection Edict, 1588 234
Tokugawa Ieyasu: Instructions to His Successor 236
The Impact of Western Knowledge 239
Japanese Women: An Outsider's View 242
Crisis in 1853 243
Portuguese Slavers 249
Convenience Marriage 254
Christianity in Japan 258
India in Turmoil 268
British Life in India 276
Sound Advice 278
The British Indicted 279
The Charter Act, 1833 286
The White Man's Burden 289
An Indian View of Women 292
An Indian View of the British 293
Through Each Other's Eyes 306
Opium 307
Directions 312
Imperialist Designs 317
Imperialist Arrogance 317
American Imperialism I 319
American Imperialism II 319
Self-Strengthening 331
Reform 334
The Hundred Days 334
Radical Change 339
Rise Up! 349
Gandhi: Nationalist Hero and Flawed Reformer? 353
Gandhi 354
Gandhi's Character 355
Militarism in Japan 364
MacArthur: An Assessment 385
Changes in Japan 388
Red Guard Violence 399
Mao's Regrets 401
A Korean Story 417
Declaration of Independence 421
A Warning to France 422
Indonesian Nationalism 433
Revolutionary Filipino Ideas 435
Muslim Solidarity: Jinnah's Call 443
India and the Sense of History 446
Indian Independence 451
India's World Role 452
Indian Democracy 454

This page has been left blank intentionally

PREFACE

THERE HAS LONG BEEN A NEED for a strong, comprehensive text on the history of Asia, but that need has become more pressing as courses dealing with it, and enrollments in them, have multiplied. This book is designed primarily for students taking courses in Asian history, but students taking courses in world history will also find it useful. To most people, “Asia” means primarily the areas and cultures east of Persia (Iran) and south of the former Soviet Union, which are the focus of this book. This vast and varied part of the world, containing roughly half the world’s people since about 3000 B.C.E. until the present, is sometimes called “monsoon Asia,” the generally warm and wet parts of the continent, sharply distinct from the desert landscape of the Middle East or the cold areas of the former Soviet Union. Its hospitable climate is, of course, responsible for the size and density of its population, in contrast with the far emptier areas of western and northern Asia. So defined, it stretches from the Khyber Pass on the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan, through India, mainland and island Southeast Asia, to China, Korea, and Japan.

Each of these separate regions has long contained distinctively different peoples and cultures, but nearly all achieved a high level of sophistication 2,000 years ago or more. Given the great age of these Asian civilizations and the size of their populations from early times, more people have lived in Asia than in the rest of the world combined. Together they thus represent the largest, richest, and most varied chapter in the history of the human experience. Any attempt to deal with world history must make a major place for Asia, but the history of Asia is important and rewarding in itself.

NEW TO THIS EDITION

Kristin Stapleton, Director of Asian Studies and Associate Professor of History at The University at Buffalo, SUNY, contributed her expertise to the latest revision by extensively revising, reorganizing, and updating the text in accordance with the most recent scholarship in the field.

- Material on pre-historic India was moved from Chapter 4 to Chapter 1.
- Chapter 11 now covers Qing China up to 1840, with some brief material on Choson Korea to supplement what is in Chapter 9.
- Chapter 12 is now devoted exclusively to expanded coverage of Tokugawa Japan up to around 1840.
- Chapter 13 now covers the development of Western colonies in Asia in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries (there are short sections on the Jesuits and the Portuguese/Dutch in sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries in Chapters 11 and 12, respectively). Also, coverage of the early period of British rule in India was moved from Chapter 14 to Chapter 13, alongside material about other European colonial conquests in Asia.
- Coverage of the Opium War has been moved to Chapter 14, where it is now linked to British control of India.
- Chapter 15 has been reorganized extensively for a more logical flow. It now begins with coverage of the late Qing, followed by coverage of Meiji Japan, then Southeast Asia in the nineteenth century, and finally the United States as an imperial power. Coverage of Korea in the nineteenth century has been moved from Chapter 19 to Chapter 15 in the new edition.
- Chapter 16 still focuses on China and India but in the new edition, by moving the sections on Chinese and Indian politics from Chapter 17 to Chapter 16, the story is carried forward to the 1930s (and into the 1940s in the case of India).
- Chapter 17 has been completely reorganized and coverage of Japan has been expanded in the new edition. The chapter now begins with a section on Japanese politics and culture in the 1920s, which is new to the seventh edition. This is followed by coverage of the war with China, followed by a section on Southeast Asia, which was revised to put the material in the context of the expansion of Japanese influence, followed by coverage of WWII in the Pacific.
- Numerous text updates throughout the book reflect the latest scholarship and the most recent events.
- Further Readings and Web sites were revised throughout the book.

- **MySearchLab with eText** can be packaged with this text.
- **MySearchLab** provides engaging experiences that personalize learning, and comes from a trusted partner with educational expertise and a deep commitment to helping students and instructors achieve their goals.
- **eText**—Just like the printed text, you can highlight and add notes to the eText or download it to your iPad.
- **Assessment**—Chapter quizzes and flashcards offer immediate feedback and report directly to the grade-book.
- **Writing and Research**—A wide range of writing, grammar and research tools and access to a variety of academic journals, census data, help you hone your writing and research skills.

INTRODUCTION TO MAJOR ASIAN CIVILIZATIONS

This book is designed either to stand alone or be supplemented by readings from those listed at the end of each chapter or from primary materials (in addition to those quoted in the text). Chapters are of approximately equal length. The book itself can, thus, serve as the text for a one-semester course, a two-quarter course, or a full-year course, or it can be integrated into a larger world history course.

Chapter 3 offers a broad comparative analysis of Asian societies including some comparisons with the Western tradition. With Chapter 13, the modern West begins to impinge on the great Asian traditions, and in subsequent chapters Western pressures and Asian responses play an increasing role, from colonialism, semicolonialism, and wars of conquest to World War II and the coming of Asian independence and revolution. A final chapter considers major themes in Asian development at the start of the twenty-first century, including its unprecedentedly high economic growth rate, the reasons for this, and the rise of Asia to a position of leadership in the contemporary world.

Nearly all texts in Asian history concentrate on one of the four major civilizations; only a few cover the closely interrelated histories of China and Japan, sometimes including minor coverage of Korea, which in this book is given relatively greater attention, as is often-neglected Vietnam. Central Asia, not part of the monsoon world, is also treated here, unlike other texts. Each of the four major Asian civilizations has its own corps of specialists, and most of them rarely stray far from their center of expertise. But there is a strong argument for studying Asian history as a whole, perhaps especially on the part of undergraduates, but to the benefit of specialists as well. This book is

explicitly comparative, as well as offering a balanced history of each major tradition from its beginnings to the present day. Chapter 21 returns to the theme of Asian universals and cross-cultural comparisons. The book as a whole draws on the most recent scholarship and reflects the author's professional involvement with Asia and its history for more than forty years, including long periods of research, observation, and residence there. It is written for beginning students with no previous background in Asian history, introducing them to its major features in clear, simple language.

FOCUS ON SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY

A major development in the writing of history during the past thirty years or more has been the increased attention to social and cultural history and the effort to re-create as much as possible the lives of ordinary people. This book is especially strong in its attention to such matters, although for the early periods in Asia, as elsewhere, we have only a little information on which to draw. Nevertheless, every chapter includes as much as can be derived about social and cultural trends and about the everyday life of the common people, in addition to major political and economic events and developments. A further feature is the coverage of all the major Asian religions (Chapter 2) and its consideration of how each religious tradition fit in with and reflected the societies where it flourished. The emphasis on sociocultural developments is especially clearly brought out in the book's wealth of photographic illustrations. Maps in nearly every chapter further illustrate the stage on which the events described took place. An additional feature of this book is its recurrent emphasis on the geographic basis of each Asian civilization, and the role of the environment in the evolution of each. Finally, particular attention is paid in every chapter to the changing role of women, both individually in the case of women who rose to prominence in various fields, and collectively in terms of the changing status of women in each Asian society.

FEATURES AND PRIMARY SOURCE MATERIALS

Not only to add vividness but also to pursue many of the points mentioned above, most chapters also include an urban portrait of a city during the time of the chapter's coverage, with special attention to the lives of ordinary people, and a biographical portrait with the same objectives; many of the latter are of prominent women, but all help to make history come alive. Nearly every chapter includes boxed

quotations from relevant primary sources that further contribute to putting the reader into the scene in a participatory way as well as providing a sample of the kinds of documents with which historians work. Finally, at the end of every chapter except the last is a list of relevant Web sites and an extensive set of suggestions for further reading, selected mainly from the most recent scholarship on each chapter's subject but including also classical or standard works, and usually providing a range of differing interpretations.

The writing of history, like that in any discipline, is continually changing, as our own perceptions of the past change and as each new generation looks for different things in the past. This book reflects those changes, and presents the history of Asia as most professionals in the field view it today. Its currency and its coverage of recent events are strong assets. Asian history is a rapidly growing field, and it is time for a text that covers it as a whole for beginning students, rather than as the history of individual countries, as we have long had for Western history. Asia is at least as rich, as old or older, and as important in the global scene, by any combination of measures. The world of the twenty-first century seems likely to be dominated by Asia, even more than in its traditional and glorious past. We need to understand far more about it, and the best way to achieve that, including an understanding of the present and future, is to study its history.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

No one really writes alone, and I have been enabled to undertake this presumptuous task by a host of other scholars, some my friends and colleagues at Michigan and elsewhere, and many others whom I have known only through

what they have written. My debt to all of these people is incalculable, and I can never hope to repay it. Without in any way regarding it as adequate, I want nevertheless to thank specifically a few of my colleagues and friends who have taken the trouble to read parts, and in a few cases most, of the book in manuscript, have shared their comments with me, and have saved me from many errors: Professors Dilip Basu, Michael Cullinane, Karl deSchweinitz, Roger Hackett, Karl Hutterer, Victor Lieberman, Thomas Trautmann, and Philip Woodruff. Thomas Trautmann and Joyce Madancy, Union College, read the entire manuscript and provided numerous valuable comments and specific changes.

I am also grateful to the readers to whom the publisher sent the manuscript for their most helpful comments: Roseanne S. DelParto, Old Dominion University; June Dinh, Golden West College; Stephen Garrigues, University of Maryland University College; Gregory Guelcher, Morningside College; and Charles Weber, Wheaton College.

Let me also thank the many readers whose comments were so helpful in preparing previous editions: E. Taylor Atkins, Northern Illinois University; Sue Chung, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Ned Davis, University of Hawaii at Manoa; Howard Didsbury, Kean College of New Jersey; Jeffrey Dym, California State University—Sacramento; Ron Edgerton, University of Northern Colorado; Jeannette F. Ford, Bethune-Cookman University; Edward Glatfelter, Utah State University; Sue Gronewold, Kean University; Kenneth Hall, Ball State University; Jeff Hanes, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Ann M. Harrington, Loyola University—Chicago; Yong Ho, China Institute; Lisa Hollander, Jefferson College; George Hopkins, Western Illinois University; Yonglin Jiang, Oklahoma State University; Jeff Jones, University of North Carolina—Greensboro; David Kenley, Elizabethtown College; William F. King, Mt. San Antonio Community College; Justin Libby, Indiana University-Purdue University; Paul Lococo Jr., Leeward Community College; Daniel Meissner, Marquette University; Richard C. Miller, University of Wisconsin—Madison; Sumiko Otsubo, Creighton University; Mingte Pan, SUNY Oswego; Loretta Pang, Kapiolani Community College; Wesley Sasaki-Uemura, University of Utah; Douglas P. Sjoquist, Lansing Community College; Tracy Steele, Sam Houston State University; Chin H. Suk, York College of Pennsylvania; Wing-Kai To, Bridgewater State College; John F. Weinzierl, Lyon College; William Wei, University of Colorado; and C. K. Yoon, James Madison University. It should go without saying that errors, infelicities, or imbalances that remain are entirely my own responsibility.

Equally important, I am indebted to all of my fellow Asianists at many universities and colleges in this country

and abroad from whom I have learned so much over many years through association and interchange as well as through reading their work. They have been and remain my teachers, but I also owe a special debt to my original teachers: John Fairbank, Edwin Reischauer, Daniel Ingalls, Rupert Emerson, and Norman Brown, each of whom began my apprenticeship in the most exciting ways and from whom I am still learning. To that list of teachers I would add the kind, cheerful, helpful, understanding, wonderful people of China, India, Korea, Japan, and Southeast Asia, among whom I have lived and worked at various times for many years all told, and without whom I could never have attempted such a book or a career in Asian studies at all. They have been my first and greatest teachers, and they have also given me a love for them and their world, which is what brought me to Asian studies to begin with and which has continued to sustain me. One cannot begin to understand without sympathy, and that they have given me in overflowing measure.

Southeast Asian historian Kenneth Hall wrote nine boxed feature essays, titled "Reading Across Cultures," that emphasize cross-cultural comparisons and provide expanded treatment of Southeast Asia. They also introduce students to major themes that recur in Asian and world history.

All of these, my teachers and friends, have not only inspired me in this overambitious endeavor but also made it, quite honestly, a pleasure. My wife Eleanor has also helped to make it so with her encouragement, her often insightful critical readings of what I wrote, and her cheerful support throughout. I can never discharge my debt to all those who have helped me, but I will be richly rewarded if they, and the readers of this book, find it acceptable, and for those new to the field, an invitation to a further voyage of discovery, to find at least some of the excitement my many teachers around the world have given me in the riches of Asia.

RHOADS MURPHEY

AUTHOR'S NOTE TO THE READER

NO SINGLE-VOLUME ATTEMPT to write the history of Asia can be more than the briefest introduction. I hope that all who read it will take it as an invitation to explore further. Space limits have made it necessary to foreshorten the treatment of every major aspect of Asian history and to do less than justice to all of them. I have nevertheless tried within these constraints to apportion space more or less in relation to the size, populousness, and level of development of each culture or country at each period. It has been necessary to adjust to the additional consideration that, especially for the earlier periods, we do not have adequate sources for many areas, by comparison with others that are consequently somewhat more fully treated. Thus, for example, Japan before about 1500, Korea before about 1850, and most of Southeast Asia before about 1800 are not treated here as extensively as India and, especially, China, where we have so much more material and many more centuries of literate development on which to draw. It is perhaps some consolation that none of these areas contained more than a small fraction of India's or China's populations, and that what development took place there owed a great deal to the Chinese and/or Indian models and their diffusion. All of these considerations, except perhaps the last, are even more relevant for Central Asia.

Periodization is a perennial problem for all historians, and the same is true for period labels. I have had to be both

sweeping and arbitrary in this book, given its temporal and areal scope. Medieval is a European term and has many connotations for European history. It does not carry those associations for Asia, but one must use some term in so general a treatment to cover the period between "ancient" or "classical" and "modern." *Medieval* means simply "middle era" or "middle period," and I have used it here strictly in that sense, as being simpler and clearer than any alternatives but without implying that European patterns or preconceptions are intended. When one writes about anything beyond the recent past, there is another and more vital problem: We know far too little of the lives of most people, especially the nonliterate who were the great majority everywhere until recently and who thus have left us only indirect evidence about themselves. For much of the past we have records primarily of the lives and doings of the elites and the rise and fall of states and kingdoms, monuments and battles, kings and conquests. Here and there we can catch a glimpse of the lives of ordinary people, and I have tried to draw on some of this material where possible, including what popular literature has survived, festivals, folk religion, and guesses about mass welfare, but I am well aware that I can give only an incomplete picture. The record of major events is important too, and given the limitations of any one-volume treatment, they necessarily take up most of these pages.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

BORN IN PHILADELPHIA, RHOADS MURPHEY, a specialist in Chinese history and in geography, received his doctorate from Harvard University in 1950. Before joining the faculty of the University of Michigan in 1964, he taught at the University of Washington; he was also a visiting professor at Taiwan University, University of Pennsylvania, Sichuan University, and Tokyo University. From 1954 to 1956 he was the director of the Conference of Diplomats in Asia. The University of Michigan granted him a Distinguished Service Award in 1974. Formerly president of the Association for Asian Studies, Murphey served as editor of the *Journal of Asian Studies*, *Michigan Papers in Chinese Studies*, and the Association for Asian Studies' *Mono-graphs*. The Social Science Research Council, the Ford Foundation, the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the American Council of Learned Societies awarded him fellowships. A prolific author, Murphey's books include *Shanghai: Key to Modern China* (1953), *An Introduction to Geography* (4th ed., 1978), *A New China Policy* (with others, 1965), *Approaches to Modern Chinese History* (with others, 1967), *The Scope of Geography* (3d ed., 1982), *The Treaty Ports and China's Modernization* (1970), *China Meets the West: The Treaty Ports* (1975), and *The Fading of the Maoist Vision* (1980). *The Outsiders: Westerners in India and China* (1977) won the Best-Book-of-the-Year award from the University of Michigan Press. At Michigan he was the director of the

Program in Asian Studies for many years. In December 2012, while the work of preparing the seventh edition of *A History of Asia* was in progress, Rhoads Murphey and his wife Eleanor passed away within a few days of each other at their home in Michigan. Professor Murphey was ninety-three years old.

RHOADS MURPHEY: AN APPRECIATION

Rhoads Murphey was my teacher at the University of Michigan in the early 1980s. At the time, he was already a well-known and accomplished scholar, and yet among his many students he was most loved for the care he took in teaching us to appreciate Asian history and cultures and the interest he showed in our intellectual growth. When Rhoads invited me to work with him on his textbook projects, I was honored but a little apprehensive—Rhoads was also famous among his students for expressing his opinions openly and with passion. Our collaboration proved to be a challenge, but a delightful one, and I will sorely miss him. I hope the changes I have made to the text, and any future changes, will never obscure the somewhat cantankerous but always enthusiastic and informed voice of my teacher Rhoads Murphey.

KRISTIN STAPLETON

A NOTE ON THE SPELLING OF ASIAN NAMES AND WORDS

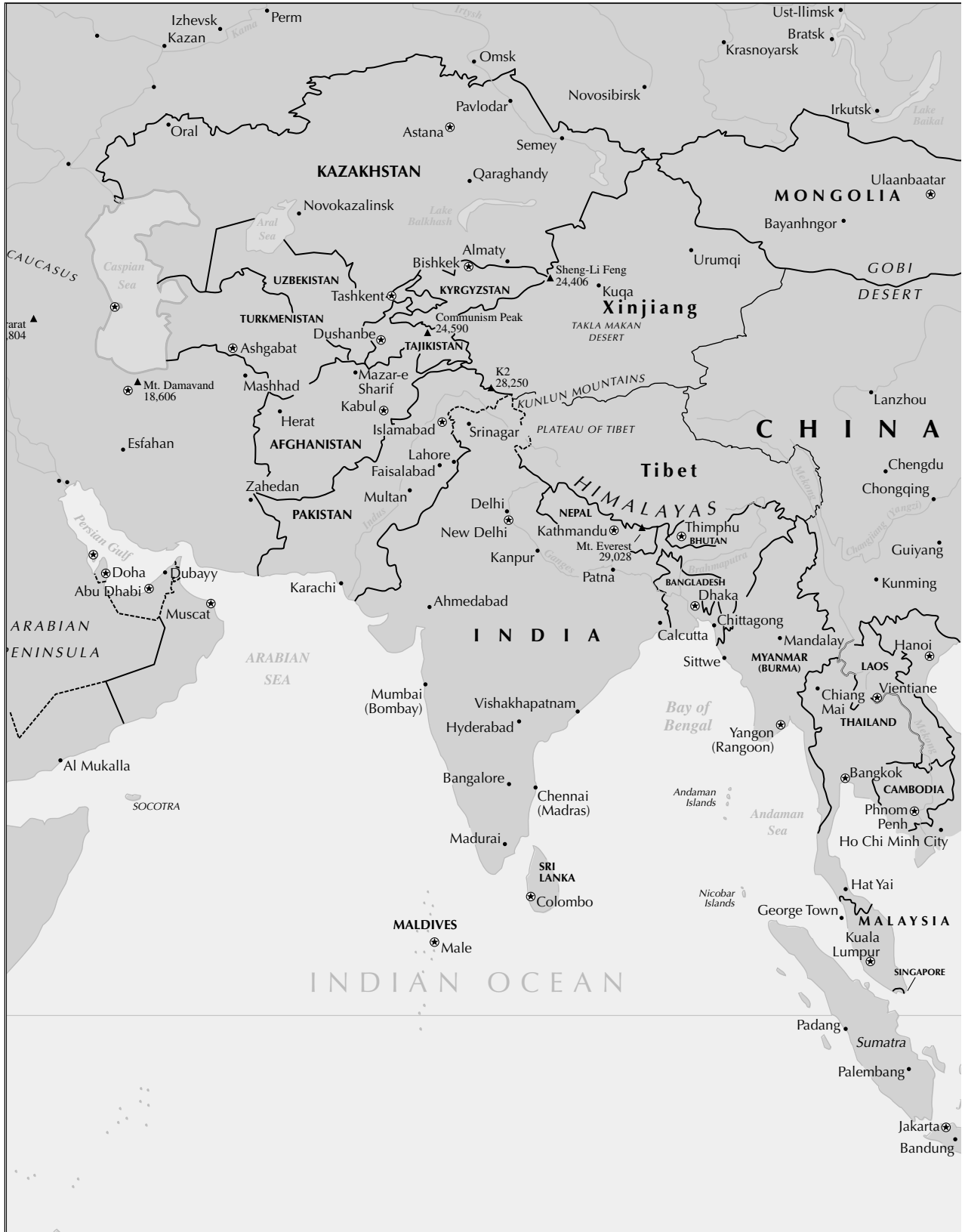
NEARLY ALL ASIAN LANGUAGES ARE WRITTEN with symbols different from the Western alphabet. Chinese, Japanese, and Korean are written with ideographic characters, plus a phonetic syllabary for Japanese and different scripts for Korean and Vietnamese. Most other Asian languages have their own scripts, symbols, diacritical marks, and alphabets, which differ from those in the English language. There can, thus, be no single “correct spelling” in Western symbols for Asian words or names, including personal names and place names—only established conventions. Unfortunately, conventions in this respect differ widely and in many cases reflect preferences or forms related to different Western languages.

Chinese presents the biggest problem, since there are a great many different conventions in use. Most American newspapers and some books and journals now use the romanization system called *Pinyin*, approved by the Chinese government, which renders with greater phonetic

accuracy, as Beijing and Guangzhou, the two cities previously known as Peking and Canton.

The usage in this book follows the Pinyin system because it has become widely used. Readers will encounter both Wade-Giles and Pinyin spellings, plus others, in other books, papers, and journals, and some familiarity with both conventions is thus necessary. A handy guide to pronouncing Chinese, which includes a chart to use to compare Wade-Giles and Pinyin spellings, may be found at Columbia University’s “Asia for Educators” Web site (http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/special/china_1000bce_language.htm#pronounce).

In general, readers should realize and remember that English spellings of names from other languages (such as Munich for München, Vienna for Wien, Danube for Donau, and Rome for Roma), especially in Asia, can be only approximations and may differ confusingly from one Western source or map to another.





CHRONOLOGY

India	China	Korea-Japan	Southeast Asia	Other Civilizations
4000 B.C.E. Indus culture, 3000–2000 B.C.E. Yangshao, c. 3000–c. 2000 B.C.E. Longshan, c. 2500–c. 1800 B.C.E.		Jomon culture in Japan to c. 300 B.C.E.	Early bronze and agriculture	Sumer and Egypt, 4000 B.C.E.
2000 B.C.E. Aryan migrations, 1700–1200 B.C.E.	Xia (still awaiting clear archeological evidence) and Shang, c. 1600–1050 B.C.E.	Chinese civilization spreads to Korea	Sailors apparently from Java reach Africa	Hammurabi's code, 1750 B.C.E. Hyos invasion of Egypt Trojan War
1000 B.C.E. Vedic culture, 1000–500 B.C.E. The Buddha, c. 563–c. 480 B.C.E. Magadha, 500 B.C.E. Maurya, 322–180 B.C.E. Ashoka, r. 269–232 B.C.E.	Zhou conquest, 1027 B.C.E. Confucius, c. 551–479 B.C.E. Warring states Qin conquest, 221 B.C.E.	Yayoi culture in Japan, c. 300 B.C.E.–250 C.E.	Nam Viet	Homer, Socrates, Plato Greek city states Aristotle, Alexander Rise of Roman power Julius Caesar
c.e. Kushans, c. 100 B.C.E.–c. 250 C.E. Guptas, c. 320–c. 550 Harsha, 606–648 Southern Kingdoms: Chola, Pandya, Pallava Tamil invades Ceylon Arabs in Sindh, c. 710	Han dynasty, 206 B.C.E.–220 C.E. Northern Wei and "Six Dynasties"; spread of Buddhism Sui, 581–617 Tang, 618–907 Northern Song, 960–1127 Southern Song, 1127–1279 Su Shi, Zhu Xi	Paekche, Koguryo, and Silla in Korea Tomb period, 250–550 in Japan Yamato state, c. 550–c. 710 Nara period, 710–784 Heian, 794–1185 Lady Murasaki Koryo in Korea, 935–1200	China conquers Nam Viet Early states: Funan, Champa Northern Vietnam free from China Tang retake N. Vietnam, Song let it go Pagan kingdom in Burma, 850–1280s	Jesus Christ Roman Empire in Mediterranean and Western Europe Fall of Rome by 410 Muhammed, 570–632 Abbasid Caliphate Byzantine Empire Charlemagne, 768–814
1000 Mahmud of Ghazni, 997–1030 Delhi sultanate, 1206–1526 Ala-ud-din, r. 1296–1316 Tughluks and Lodis Vijayanagara, 1336–1565	Mongol conquest, Yuan dynasty, 1279–1368 Ming, 1368–1644 Zheng He's fleets Ming novels: Water Margins, Golden Lotus	Mongol conquest of Korea, Choson, 1392–1910 Kamakura in Japan, 1185–1339 Ashikaga, 1336–1570 Nobunaga and Hideyoshi	Ankor Thom and Wat, c. 900–c. 1200, Khmer glory and decline Rise of Thai state Borobudur, Srivijaya, Majapahit, 800–1400	Mayas in Central America Aztecs in Mexico Incas in Peru Crusades, 1096–1204 Tamerlane (Timur), 1136–1405
1500 Babur, 1526–1530 Mughals, 1526–1707 (1858) Akbar, 1556–1605 Jahangir, 1605–1627 Shah Jahan, 1627–1657 Aurangzeb, 1658–1707	Ming in decline Manchu conquest, 1644 Qing dynasty, 1644–1911 Kangxi, 1661–1722	Hideyoshi's invasion of Korea Tokugawa, 1600–1868 Expulsion of foreigners Rise of Edo and merchant culture	Southward expansion of Vietnamese Portuguese trade and bases Rise of Dutch power Spanish Philippines, 1521 (1565)–1898 and Spanish America	Ottoman Empire Suleiman 1495–1566 Western Renaissance 14th–16th centuries Copernicus, Galileo, Michelangelo Rise of the English state Elizabeth I, d. 1603 Shakespeare, 1564–1616 Louis XIV, r. 1669–1715 Peter the Great of Russia, 1672–1725

India	China	Korea-Japan	Southeast Asia	Other Civilizations
1700				
Calcutta, 1690 Plassey, 1757 Rise of company power, beginning c. 1760 British in Ceylon, 1798 Cornwallis and Wellesley	<i>Dream of Red Chamber</i> Qianlong, 1735–1799 Macartney mission, 1793 White Lotus Rebellion	Nagasaki as “Window on the World” Daimyo hostages at and visits to Edo Further rise of merchants	New Toungoo state in Burma, 1635–1732 Chakri dynasty in Siam, from 1782 Dutch control Java Vietnamese in Mekong Delta	J. S. Bach, d. 1750 American Revolution Mozart, d. 1791 French Revolution and Napoleon
1800				
British defeat Marathas, 1818 First Afghan War, 1841 British takeovers British add Punjab, 1849 Revolt of 1857 Railway building Rise of colonial ports Suez open, 1869 India National Congress, 1885 Rising nationalism Curzon, Viceroy of India, 1899–1905	Opium in, silver out Amherst mission “Opium War” 1839–1842 Taiping Rebellion, 1850–1864 Tongzhi Restoration, Arsenals, 1862–1875 French War, 1885 Japan defeats China, 1895 The 100 Days (1898) and Boxer Uprising (1900)	Tokugawa system under threat Perry to Edo Bay, 1853 Meiji Restoration, 1868; rise of Tokyo Japanese industrialization and imperialism in Korea and Taiwan Korea, a “protectorate” “Unequal Treaties” end	Penang founded, 1786 Singapore founded, 1819 First Burmese War, 1826 “Culture System” in Java Second Burmese War, 1852 “Unequal Treaties” in Siam French take South Vietnam in 1862, and North in 1885 Third Burmese War, 1886; Dutch take Sumatra and Bali United States takes the Philippines, 1898	U.S. War of 1812 Waterloo, 1815 Reform bills in England Abortive revolutions of 1848 in Europe Latin American independence The West enters Africa; U.S. Civil War; German and Italian unification
1900–Present				
India in World War I Amritsar Massacre, 1919 Gandhi and Satyagraha Independence and partition, 1947 Nehru dies, 1964 Bangladesh, 1971 Indira Gandhi assassinated and Bhopal disaster, 1984 Economic opening, 1990s BJP in power, 1998–2004; nuclear weapons tests Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of Congress Party, 2004 to the present Terrorist attack in Mumbai, 2008	1911 Revolution Yuan Shikai and Warlords May Fourth Movement Guomindang Nanjing 1927–1937; Japan invades Rise of CCP Civil war P.R.C. 1949 Great Leap Forward famine, 1959–1961 Cultural Revolution Reform and Opening policies China joins the WTO, 2001 Beijing Olympics, 2008 Rural protests over land confiscation for development projects increasingly common	Defeat of Russia, 1905 Shandong and 21 Demands Rule of Korea and Manchuria, the “China Incident” The “Dark Valley” and Pearl Harbor, 1941 Defeat and regrouping Korea independent, and at war South Korean democratization North Korean isolation Kim Il Sung’s grandson Kim Jong Un declared head of state in 2011 on the death of his father Kim Jong Il Park Chung-hee’s daughter Park Geun-hye elected president of South Korea, 2012	U.S. crushes Philippine “Rebels” Rise of nationalism in Burma, Vietnam, Indonesia; Philippine collaboration Ho Chi Minh, Sukarno, Manuel Quezon Japanese conquest Independence Vietnam War, 1946–1975 Khmer Rouge genocide ASEAN Deadly tsunami kills hundreds of thousands in India Ocean basin, 2004 Political thaw in Myanmar (Burma), 2011	Boer War, 1899–1902 World War I, 1914–1918 Russian Revolution, 1917 World depression, 1929–1936 World War II, 1939–1945 Cold War Persian Gulf War, 1991 Terrorist attack on the United States, September 11, 2001 Global economic crisis, 2008 U.S. and NATO forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, 2003 to the present Spring 2013, popular uprisings against governments in the Arab world

This page has been left blank intentionally

INTRODUCTION

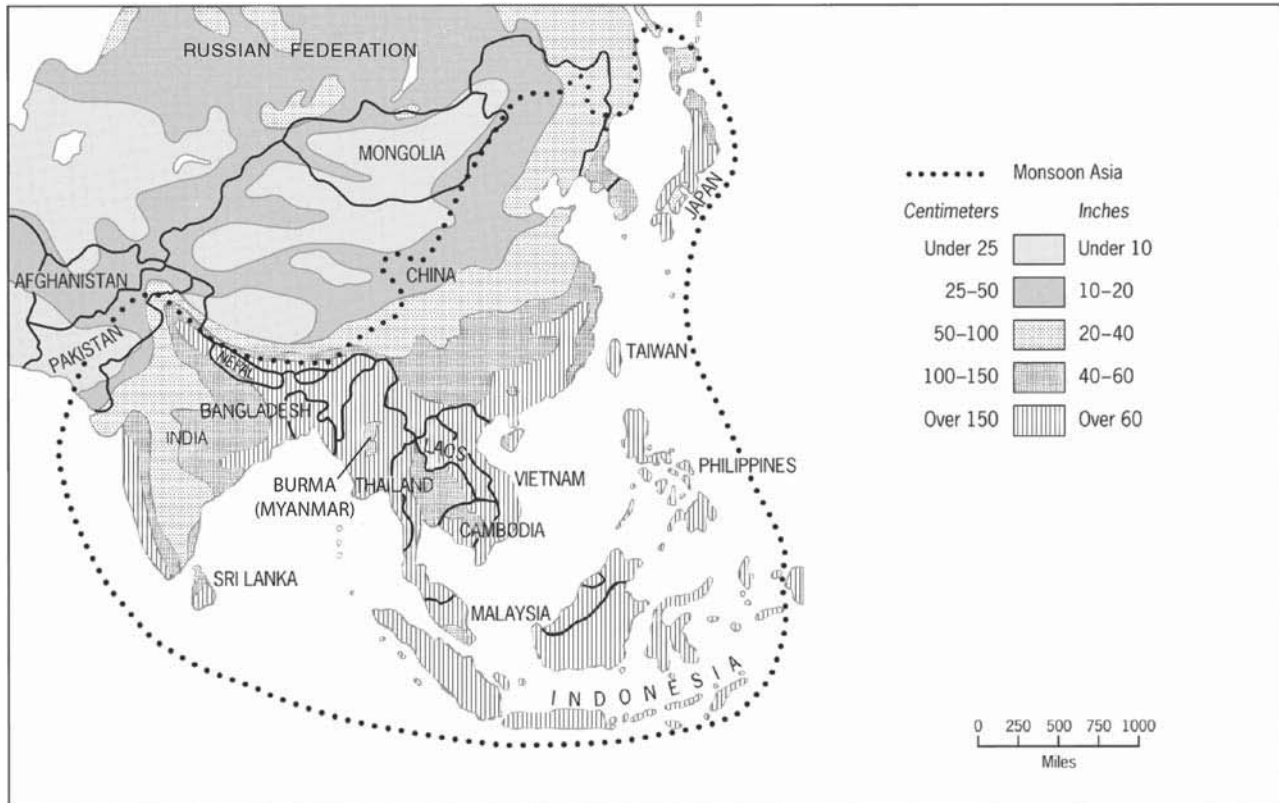
MONSOON ASIA AS A UNIT OF STUDY

CHAPTER OUTLINE

- Geography
- Population Densities
- Common Cultural Patterns
- The Study of Monsoon Asia

HALF THE WORLD LIES in Asia east of Afghanistan and south of Siberia: half of its people and far more than half of its historical experience, for these are the oldest living civilized traditions. India and China developed sophisticated cultures and technologies long before Europe and led the world for more than 2,000 years, economically and politically as well as culturally and technologically. Korea, Japan, and Southeast Asia evolved their own high civilizations during the many centuries after the fall of Rome while Europe endured waves of devastating invasions and the long medieval period. The great Asian traditions and the vigorously growing modern states and economies of Asia offer the student a rich and varied record of human experience, in literature, philosophy, and the arts, in statecraft and empire building, in the varied lives of their people, but perhaps most of all in the many different approaches to universal human conditions and problems. India, China, and Southeast Asia, well over one and a half times the size of all of Europe, are all equally rich in their cultural variety. Japan, though smaller than the others, offers still another set of experiences, additionally fascinating because of Japanese success in meeting the modern West on its own terms.

Each of these major civilizations deserves study, and increasingly, their histories are part of the college and university curriculum. But they also need to be seen as part of the larger Asian whole, just as we study, for example, France within Europe and European history as a composite of the history of its parts. This book provides the beginning student with an introduction to Asian history through the histories of its major civilized traditions. As the treatment progresses, successive chapters relate them to each other and to Western history, until the two great traditions of West and East begin to merge in the age of European expansion at the beginning of the sixteenth century. Knowledge of Asia is vital to understanding the world in which we live, a world where Asia is more and more deeply woven into our lives. But the richness and depth of the Asian experience are perhaps even more important rewards awaiting the student who begins with this book.



Precipitation in Monsoon Asia

Note the patterns: heaviest rainfall near the sea and along the Himalayan front.

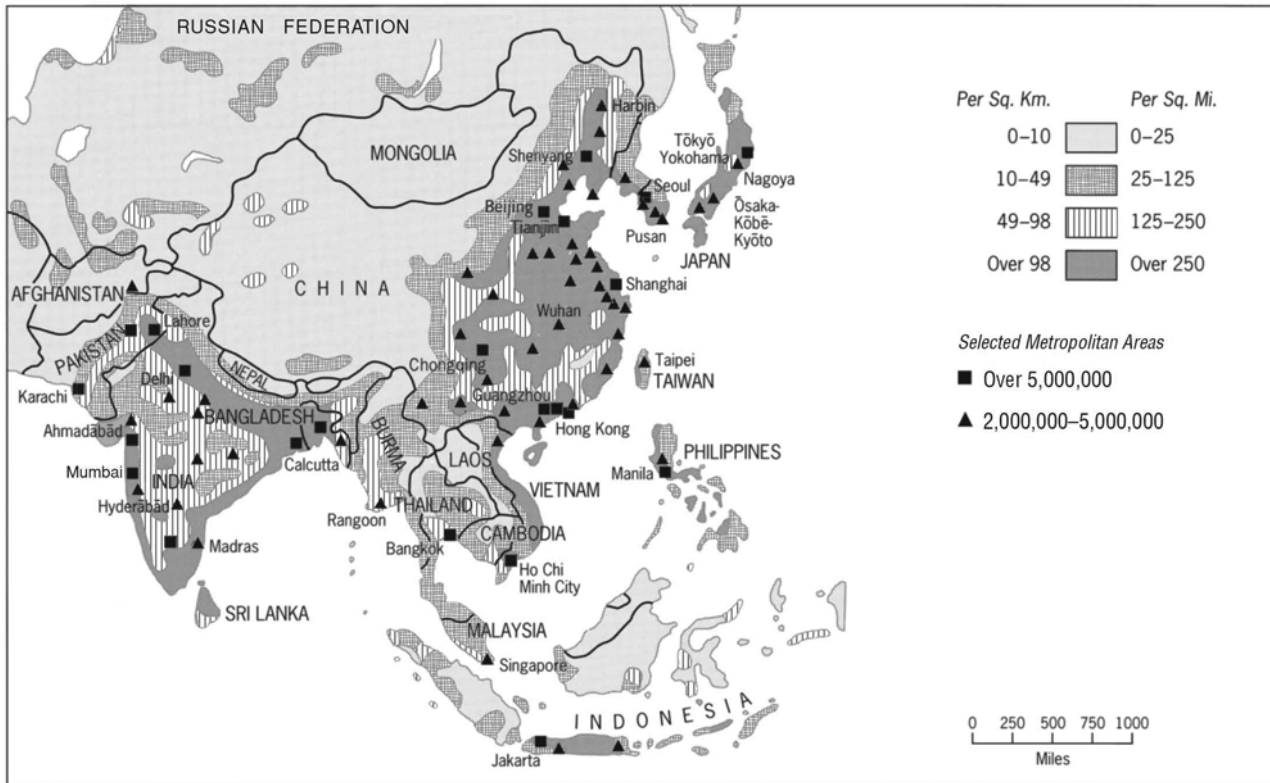
GEOGRAPHY

The continent of Asia is bordered in the west by convention at Suez, the Bosphorus at Istanbul, and the Ural Mountains in the Russian Federation; it is, thus, the eastern four-fifths of the single landmass of Eurasia, encompassing over 17 million square miles, and by far the largest of the continents. But these conventional lines do not mark any major or abrupt change in landscape or culture, especially not along the principal line of the Urals. This range is relatively low and easily crossed; on both sides of it the northern coniferous forest that covers much of northern Europe and most of northern Asia continues with few breaks, an area of sparse population, little rainfall, and great seasonal temperature extremes.

The southern third of the former Soviet Union east of the line of the Urals is similarly an extension of what lies to the west, an area of aridity that merges eastward into the sparsely populated desert whose traditional nomadic or oasis cultures still contrast sharply with Russian culture and with those of India, Southeast Asia, China, and Japan. Much of this arid desert area of Central Asia was conquered by Muslim invaders beginning in the eighth century C.E., further establishing the area's similarity with the Arab

lands to the west and with adjoining Iran. Most of the inhabitants of Central Asia are of Turkish origin; some of the Turkish groups moved steadily westward and, by the fifteenth century, had conquered Anatolia, modern Turkey.

The southern and eastern rim of Asia is a very different place, both physically and culturally. Rainfall is generally adequate despite occasional dry years in some areas, and temperatures are more moderate, under the influence of the sea. Except in the northern fringes, winters are relatively mild, for the same reason. This is the area called "monsoon Asia," set off from the rest of Asia by high mountain ranges along most of its landward borders, which help to keep the climatic influence of the sea out of Central Asia. The word *monsoon* is of Arab origin and originally meant "season" or "seasonal wind." In summer the huge landmass of Eurasia, whose center is farther from the sea than any part of the globe, heats up rapidly and generates a mass of hot air. As it rises, cooler air, which in its passage across the water picks up moisture, is drawn in from the surrounding oceans. On reaching the land, these maritime air masses release their moisture as rain, especially where they encounter hills or mountains, which force them to rise and hence cool them enough to produce condensation.



Population Density, Monsoon Asia

Note the coincidence of heavy rainfall and dense population. The major exceptions are northeastern China, where level land takes precedence, and the islands of Indonesia (except for Java), where mountains and jungle exclude dense settlement.

There is thus a pattern of relatively heavy summer rainfall along the southeastern crescent of Eurasia, on the oceanic side of the mountains that divide it from Central Asia. In winter the flow of air is reversed. The center of Eurasia, relatively little affected by the moderating influences of the sea, cools rapidly, and by December a mass of cold, heavy air begins to dominate the area. The sea remains relatively warm, storing the summer's heat, and winds blow out from the cold center toward the sea with its warm, rising air. In the northern parts of monsoon Asia, these outblowing winter winds can produce low temperatures but little or no rainfall, because they originate in dry Central Asia. By May or June, depending on the area, Central Asia has begun to heat up again, and moist maritime air masses are drawn in once more, bringing the monsoonal rains.

The oversimplified description above basically fits what usually happens, but the mechanisms of the monsoon are in fact far more complex. The arrival and duration of the monsoon in spring or summer are notoriously unreliable, varying widely from year to year in many areas and producing floods in one year and droughts in another. The islands of Southeast Asia also derive rain from the winter monsoon, because by the time it reaches them it has passed

over large stretches of sea and picked up considerable moisture. The same is true to a lesser extent for Japan.

POPULATION DENSITIES

The general adequacy of rainfall and the generally mild winters under the protection of mountain ranges to landward have provided a basis for the sharpest of all distinctions between what is appropriately called *monsoon* Asia and the rest of the continent: half of the world's people live here, as they have during all of recorded history (although monsoon Asia's preponderance was even greater until a century or two ago), while most of the rest of Asia is one of the most thinly settled areas of the world (see the map above). The hilly or mountainous parts of monsoon Asia, including much of Southeast Asia, west China, Korea, and Japan, are in fact rather thinly peopled, while in the lowlands along the coasts and river basins population densities reach the highest levels in the world.

Monsoon Asia developed a highly distinctive set of cultures, based from the beginning on productive agricultural systems in this generally warm, wet area, which also contains extensive plains, river valleys, and deltas. The first

Asian civilizations arose on an agricultural base in the great river valleys described in later chapters, and agriculture remains the dominant employment and the major source of production in almost all of monsoon Asia outside Japan. It was agricultural wealth that supported the successive empires and brilliant cultures of monsoon Asia, and that kept its people as a whole almost certainly better off materially than people anywhere else. It was richer than Europe until recently, probably sometime in the eighteenth century, as European observers noted from the time of Marco Polo (1254–1324 C.E.) on.

The expansion of the Chinese state and empire beginning under the Han dynasty in the second century B.C.E. progressively incorporated under Chinese control a number of areas that do not fit very closely with the above generalizations about monsoon Asia. Given the absence of effective political or military rivals to the west and north, the Chinese state first conquered Xinjiang, sometimes called Chinese Turkestan, a largely desert area still inhabited mainly by Turkic peoples, and then added much of arid Mongolia to protect itself against nomadic raids. Later Chinese expansion with the same motives conquered the huge Himalayan area of Tibet, although its tiny population remained overwhelmingly Tibetan until large-scale migrations from other parts of China in recent years. Finally, in the seventeenth century, an originally nomadic group, the Manchus, conquered China and added their Manchurian homeland to the empire. Manchuria is monsoonal in the sense that it gets most of its sparse rainfall in summer as part of the monsoonal pattern, but it has a long and bitterly cold winter, and much of it is marginal for agriculture. Most of Mongolia and Xinjiang are too dry for farming and belong both climatically and culturally to Central Asia. Tibet is an alpine desert, too dry, too cold, and too high to permit agriculture except in a few tiny areas.

Taken together, these marginal regions compose over half of contemporary China's area; Tibet, Xinjiang, and Mongolia (only the southernmost section, "Inner Mongolia," is part of today's China) are each nearly the size of western Europe, but they contain much less than 1 percent of China's population, and even Manchuria contains less than 10 percent. Most of China's people, and the roots and body of Chinese civilization, have always been located in the eastern and southern parts of the country, where agriculture has strong advantages. The empire expanded into the outer areas mentioned above in the absence of major topographic barriers (except for Tibet) but reached its limits roughly along the line formed by the main chain of the Himalayas and its northern extensions, which form the western and northwestern boundaries of Tibet and Xinjiang; other mountain ranges helped to limit Chinese expansion into northern Mongolia. But the cultures of the people of these areas, including their languages, have until very

recently remained strikingly different from those found in the heartland of China, as is still the case in Tibet.

The other major area that lies on the margins of monsoon Asia in physical terms, Pakistan, has from earliest times been inhabited by people who belonged to the major stream of Indian culture, and indeed this area saw the birth of civilization on the subcontinent. Much of Pakistan is desert or near-desert, but irrigation since late Neolithic times, especially along the Indus River and its tributaries, has made possible a productive agricultural system and a dense population. Despite its marginality in climatic terms, most of Pakistan gets its limited rainfall in summer as part of the monsoonal system, of which it lies on the fringes, as does northwestern China. The high and steep mountain ranges that form the western and northwestern borders of Pakistan have always drawn a relatively sharp line between the peoples and cultures of the Indian subcontinent and those to the west in the Persian and Arab world of the Middle East. Like the distinction between the monsoon realm and the rest of Asia as a whole, that line is perhaps clearest of all in terms of population density.

COMMON CULTURAL PATTERNS

Apart from the all-important characteristic of population density, monsoon Asia—the area east of Afghanistan and south of what is now the Russian Federation—has other common features that make it an appropriate unit of study. Even the monsoon part of Asia is a very large area, nearly twice the size of all of Europe to the Urals, and it is divided by mountains and seas into many subregions with different cultures, in many cases also inhabited by ethnically different people. The four major subregions of monsoon Asia—India, China, Southeast Asia, and Northeast Asia (Korea and Japan)—are divided from each other in all of these ways and each is further subdivided, to varying degrees, into internal regions. But there is a broad range of institutions, ideas, values, conditions, and solutions that have long been distinctively Asian, common to each of the four major parts of monsoon Asia, different at least in degree from those elsewhere, and evolving in Asia in distinctive ways.

These include, among many others, the basic importance of the extended family and kin network and its multiple roles; the respect for and importance attached to learning, for its own sake and as the path to worldly success; the veneration of age and its real or fancied wisdom and authority; the traditional subjugation and submissive roles of women, at least in the public sphere (although Southeast Asia and southern India are qualified exceptions); the hierarchical structuring of society; the awareness of and importance attached to the past; the primacy of



Rice paddies in south-central Thailand. This scene is typical of warm, wet Asia and of its great river valleys and plains, which are highly productive agriculturally. (*R. Murphey*)

group welfare over individual interest; and many more distinctively Asian cultural traits common to all parts of monsoon Asia.

Agriculture

Except for Japan, and there only since the 1920s, most of Asia has traditionally been and remains primarily an agrarian-based economy. Although Japanese industry developed rapidly in the 1920s, and by 2012, China, India, and South Korea have become major industrial and commercial economies, Asian agriculture, including that of Japan today, has always been distinctive for its labor intensiveness, still in most areas primarily human labor, including that involved in the construction and maintenance of irrigation systems. This too goes back to the origins of the great Asian civilizations, which arose on the basis of agricultural surpluses produced by labor-intensive, largely hand cultivation supported by irrigation. From the beginning, Asian per-acre crop yields have been higher than anywhere else in the world. With the addition of manuring in later periods and chemical fertilization more recently, they are still the highest in the world, especially in Japan. High yields have always supported large populations in monsoon Asia, concentrated in the plains, river valleys, and deltas, where level land and fertile alluvial (river silt) soils have also maximized output in this region of generally warm temperatures, long growing seasons, and normally adequate rainfall.

Since approximately the first millennium B.C.E. or even earlier, monsoon Asia has contained the largest and most productive agricultural areas in the world. As one consequence, population densities per square mile have also remained high throughout this period, especially on cultivated land, and higher than anywhere else until the present. This was to some degree a chicken-and-egg situation. Productive land supported a growing population, which not

only generated a need for more food but also provided the labor required to increase yields still further. This has been the consistent pattern of the agrarian and population history of each of the major regions of monsoon Asia over the past 4,000 years.

Social Hierarchy

Very high population densities have had much to do with the equally consistent nature of Asian societies, especially their emphases on group effort and group welfare, their mistrust of individualism, and their dependence on clearly stated and sanctioned rules for behavior. Although the image of the hermit sage emerged early across Asia as a cultural alternative, individuals have almost always been subject to group direction and subordinate to group interest. They were fitted into the larger structure of societies that were hierarchically organized; each individual has always had his or her defined place and prescribed role. Individual happiness and welfare, like those of the societies as a whole, have always been seen as resting on such a structure. Most of these societies remain patriarchal and male dominant, although there are regional variations; the primary institution has always been the family, where the oldest member rules, sometimes a female but usually a male. The chief virtue extolled by all Asian societies is respect and deference to one's elders and to all others of higher status. Age and learning are equated with wisdom, an understandable idea in any agricultural society, where accumulated experience is the best guide to life's problems, and where the few learned men are looked up to by the mass of illiterates.

It has always seemed strange to Asians that others elsewhere do not share to the same degree their own deference to age and to learning—and that they do not put the same high value on education as both the most effective and the most prestigious way for any individual to succeed in life.

But individual success is also seen as bringing both credit and material benefit to the family, and family obligation remains an unusually powerful drive for most Asians. From early on, it was possible for those born in humble circumstances to rise in the world by acquiring education, an effort that could be successful only with close family support and much family sacrifice. Those who achieved success, and all those in authority or with education, were expected to set a good example for others. Indeed, society was seen as being held together by the model behavior of those at the top, from the emperor and his officials to the scholars, priests, and other leaders to the heads of families.

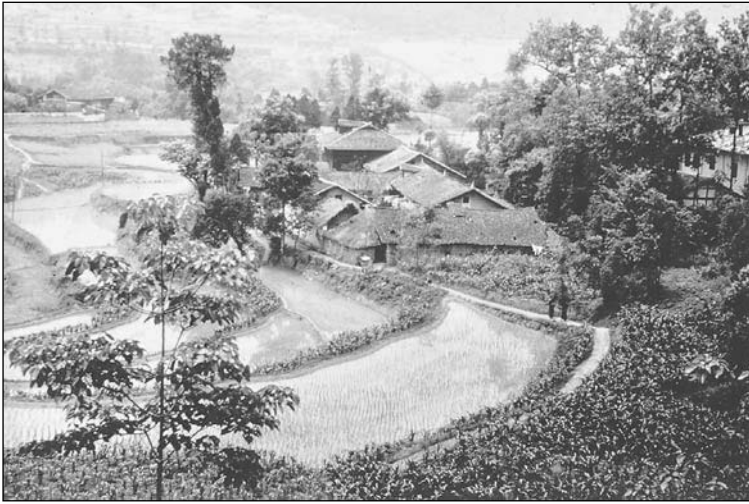
The family, the basic cement of all Asian societies, commonly involved three generations living together: parents, surviving grandparents, and children. But its network of loyalties and obligations extended further to include to varying degrees cousins, uncles, aunts, mature siblings, and in-laws. It was a ready-made system of mutual support, often necessary in hard times but seen as a structure that benefited everyone at all times and was hence given the highest value. There were of course strains within it, and within the societies as a whole, especially in the generally subordinate role of women, younger children, and others at the bottom. No society anywhere has ever achieved perfect solutions to all human problems, but these Asian societies seem to have been more successful than most, if only because they have lasted, in fundamentally similar form in these terms, far longer than any others elsewhere.

Except for in parts of Southeast Asia, a notable distinction, when women married they became members of their husband's family and moved to his house and village. New brides were often subjected to tyranny from their mothers-in-law, but when they had borne a son, all-important for continuation of the husband's family line, they acquired some status, and in time could tyrannize their sons' new wives. This patrilineal system was the norm in China, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, and India, or rather it became so as these civilizations matured. In prehistoric times and before the beginning of written records (quite late in Japan), it is likely that relations between the sexes were more egalitarian in these cultures. That seems to have been the case for the Indus civilization of India, before the Aryan migrations. In early Japan the significance of the female is suggested by the fact that their chief deity was a woman: Amaterasu, the sun goddess. In Korea, before Confucian influence in the Chosŏn period (1398–1910 C.E.) compelled changes, matrilineal or uxori-local marriage, in which the husband moved in with his wife's family for a substantial period of time, was the norm. Southeast Asia, including Vietnam even after its conquest by the Qin and Han dynasties, remained a world apart in terms of gender relations and is still so, with women more dominant and playing a major

role in, for example, trade; there men had to pay, as they still do, a bride price for wives, whereas the rest of monsoon Asia required dowries for the women.

Individual privacy was largely absent, given the dense population, the family structure, and the pattern common to most of monsoon Asia whereby even in rural areas houses were grouped together in villages rather than scattered over the landscape on separate farms, as in much of the Western world. Asian farms were small, averaging less than five acres in most areas, still smaller in the most densely settled parts. Their high productivity as a result of intensive cultivation meant that a family could normally support itself on a relatively tiny plot or plots. These were grouped around each village, housing 20 to 50 families on average who walked the short distance to and from their fields morning and evening, all but the very young and the very old. One was almost never out of sight or sound of others, and learned early to adjust, to defer to elders and superiors, to work together in the common interest, and in general to accept living very closely with, virtually on top of, other people, realizing that clear and agreed-on rules for behavior were and are essential. Marriage partners had to be sought in another village or town; most of one's fellow villagers were likely to be relatives of some degree, and in any case did not offer the widening of the kin network and its mutual support advantages conferred by marriage into another village. In other respects, one village or town was, and remains, much like another, and most people were, until very recently, villagers and farmers.

The chief Asian crop, rice, is the most productive of all cereals under the care that Asian farmers gave it, irrigated in specially constructed *paddies*, or wet fields that are weeded, fertilized, and harvested largely by hand. Rice was probably native to, and first cultivated in, mainland Southeast Asia, but it spread relatively early to adjacent China, and somewhat later to India, Korea, and Japan, until by the first few centuries of the first millennium it dominated Asian agriculture. Rice has demanding requirements, especially for water, but where it can be grown it can support, and must employ, large numbers of people. In the drier areas such as north India and north China, wheat largely replaced rice as the dominant cereal, but it too could produce good yields under intensive cultivation. More marginal areas could grow millet, sorghum, or barley; and in the southeast, taro, manioc, sago, and bananas supplemented grains. There was little place for animals, except for draft purposes including plowing and transport, although pigs, chickens, and ducks were raised as scavengers. Cereals produced far more food per acre than could be obtained by grazing animals or feeding them on crops, and there was continual pressure to have the land yield as much food as possible to support the dense populations. Monsoon Asia



South China landscape, Sichuan. This agricultural scene is typical of much of monsoon Asia, where the principal crop is irrigated rice. The rice is grown in fields (paddies) that are finely engineered to hold water within their low embankments, letting it trickle down from higher up the slope to each paddy in turn for constant irrigation. The water level is raised as the crops grow, and then is drained in the few weeks before harvest. The gentler hillsides are terraced, as in this picture, to create a staircase of nearly level irrigated fields. The heavy labor required to maintain this system is repaid by high crop yields. (*R. Murphey*)

has accordingly been called “the vegetable civilization,” centered on cereals and other plants (including a variety of vegetables) and minimizing meat in the diet, except for fish in coastal areas. Buildings were constructed primarily in wood, thatch, straw, and mud, with metal used only for tools and weapons, and stone largely reserved for monumental religious or official structures.

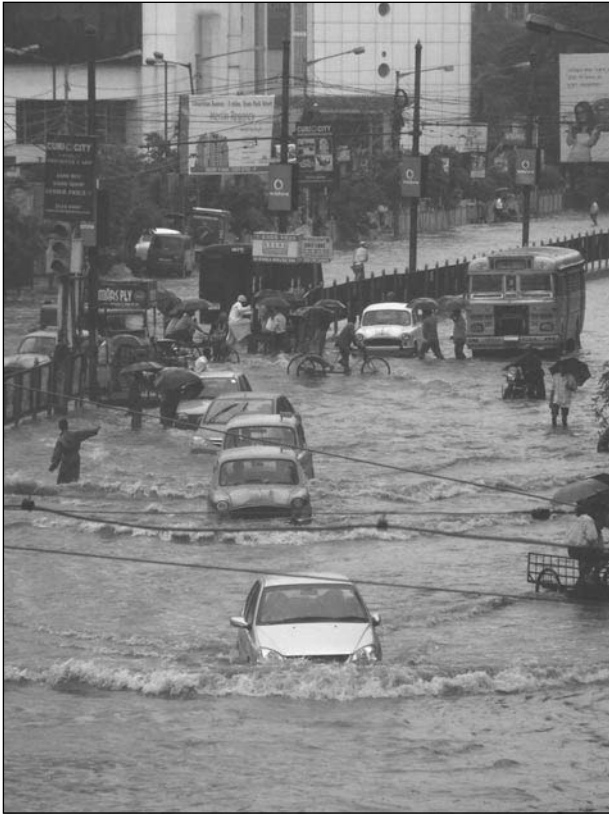
In all of these ways, monsoon Asia is a legitimate unit of study, an area with more basic commonality than differences. There is of course a wide range of differences in languages and other cultural traits, how people have lived and still live, supported themselves, and interacted with one another, the institutions they constructed, the basic values they still follow. But they have differed, and differ still, amazingly little from one part of monsoon Asia to another, given its very large size, geographic barriers to interactions, and huge populations. The states and empires of monsoon Asia were built consistently on their common peasant base of intensive, high-yield agriculture, which provided the great bulk of revenues, the manpower for armies, and the highly structured social order. Societies were directed and manipulated by officials and by learned men, whose values were largely echoed by most of those far greater numbers ranked below them, a few of whom joined the ranks of the elite through education. The village worlds were largely self-governing and self-regulating, thanks to the family system, the kin network, and the basic social institutions common to the area as a whole, but they formed the essential foundation for the building and maintenance of empires.

Trade took place at and far beyond the intervillage level, linking distant provinces or subregions and reaching overseas between the four major areas of Asia and beyond. But until very recent times, and then only in Japan and parts of Southeast Asia, it never rivaled the basic importance of agriculture as a means of employment or a source of wealth.

Each Asian area produced rich merchants, who often supported a brilliant urban culture. But nowhere, with few and brief exceptions until modern times, did merchants acquire political power or high formal status. All of these Asian societies continued to be dominated by the pool of educated men and others whose membership in the elite derived from learning in one form or another, including often the arts of warfare, supplemented by ownership of land and the management of the productive agricultural system that underlay everything. In these terms, too, there are few differences between one major Asian culture and another. On such grounds, monsoon Asia has been and remains at least as much a cultural and historical unit as Europe, despite being twice as big as Europe and having far wider variations in language and ethnic mixtures, a far longer recorded history, and an immensely greater population.

THE STUDY OF MONSOON ASIA

European societies and European history have their own undoubted unity, despite regional and temporal differences, and we commonly study them as a whole, including their variations and changes from area to area and period to period. The same kind of approach is at least equally valid for monsoon Asia, although it is less often pursued. The primary reason is that the American scholarly world still knows much less about Asia and its history than we know about Europe. As knowledge of and attention to Asia have increased, especially since the end of World War II, efforts have perhaps understandably been concentrated on learning Asian languages so that we can read their texts and records, and then on using such materials to study the histories and cultures of each major region separately. This is necessary since knowledge of Chinese, for example, is of marginal help in studying India, as knowledge of Sanskrit



Waterlogged streets of Kolkata during the monsoon cause trouble in everyday living. (*kZUMA Press/Newscom*)

or Hindi is of little use in studying Japan. The sheer size of Asia, its great regional variety, and its uniquely long and rich history, or histories, further discourage most scholars, or even students, from trying to understand the whole of monsoon Asia, often even at an introductory level.

But in the twenty-first century, Asia has moved into the global spotlight as the dynamic home of over half of humanity. Its societies and economies are rapidly changing and are acquiring a major position in world affairs in all respects. Study of Asia has matured enough to have produced a still-growing body of published work on the history of each major Asian area. It is both essential and possible to study Asia as a whole. Not to do so leaves us unprepared for the world of the twenty-first century, and at the same time prevents us from benefiting from the insights that almost any comparative approach to the several parts of Asia offers. Before we can usefully compare, it is first necessary to learn something of what happened in the history of each major area. This book not only attempts to do that for each part of Asia but also looks at parallels, differences, and interactions among them and between Asia and the Western world in both ancient and modern times.

Since World War II, the United States has produced more scholarly and popular books on Asia than any other country. Our universities are the world's leading centers of

Asian studies. Yet as a people, Americans are woefully ignorant of Asia, as they are of the world as a whole, clearly more so than the people of any other developed country and of many of the developing ones. Some Americans know a little about Europe, the origin of many of our people and much of our culture, but there is far less general knowledge or even adequate awareness of Asia, on the other side of the globe. Yet since about 1970 by far the largest share of U.S. trade, and the most rapidly increasing, has been with Asia. Several of its nations have the highest economic growth rates in the world, and several have become major powers in world affairs. Asian Americans are a fast growing segment of our own population.

Most important, the Asian cultural and historical experience is well over half of the human experience, now and in the past. We impoverish ourselves if we remain ignorant of it—and we expose ourselves to possible disaster if we try to play a global role in the modern world, where Asian concerns increasingly are shaping the agenda, without some knowledge of its cultures and civilizations. Asia's long history and the importance of its modern inhabitants attach to it make it particularly difficult to understand the present or plan for the future without a knowledge of the past. These are all important practical reasons for studying Asian history. But perhaps the best reason for studying anything is that it enriches the life of the student. This book aims to widen its readers' horizons and to make each of them richer because of learning about Asia.

QUESTIONS

1. What are monsoons, and what are their impact on Asian society and culture? What are Asia's monsoon seasons?
2. What distinguishes "monsoon Asia" from the remainder of Asia? What are the consequent differences between the two?
3. How has Chinese civilization linked monsoon Asia to central Asia over time?
4. According to the text, what is "exceptional" about south Indian and Southeast Asian civilizations in relation to the rest of monsoon Asia?
5. What are the societal consequences of an irrigation wet-rice society?
6. Where did the most populous early Asian societies form, and why?
7. What is a "vegetable civilization"? What are its consequences?
8. What are the common features among monsoon Asia's societies and cultures?

Suggested Web Sites

Asia for Educators

<http://afe.easia.columbia.edu>

This Columbia University Web site is an inexhaustible resource on the arts, languages, literatures, histories, and cultures of Asia. It provides links to lesson plans, timelines, maps, primary sources, cartoons and illustrations, and recommended Web sites.

Asian Studies World Wide Web Virtual Library

<http://coombs.anu.edu.au/WWWVL-AsianStudies.html>

A large-scale, collaborative project providing a guide to the networked scholarly documents, resources, and information systems concerned with social science research in Asia. Although the editors ceased updating it in January 2011, the available archives and links are very useful.

Library of Congress Country Studies

<http://memory.loc.gov/frd/cs/>

A continuing series of books prepared by the Federal Research Division of the Library of Congress, presently containing studies of more than 100 countries. Each site offers a chronology of important events, country profile, geographic and demographic studies, as well as information on religion, ethnicity, education, agriculture, and foreign relations, along with an extensive bibliography of English-language publications.

Time Magazine, Asia

<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/asia/>

The latest and previous issues of *Time* magazine in Asia; contains good information on contemporary topics, with a focus on Asian political, economic, and social issues, explored at more depth than found in the American edition of the magazine.

CIA World Factbook

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>

A handy source of current and concise information on countries throughout Asia, beginning with up-to-date histories, followed by the names of current leaders, surveys of local productivity, and other relevant information that would be especially useful to government officials, bankers, investors, or businesspeople.

Lonely Planet Guidebooks

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations>

The entry portal for all Lonely Planet guidebooks, which are among the best in the marketplace. They provide useful geographical, historical, and cultural information as well as practical information for the world traveler.

The following Web sites are also good sources on specific countries:

Bangladesh: <http://www.bangladesh-web.com/>
(especially good on local affairs)

Brunei: <http://www.bruneinews.net/>
(English-language news from Brunei)

Cambodia: <http://www.cambodia.org/news/>
(The Cambodian Information Center)

China: <http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/>
(*China Daily* U.S. edition; official English-language newspaper of the People's Republic of China)

<http://chinadigitaltimes.net/>
(California-based site that provides translations of material from Chinese blogs and other sources, often critical of the government)

<http://www.scmp.com/portal/site/SCMP/>
(*South China Morning Post*, based in Hong Kong)

<http://www.straitstimes.com/Home.html>
(China and the larger region from Singapore)

India: <http://www.hinduonline.com/>
(online version of the *Hindu*, India's leading paper)

Indonesia: <http://www.thejakartapost.com/>
(major English-language daily)

Japan: <http://www.asahi.com/english/english.html>
(online version of the *Asahi News*)

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/>
(Japan's most widely read English daily)

Laos: <http://www.vientianetimes.com/Headlines.html>
(Laotian news in English)

Malaysia: <http://www.thestar.com.my/>
(widely read Malaysian English-language daily)

Myanmar: <http://www.burmanet.org/news/>
(News, culture, and information about Myanmar)

Nepal: <http://www.nepalnews.com/>
(originates from Kathmandu)

North Korea: <http://www.kcna.co.jp>
(from government Central News Agency via Japan)

Pakistan: <http://www.dawn.com>
(most popular English-language daily in Pakistan)

Philippines: <http://www.philstar.com>
(the *Philippines Star* from Manila)

South Korea: <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/>
(Seoul-based news)

Sri Lanka: <http://www.dailynews.lk/>
(major Sri Lanka English-language daily)

Thailand: <http://www.bangkokpost.com/>
(major Thai English-language daily)

Vietnam: <http://vietnamnews.vnagency.com.vn/>
(a Vietnamese English-language daily)