Mosaic:

An Overview of Southeast Asian History
Geography

Subduction of tectonic plates
- *creation of Himalayan Mountains*
  - river systems and deltas
  - Irrawaddy, Salween, Mekong, Red Rivers
- *and of the volcanic area in thef “Rim of Fire”*
  - Krakatao
  - recent tsunami

Rise of sea level
- *mainland (fertile areas on deltas)*
- *islands (fertile areas on Java)*
- *highlands vs. lowlands*
Climate

– Monsoons: seasonal winds and rain
  • Impact on rice-growing cycles and sites
  • Impact on maritime trade
  • location of ports and power centers
Seasonal Monsoon System
Surface Winds

→ January

→ July
History

• Mandala as model for power centers

• Pre-Classical (1st – 6th C):
  – Dai-vet (Dongsan drums)
  – Funan
History (classical 6\textsuperscript{th} – 14\textsuperscript{th} C)

• Cambodia:
  – Champa
  – Angkhor
Seasonal Flooding on Mekong and Ton Le Sap
Classical (6\textsuperscript{th}-14\textsuperscript{th} C)

- Tai (Burma, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia)
  - Bagan
  - Lanna
  - Sukhothai
  - Ayutthaya
  - Lan Sang
Classical (6\textsuperscript{th} – 14\textsuperscript{th} C)

- Sumatra / Java / Malaysia
  - Sirijava
  - Mahapahit
  - Mataram
  - Melaka
History (Colonial 16th-20th C)

- **European incursion**
  - Militarized, monopolized, state-sponsored trade
  - Fragmentation of early empires.
  - Plantation economy (coffee, sugar, rubber etc.)
  - Migration: divide and rule policies

- Portugese - Malacca
- English – India, Burma, Malaya,
- Dutch – Indonesia
- French – Indochina.
European “discovery” of Asia
Nationalism and Independence (20th-21st C)

- WWII.
- Japanese occupation,
- Communist insurgency movements
- Nationalism,
- Independence
- Current Issues
Modern
Southeast
Asia
Religious Overlays (1)

• Hindu influences
  – *Devaraj*,
  – *Vedic myths - Ramayana*
  – *Sanskrit / Pali*
  – *trinity of Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva*
  – *cycle of rebirth*
Religious Overlays (2)

- Buddhist influences
  - *Karma*
  - *Cycle of rebirth*
  - *Four Noble Truths*
  - *Theravada vs. Mahayana*
Religious Overlays (3)

- Islamic influences
  - Five Pillars,
  - Mecca,
  - Malay Muslim sultanates (Jawi)
Religious Overlays (4)

- Christian influences
  - Spanish Catholicism
  - Dutch Protestantism