Imperialism in Southeast Asia

Advanced World Civilizations 2018

Southeast Asian Colonies

Burma (Britain), Malaysia (Britain), Singapore (Britain), Vietnam (France), Laos (France), Cambodia (France), Indonesia (The Netherlands), The Philippines (Spain→USA), and East Timor (Portugal)

Southeast Asian Colonies

In order to remain a strong country, Imperialist believed:

- Strong industrial economy
- Steady supply of raw materials
- A strong military

Southeast Asian Colonies

By 1900, almost all of Southeast Asia was under Western rule.

Great Britain led the way in 19th century imperial colonialism

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Southeast Asian Colonies

In 1819, Great Britain founded a colony on a small island called Singapore.
It soon became a major port for traffic to and from China
Britain took control of Burma to protect its colonies in India & route to China

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Southeast Asian Colonies

France was alarmed by British expansion, and created a protectorate in Vietnam.
In the 1880s, France extended its control over neighboring Cambodia, Laos, Annam, and Tonkin.

Southeast Asian Colonies

Both Britain and France tried to make Thailand into a colony.
Thailand prevented the takeover due to King Mongkut & his son King Chulalongkorn.
Both Britain and France decided to back off and stop fighting for thailand.

Southeast Asian Colonies

The US naval forces under Commodore George Dewey defeated the Spanish in Manila Bay in the Philippines. US gov. believed it was their moral duty to civilize other parts of the world.

Southeast Asian Colonies

Colonizing the Philippines would also prevent it from coming under Japanese rule and would serve the US as a stepping stone to trade with China.
Many Filipinos objected to the colonization

Southeast Asian Colonies

The chief goal of the Western powers in their colonies was to exploit the natural resources and open up markets for western goods.

Southeast Asian Colonies

Western powers often justified their conquests by arguing they brought civilization and development (ethnocentrism). However, they also feared the indigenous people gaining political rights.

Southeast Asian Colonies

If they were allowed to have political rights might want full participation in the government or independence. If that happened, colonies would develop their own industries and European Colonizers would lose a source of wealth.

Southeast Asian Colonies

In most places, the native people worked as wage labor on plantations owned by Europeans. Wages were kept at poverty level, conditions on plantations were horrible, and peasants were taxed heavily.