

Southeast Asia Jigsaw

Burma Fact Sheet

Directions: Study the following information about British imperialism in Burma. After you have read over this individually, you will have the opportunity to work in an expert group to discuss British imperialism in Burma. Afterward you will be responsible for teaching another group about British imperialism in Burma. Your group will take notes on the Jigsaw Organizer. Your teacher may assign you to do additional research on Burma.

As you study the following think about this question:

1. How did Great Britain transform Burma politically, socially, and economically?

Due to its location next to India, Great Britain sought to gain influence in Burma. Conflict erupted and Great Britain fought three wars between 1824 and 1885 to gain control of Burma. Burma officially became a province of British controlled India and the monarchy was overthrown.

British control of Burma resembled that of India. People were forced to pay taxes in cash, so farmers raised cash crops. By the mid 19th century Burma became a major producer of the world's rice. Many immigrants from India and China moved to Burma to work in agriculture. By the end of the 19th century the majority of all farms were owned by British and Chinese businessmen.

Prior to British rule, Buddhism was the official religion of Burma and it was a major factor in both the social system and the government. During British rule, Christian schools became common and Buddhism no longer played a significant role in government affairs. This led to the beginnings of a nationalist movement in Burma. Young Buddhist men formed the Young Men's Buddhist Association in 1906 that would be the first organization devoted to Burma's independence from Great Britain.



Image Source: This image from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:British_Empire_1921.png is in the public domain.

Unit 4: Nationalism, Industrialism, and Imperialism
Lesson B: Resistance to European Rule in India and Southeast Asia
Student Resource: Southeast Asia Jigsaw

Vietnam Fact Sheet

Directions: Study the following information about French imperialism in Vietnam. After you have read over this individually, you will have the opportunity to work in an expert group to discuss French imperialism in Vietnam. Afterward you will be responsible for teaching another group about French imperialism in Vietnam. Your group will take notes on the Jigsaw Organizer. Your teacher may assign you to do additional research on Vietnam.

As you study the following think about this question:

1. How did France transform Vietnam politically, socially, and economically?

French Indochina

Both the Dutch and the British had colonies in Southeast Asia. As a way to compete economically and politically, the French also secured colonies in Southeast Asia. One of the nations in French Indochina was Vietnam.

Prior to French colonialism, Vietnam was a monarchy. After the French secured Vietnam, it came under direct French control.

Economically, the French were mainly interested in securing natural resources and having the natives produce cash crops. This led to wealth for France, but led to poverty for most of the native populations.

Socially, the Roman Catholic Church actively sought converts in Vietnam and today Christianity is common. In addition, France built schools and improved medical care and sanitation throughout Vietnam. Like in British India, this led to a large increase in population. This population failed to advance economically or politically in their own countries. This resulted in an increase in nationalism and calls for independence.



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Siam Fact Sheet

Directions: Study the following information about independent Siam. After you have read over this individually, you will have the opportunity to work in an expert group to discuss Siam. Afterward you will be responsible for teaching another group about Siam. Your group will take notes on the Jigsaw Organizer. Your teacher may assign you to do additional research on Siam.

As you study the following think about this question:

1. How was Siam transformed politically, socially, and economically?

Notice on the map that Siam (modern day Thailand) was the only Southeast Asian nation to remain free of European control. Most historians credit Siam's strong history of able rulers and the ability of Siam's king to successfully negotiate with both Great Britain and France as reasons that it was able to remain independent. Siam formed a "buffer" between Great Britain and France.

King Chulalongkorn strongly believed that improving education would help him resist European colonization. He issued a royal decree about education that said, "it is essential to promote the advancement of all our academic and technical knowledge and to prevent it from succumbing (falling) to competition from the outside. In order to achieve this, it is imperative to make haste in education so that knowledge and ability will increase."

In addition to improving schools, King Chulalongkorn made the following transformations in Siam society. He reformed the legal system to end slavery and ensure equal treatment in courts. He built railroads to improve transportation and the movement of goods. In addition, he also built up the telegraph system in Siam.

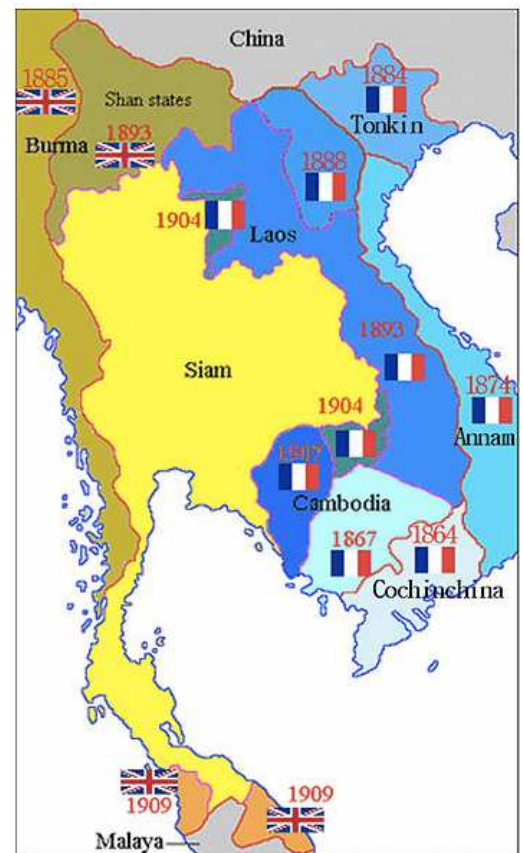


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