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Portal:Asia



Main

Asia (/ˈeɪʒə/ *AY-zhə*, UK also /ˈeɪʃə/ *AY-shə*) is the largest continent in the world by both land area and population. It covers an area of more than 44 million square kilometers, about 30% of Earth's total land area and 8% of Earth's total surface area. The continent, which has long been home to the majority of the human population, was the site of many of the first civilizations. Its 4.7 billion people constitute roughly 60% of the world's population.

Asia shares the landmass of Eurasia with Europe, and of Afro-Eurasia with both Europe and Africa. In general terms, it is bounded on the east by the Pacific Ocean, on the south by the Indian Ocean, and on the north by the Arctic Ocean. The border of Asia with Europe is a historical and cultural construct, as there is no clear physical and geographical separation between them. A commonly accepted division places Asia to the east of the Suez Canal separating it from Africa; and to the east of the Turkish straits, the Ural Mountains and Ural River, and to the south of the Caucasus Mountains and the Caspian and Black seas, separating it from Europe.

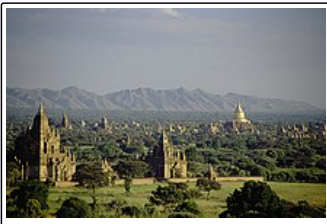
Since the concept of Asia derives from the term for the eastern region from a European perspective, Asia is the remaining vast area of Eurasia minus Europe. Therefore, Asia is a region where various independent cultures coexist rather than sharing a single culture, and the boundary between Europe is somewhat arbitrary and has moved since its first conception in classical antiquity. The division of Eurasia into two continents reflects East–West cultural differences, some of which vary on a spectrum. **(Full article...)**



Geography

Projects

Featured article



Temples and pagodas in Bagan

Bagan (Burmese: ပုဂံ; MLCTS: *pu.gam*, IPA: [bəɡàũ]; formerly **Pagan**) is an ancient city and a UNESCO World Heritage Site in the Mandalay Region of Myanmar. From the 9th to 13th centuries, the city was the capital of

the Pagan Kingdom, the first kingdom that unified the regions that would later constitute Myanmar. During the kingdom's height between the 11th and 13th centuries, more than 10,000 Buddhist temples, pagodas and monasteries were constructed in the Bagan plains alone, of which the remains of over 2200 temples and pagodas survive.

The **Bagan Archaeological Zone** is a main attraction for the country's nascent tourism industry. **(Full article...)**

List of Featured articles

Nagorno-Karabakh War · Parthian Empire · Caspian expeditions of the Rus' · July 2009 Ürümqi riots · Saxaul sparrow · Siege of Malakand · Battle of Musa Qala · Operation Infinite Reach · Franco-Mongol alliance · Pallas's leaf warbler · Nemegtomaia · Bengali

Featured picture



Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Province

Credit: Siripatwongpin

The head of a sandstone Buddha statue nestled in the tree roots beside the minor chapels of Wat Maha That, Phra Nakhon Si, Ayutthaya Province, Thailand. The temple is one of the most tourist and photographic attractions in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Ayutthaya, an ancient capital of Siam.

language movement · Irrawaddy Dolphin · Climate of India · Telugu language · Karnataka · Kolkata · Tripura · Darjeeling · Gangtok · Hyderabad · Mysore · Tamil language · Tiruchirappalli · Sind sparrow · Andhra Pradesh · 2003 Sri Lanka cyclone · Surrender of Japan · Ukiyo-e · Aikido · Air raids on Japan · Battle for Henderson Field · Battle of Midway · Bombing of Tokyo (10 March 1945) · Bonshō · Boshin War · Heian Palace · Kitsune · Taiko · Yamato-class battleship · Gyeongju · Typhoon Maemi · Typhoon Rusa · Acra (fortress) · Iraq War in Al Anbar Governorate · Balfour Declaration · Byzantine navy · Parthian Empire · Roman–Persian Wars · Bahá'í Faith · Byzantine Empire · Macedonia (ancient kingdom) · 2002 Bou'in-Zahra earthquake · Cyclone Gonu · Muhammad al-Durrah incident · Temple of Eshmun · Law school of Beirut · Palmyra · Quneitra · Cannon · Han Dynasty · Ming Dynasty · Peking opera · Song dynasty · Tang Dynasty · Jin–Song Wars · Sino-Roman relations · Dhammayangyi Temple · Gwoyeu Romatzyh · July 2009 Ürümqi riots · Nathu La · St. Michael's Cathedral, Qingdao · Tiananmen Square self-immolation incident · Borobudur · Komodo dragon · 1740 Batavia massacre · Javan rhinoceros · Sumatran rhinoceros · Toraja · 1257 Samalas eruption · Slow loris · Durian · Ketuanan Melayu · Manila Light Rail Transit System · Raid at Cabanatuan · Conservation of slow lorises · Angkor Wat · Taiwanese indigenous peoples · K-pop · Ramayana

Selected Country



Myanmar, officially the **Republic of the Union of Myanmar** and also rendered **Burma** (the official English form until 1989), is a country in northwest Southeast Asia. It is the largest country by area in

Mainland Southeast Asia and has a population of about 55 million. It is bordered by India to its west, Bangladesh to its southwest, China to its northeast, Laos and Thailand to its east and southeast, and the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal to its south and southwest. The country's capital city is Naypyidaw, and its largest city is Yangon (formerly Rangoon).

Early civilisations in the area included the Tibeto-Burman-speaking Pyu city-states in Upper Myanmar and the Mon kingdoms in Lower Myanmar. In the 9th century, the Bamar people entered the upper Irrawaddy valley, and following the establishment of the Pagan Kingdom in the 1050s, the Burmese language, culture, and Theravada Buddhism slowly became dominant in the country. The Pagan Kingdom fell to Mongol invasions, and several warring states emerged. In the 16th century, reunified by the Taungoo dynasty, the country became the largest empire in the history of Southeast Asia for a short period. The early 19th-century Konbaung dynasty ruled over an area that included modern Myanmar and briefly controlled Assam, the Lushai Hills, and Manipur as well. The British East India Company seized control of the administration of Myanmar after three Anglo-Burmese Wars in the 19th century, and the country became a British colony. After a brief Japanese occupation, Myanmar was reconquered by the Allies. On 4 January 1948, Myanmar declared independence under the terms of the Burma Independence Act 1947. **(Full article...)**

List of selected countries

Did you know...

- ... that although he was a former Indonesian prime minister, **Soekiman Wirjosandjojo** was not arrested during a political purge as he was considered a non-threat?
- ... that **Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed**, India's second Muslim president, was also the second Indian president to die in office?
- ... that the Empire of Japan turned a Korean royal cemetery at what is now **Hyochang Park** into a golf course?
- ... that **Ein Samiya**, which provides the water for Taybeh, the first beer brewed in Palestine, was depopulated in 2023 after genocide and displacement by Israeli settlers?
- ... that the popularity of "**10 Minutes**" by Korean singer Lee Hyori led to 2003 being dubbed the "year of Hyori" by domestic media?
- ... that **Sun Haiyan** is the first Chinese ambassador to Singapore who was not a member of the Foreign Ministry of China?
- ... that University of Nebraska alumnus **M. Khalid Roashan** helped draft the 1964 Constitution of Afghanistan?
- ... that the Pakistani film ***Shehr e Tabassum*** was the first animated cyberpunk film to be made by an Urdu development team?
- ... that the **Mughâret Umm et-Tûeimîn Caves** in *Filistin* (or Palestine) was home to a Bronze Age alabaster quarry, a refuge cave during the Jewish–Roman wars, and a possible center for necromantic activity in late antiquity?

Updated: 6:33, 14 February 2024

In the news

20 November 2024 – **Israel–Hamas war**
Calls for a ceasefire during the Israel–Hamas war
The United States vetoes a United Nations Security Council proposal for a ceasefire in Gaza, citing the proposal's lack of a provision to immediately return hostages taken during the conflict. (*The New York Sun*) (<https://www.nysun.com/article/america-vetoes-proposed-un-resolution-to-end-gaza-war-which-was-s een-as-betrayal-of-hostages-held-by-hamas>)
(Reuters) (<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/us-will-veto-un-security-council-resolution-gaza-war-it s-current-form-says-2024-11-20/>)

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Featured biography



Du Fu (Chinese: 杜甫; Wade-Giles: *Tu Fu*; 712–770) was a Chinese poet and politician during the Tang dynasty. Together with his elder contemporary and friend Li Bai, Du is often considered one of the greatest Chinese poets. His greatest ambition was to serve his country as a successful [civil servant](#), but Du proved unable to make the necessary

accommodations. His life, like all of China, was devastated by the [An Lushan Rebellion](#) of 755, and his last 15 years were a time of almost constant unrest.

Although initially he was little-known to other writers, his works came to be hugely influential in both [Chinese](#) and [Japanese literary culture](#). Of his poetic writing, nearly fifteen hundred poems have been preserved over the ages. He has been called the "Poet-Historian" and the "Poet-Sage" by Chinese critics, while the range of his work has allowed him to be introduced to [Western readers](#) as "the Chinese Virgil, Horace, Ovid, Shakespeare, Milton, Burns, Wordsworth, Béranger, Hugo or Baudelaire". (**Full article...**)

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[Muhammad Ali Jinnah](#) · [Akhtar Hameed Khan](#) · [Satyajit Ray](#) · [Hrithik Roshan](#) · [Shah Rukh Khan](#) · [Ram Narayan](#) · [Murasaki Shikibu](#) · [Ayumi Hamasaki](#) · [Hasekura Tsunenaga](#) · [Toru Takemitsu](#) · [Choe Bu](#) · [Abd al-Malik ibn Marwan](#) · [Antiochus XII Dionysus](#) · [Antiochus XI Epiphanes](#) · [Demetrius III Eucaerus](#) · [Antiochus X Eusebes](#) · [Hasan al-Kharrat](#) · [Al-Mu'tadid](#) · [Muhammad ibn Tughj al-Ikhshid](#) · [Al-Mu'tasim](#) · [Salih ibn Mirdas](#) · [Unas](#) · [Alexander II Zabinas](#) · [Teresa Sampsonia](#) · [Tiridates I of Armenia](#) · [Muhammad I of Granada](#) · [Mukhtar al-Thaqafi](#) · [Abu Nidal](#) · [Zenobia](#) · [Shen Kuo](#) · [Shunzhi Emperor](#) · [Yao Ming](#) · [Zhang Heng](#) · [Luo Yixiu](#) · [Zhou Tong \(archer\)](#) · [Oerip Soemohardjo](#) · [Sudirman](#) · [Albertus Soegijapranata](#) · [Amir Hamzah](#) · [Andjar Asmara](#) · [Lê Quang Tung](#) · [Deepika Padukone](#) · [Freida Pinto](#) · [Kareena Kapoor](#) · [Preity Zinta](#) · [Shahrukh Khan](#) · [Rani Mukerji](#) · [Sonam Kapoor](#) · [Vidya Balan](#) · [Jackie Chan](#) · [Ratan Tata](#) · [Mukesh Ambani](#) · [Narendra Modi](#)

[United States support for Israel in the Israel–Hamas war](#)

The [United States Senate](#) rejects three resolutions by [Bernie Sanders](#) that would block the sale of weapons to Israel in their war in Gaza. (*The Hill*) (<https://thehill.com/homenews/senate/5001339-senate-rejects-sanders-israel-weapons-resolution/>)









20 November 2024 – **Syrian civil war**

[Israel's role in the Syrian civil war](#)

Thirty-six people are killed and more than 50 others are injured in Israeli airstrikes in [Palmyra](#), [Syria](#). (Reuters) (<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israel-attacks-syrias-palmyra-syrian-state-news-agency-says-2024-11-20/>)

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