[Template:Other uses](/wiki/Template:Other_uses" \o "Template:Other uses) [Template:Pp-semi-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-semi-indef) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Infobox continent](/wiki/Template:Infobox_continent)

**Asia** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en)) is [Earth's](/wiki/Earth) largest and most populous [continent](/wiki/Continent), located primarily in the [eastern](/wiki/Eastern_hemisphere) and [northern](/wiki/Northern_hemisphere) hemispheres. Asia covers an area of 44,579,000 square kilometers, about 30% of Earth's total land area and 8.7% of the Earth's total surface area. The continent, which has long been home to the majority of the [human population](/wiki/Human_population)[[1]](#cite_note-1)[Template:Failed verification](/wiki/Template:Failed_verification), was the site of many of the [first civilizations](/wiki/Cradle_of_civilization). Asia is notable for not only its overall large size and population, but unusually dense and large settlements as well as vast barely populated regions within the continent of 4.4 billion people. The boundaries of Asia are traditionally determined as that of [Eurasia](/wiki/Eurasia); the division between [Europe](/wiki/Europe) and Asia as two different continents is a historical and cultural construct, as there is no clear physical and geographical separation between them. The most commonly accepted boundaries place Asia to the east of the [Suez Canal](/wiki/Suez_Canal), the [Ural River](/wiki/Ural_River), and the [Ural Mountains](/wiki/Ural_Mountains), and south of the [Caucasus Mountains](/wiki/Caucasus_Mountains) and the [Caspian](/wiki/Caspian_Sea) and [Black Seas](/wiki/Black_Sea).[[2]](#cite_note-2) It is bounded on the east by the [Pacific Ocean](/wiki/Pacific_Ocean), on the south by the [Indian Ocean](/wiki/Indian_Ocean) and on the north by the [Arctic Ocean](/wiki/Arctic_Ocean).

[China](/wiki/China) and [India](/wiki/India) alternated in being the [largest economies in the world](/wiki/List_of_regions_by_past_GDP_(PPP)) from 1 to 1800 A.D. China was a major economic power and attracted many to the east,[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[4]](#cite_note-4)[[5]](#cite_note-5)[[6]](#cite_note-6) and for many the legendary wealth and prosperity of the ancient culture of India personified Asia,[[7]](#cite_note-7) Asia varies greatly across and within [its regions](/wiki/Regions_of_Asia) with regard to ethnic groups, cultures, environments, economics, historical ties and government systems. It also has a mix of many different climates ranging from the equatorial south via the hot desert in the [Middle East](/wiki/Middle_East), temperate areas in the east and the extremely continental centre to vast subarctic and polar areas in [Siberia](/wiki/Siberia).

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## Definition and boundaries[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[Template:Details](/wiki/Template:Details)

### Asia-Africa boundary[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

The current boundary between Asia and Africa is the Red Sea, the Gulf of Suez, and the Suez Canal. This makes Egypt a transcontinental country, with the Sinai peninsula in Asia and the remainder of the country in Africa.

### Asia–Europe boundary[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[thumb|right|Statue representing Asia at](/wiki/File:Palazzo_Ferreria_statue.jpeg) [Palazzo Ferreria](/wiki/Palazzo_Ferreria), in [Valletta](/wiki/Valletta), [Malta](/wiki/Malta) The border between Asia and Europe was historically defined by European academics.[[9]](#cite_note-9) The [Don River](/wiki/Don_River_(Russia)) became unsatisfactory to northern Europeans when [Peter the Great](/wiki/Peter_the_Great), king of the [Tsardom of Russia](/wiki/Tsardom_of_Russia), defeating rival claims of [Sweden](/wiki/Sweden) and the [Ottoman Empire](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) to the eastern lands, and armed resistance by the tribes of [Siberia](/wiki/Siberia), synthesized a new [Russian Empire](/wiki/Russian_Empire) extending to the [Ural Mountains](/wiki/Ural_Mountains) and beyond, founded in 1721. The major geographical theorist of the empire was actually a former Swedish prisoner-of-war, taken at the [Battle of Poltava](/wiki/Battle_of_Poltava) in 1709 and assigned to [Tobolsk](/wiki/Tobolsk), where he associated with Peter's Siberian official, [Vasily Tatishchev](/wiki/Vasily_Tatishchev), and was allowed freedom to conduct geographical and anthropological studies in preparation for a future book.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

In Sweden, five years after Peter's death, in 1730 [Philip Johan von Strahlenberg](/wiki/Philip_Johan_von_Strahlenberg) published a new atlas proposing the Urals as the border of Asia. The Russians were enthusiastic about the concept, which allowed them to keep their European identity in geography. Tatishchev announced that he had proposed the idea to von Strahlenberg. The latter had suggested the [Emba River](/wiki/Emba_River) as the lower boundary. Over the next century various proposals were made until the [Ural River](/wiki/Ural_River) prevailed in the mid-19th century. The border had been moved perforce from the Black Sea to the Caspian Sea into which the Ural River projects.[[10]](#cite_note-10) The border between the Black Sea and the Caspian is usually placed along the crest of the [Caucasus Mountains](/wiki/Caucasus_Mountains), although it is sometimes placed further north.[[9]](#cite_note-9)

### Asia–Oceania boundary[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

The border between Asia and the loosely defined region of [Oceania](/wiki/Oceania) is usually placed somewhere in the [Malay Archipelago](/wiki/Malay_Archipelago). The terms Southeast Asia and Oceania, devised in the 19th century, have had several vastly different geographic meanings since their inception. The chief factor in determining which islands of the Malay Archipelago are Asian has been the location of the colonial possessions of the various empires there (not all European). Lewis and Wigen assert, "The narrowing of 'Southeast Asia' to its present boundaries was thus a gradual process."[[11]](#cite_note-11)

### Ongoing definition[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Afro-Eurasia_(orthographic_projection).svg)[Afro-Eurasia](/wiki/Afro-Eurasia) shown in green Geographical Asia is a cultural artifact of European conceptions of the world, beginning with the [Ancient Greeks](/wiki/Ancient_Greeks), being imposed onto other cultures, an imprecise concept causing endemic contention about what it means. Asia is larger and more culturally diverse than Europe.[[12]](#cite_note-12) It does not exactly correspond to the cultural borders of its various types of constituents.[[13]](#cite_note-13) From the time of [Herodotus](/wiki/Herodotus) a minority of geographers have rejected the three-continent system (Europe, Africa, Asia) on the grounds that there is no or is no substantial physical separation between them.[[14]](#cite_note-14) For example, Sir [Barry Cunliffe](/wiki/Barry_Cunliffe), the emeritus professor of European archeology at Oxford, argues that Europe has been geographically and culturally merely "the western excrescence of the continent of Asia".[[15]](#cite_note-15) Geographically, Asia is the major eastern constituent of the continent of [Eurasia](/wiki/Eurasia) with Europe being a northwestern [peninsula](/wiki/Peninsula) of the landmass – or of [Afro-Eurasia](/wiki/Afro-Eurasia); geologically, Asia, Europe and Africa make up a single continuous landmass (except for the Suez Canal) and share a common [continental shelf](/wiki/Continental_shelf). Almost all of Europe and the better part of Asia sit atop the [Eurasian Plate](/wiki/Eurasian_Plate), adjoined on the south by the [Arabian](/wiki/Arabian_Plate) and [Indian Plate](/wiki/Indian_Plate) and with the easternmost part of Siberia (east of the [Chersky Range](/wiki/Chersky_Range)) on the [North American Plate](/wiki/North_American_Plate). [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[thumb|300px|Ptolemy's Asia](/wiki/File:Gulf5..JPG) The English word, "Asia," was originally a concept of [Greek civilization](/wiki/Greek_civilization).[[16]](#cite_note-16) The place name, "Asia", in various forms in a large number of modern languages is of unknown ultimate provenience. Its etymology and language of origin are uncertain. It appears to be one of the most ancient of recorded names. A number of theories have been published. English Asia can be traced through the formation of English literature to Latin literature, where it has the same form, Asia. Whether all uses and all forms of the name derive also from the Latin of the [Roman Empire](/wiki/Roman_Empire) is much less certain.

### Bronze Age[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

Before Greek poetry, the [Aegean Sea](/wiki/Aegean_Sea) area was in a [Greek Dark Age](/wiki/Greek_Dark_Age), at the beginning of which syllabic writing was lost and alphabetic writing had not begun. Prior to then in the [Bronze Age](/wiki/Bronze_Age) the records of the [Assyrian Empire](/wiki/Assyrian_Empire), the [Hittite Empire](/wiki/Hittite_Empire) and the various [Mycenaean](/wiki/Mycenaean_Greece) states of Greece mention a region undoubtedly Asia, certainly in Anatolia, including if not identical to Lydia. These records are administrative and do not include poetry.

The Mycenaean states were destroyed about 1200 BC by unknown agents although one school of thought assigns the [Dorian invasion](/wiki/Dorian_invasion) to this time. The burning of the palaces baked clay diurnal administrative records written in a Greek syllabic script called [Linear B](/wiki/Linear_B), deciphered by a number of interested parties, most notably by a young World War II cryptographer, [Michael Ventris](/wiki/Michael_Ventris), subsequently assisted by the scholar, [John Chadwick](/wiki/John_Chadwick). A major cache discovered by [Carl Blegen](/wiki/Carl_Blegen) at the site of ancient [Pylos](/wiki/Pylos) included hundreds of male and female names formed by different methods.

Some of these are of women held in servitude (as study of the society implied by the content reveals). They were used in trades, such as cloth-making, and usually came with children. The epithet, lawiaiai, "captives," associated with some of them identifies their origin. Some are ethnic names. One in particular, aswiai, identifies "women of Asia."[[17]](#cite_note-17) Perhaps they were captured in Asia, but some others, Milatiai, appear to have been of [Miletus](/wiki/Miletus), a Greek colony, which would not have been raided for slaves by Greeks. Chadwick suggests that the names record the locations where these foreign women were purchased.[[18]](#cite_note-18) The name is also in the singular, Aswia, which refers both to the name of a country and to a female of it. There is a masculine form, aswios. This Aswia appears to have been a remnant of a region known to the Hittites as Assuwa, centered on Lydia, or "Roman Asia." This name, *Assuwa*, has been suggested as the origin for the name of the continent "Asia".[[19]](#cite_note-19) The [Assuwa league](/wiki/Assuwa_league) was a confederation of states in western Anatolia, defeated by the [Hittites](/wiki/Hittites) under [Tudhaliya I](/wiki/Tudhaliya_I) around 1400 BC.

Alternatively, the [etymology](/wiki/Etymology) of the term may be from the [Akkadian](/wiki/Akkadian_language) word *(w)aṣû(m)*, which means 'to go outside' or 'to ascend', referring to the direction of the sun at sunrise in the Middle East and also likely connected with the Phoenician word *asa* meaning east. This may be contrasted to a similar etymology proposed for *Europe*, as being from Akkadian *erēbu(m)* 'to enter' or 'set' (of the sun).

[T.R. Reid](/wiki/T.R._Reid) supports this alternative etymology, noting that the ancient Greek name must have derived from *asu*, meaning 'east' in [Assyrian](/wiki/Assyria) (*ereb* for *Europe* meaning 'west').[[16]](#cite_note-16) The ideas of *Occidental* (form [Latin](/wiki/Latin) *Occidens* 'setting') and *Oriental* (from Latin *Oriens* for 'rising') are also European invention, synonymous with *Western* and *Eastern*.[[16]](#cite_note-16) Reid further emphasizes that it explains the Western point of view of placing all the peoples and cultures of Asia into a single classification, almost as if there were a need for setting the distinction between Western and [Eastern civilizations](/wiki/Eastern_world) on the [Eurasian](/wiki/Eurasia) continent.[[16]](#cite_note-16) Ogura Kazuo and Tenshin Okakura are two outspoken Japanese figures on the subject.[[16]](#cite_note-16)

### Classical antiquity[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

Latin Asia and Greek Ἀσία appear to be the same word. Roman authors translated Ἀσία as Asia. The Romans named a province [Asia](/wiki/Asia_(Roman_province)), which roughly corresponds with modern-day central-western Turkey. There was an Asia Minor and an Asia Major located in modern-day [Iraq](/wiki/Iraq). As the earliest evidence of the name is Greek, it is likely circumstantially that Asia came from Ἀσία, but ancient transitions, due to the lack of literary contexts, are difficult to catch in the act. The most likely vehicles were the ancient geographers and historians, such as [Herodotus](/wiki/Herodotus), who were all Greek. [Ancient Greek](/wiki/Ancient_Greek) certainly evidences early and rich uses of the name.[[20]](#cite_note-20) The first continental use of Asia is attributed to Herodotus (about 440 BC), not because he innovated it, but because his *Histories* are the earliest surviving prose to describe it in any detail. He defines it carefully,[[21]](#cite_note-21) mentioning the previous geographers whom he had read, but whose works are now missing. By it he means [Anatolia](/wiki/Anatolia) and the [Persian Empire](/wiki/Achaemenid_Empire), in contrast to [Greece](/wiki/Greece) and [Egypt](/wiki/Egypt). Herodotus comments that he is puzzled as to why three women's names were "given to a tract which is in reality one" ([Europa](/wiki/Europa_(mythology)), [Asia](/wiki/Asia_(mythology)), and [Libya](/wiki/Libya_(mythology)), referring to Africa), stating that most Greeks assumed that Asia was named after the wife of [Prometheus](/wiki/Prometheus) (i.e. [Hesione](/wiki/Hesione)), but that the [Lydians](/wiki/Lydia) say it was named after Asies, son of Cotys, who passed the name on to a tribe at [Sardis](/wiki/Sardis).[[22]](#cite_note-22) In [Greek mythology](/wiki/Greek_mythology), "[Asia](/wiki/Asia_(mythology))" (*Ἀσία*) or "Asie" (*Ἀσίη*) was the name of a "[Nymph](/wiki/Nymph) or [Titan](/wiki/Titan_(mythology)) goddess of Lydia."[[23]](#cite_note-23) In ancient Greek religion, places were under the care of female divinities, parallel to guardian angels. The poets detailed their doings and generations in allegoric language salted with entertaining stories, which subsequently playwrights transformed into classical Greek drama and became "Greek mythology." For example, [Hesiod](/wiki/Hesiod) mentions the daughters of [Tethys](/wiki/Tethys_(mythology)) and [Ocean](/wiki/Oceanus), among whom are a "holy company", "who with the Lord [Apollo](/wiki/Apollo) and the Rivers have youths in their keeping."[[24]](#cite_note-24) Many of these are geographic: Doris, Rhodea, Europa, Asia. Hesiod explains:[[25]](#cite_note-25)

"For there are three-thousand neat-ankled daughters of Ocean who are dispersed far and wide, and in every place alike serve the earth and the deep waters."

The [Iliad](/wiki/Iliad) (attributed by the ancient Greeks to [Homer](/wiki/Homer)) mentions two Phrygians (the tribe that replaced the [Luvians](/wiki/Luvians) in Lydia) in the [Trojan War](/wiki/Trojan_War) named [Asios](/wiki/Asius_(mythology)) (an adjective meaning "Asian");[[26]](#cite_note-26) and also a marsh or lowland containing a marsh in Lydia as ασιος.[[27]](#cite_note-27)

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|right|250px|The](/wiki/File:Mongol_dominions1.jpg) [Mongol Empire](/wiki/Mongol_Empire), ca. 1300. The gray area is the later [Timurid Empire](/wiki/Timurid_Empire).[thumb|right|250px|1890 map of Asia](/wiki/File:Asien_Bd1.jpg)

[thumb|right|Map of western, southern, and central Asia in 1885](/wiki/File:Map_of_western,_southern,_and_central_Asia_in_1885.png)[[28]](#cite_note-28)

The history of Asia can be seen as the distinct histories of several peripheral coastal regions: [East Asia](/wiki/East_Asia), [South Asia](/wiki/South_Asia), [Southeast Asia](/wiki/Southeast_Asia) and the [Middle East](/wiki/Middle_East), linked by the interior mass of the Central Asian [steppes](/wiki/Steppe).

The coastal periphery was home to some of the world's earliest known civilizations, each of them developing around fertile river valleys. The civilizations in [Mesopotamia](/wiki/Mesopotamia), the [Indus Valley](/wiki/Indus_Valley) and the [Huanghe](/wiki/Huanghe_River) shared many similarities. These civilizations may well have exchanged technologies and ideas such as [mathematics](/wiki/Mathematics) and the wheel. Other innovations, such as writing, seem to have been developed individually in each area. Cities, states and empires developed in these lowlands.

The central steppe region had long been inhabited by horse-mounted nomads who could reach all areas of Asia from the [steppes](/wiki/Steppe). The earliest postulated expansion out of the steppe is that of the [Indo-Europeans](/wiki/Proto-Indo-Europeans), who spread their languages into the Middle East, South Asia, and the borders of [China](/wiki/China), where the [Tocharians](/wiki/Tocharians) resided. The northernmost part of Asia, including much of [Siberia](/wiki/Siberia), was largely inaccessible to the steppe nomads, owing to the dense forests, climate and [tundra](/wiki/Tundra). These areas remained very sparsely populated.

[thumb|left|250px|The](/wiki/File:Silkroutes.jpg) [Silk Road](/wiki/Silk_Road) connected many civilizations across Asia[[29]](#cite_note-29) The center and the peripheries were mostly kept separated by mountains and deserts. The [Caucasus](/wiki/Caucasus) and [Himalaya](/wiki/Himalaya) mountains and the [Karakum](/wiki/Karakum_Desert) and [Gobi](/wiki/Gobi_Desert) deserts formed barriers that the steppe horsemen could cross only with difficulty. While the urban city dwellers were more advanced technologically and socially, in many cases they could do little in a military aspect to defend against the mounted hordes of the steppe. However, the lowlands did not have enough open grasslands to support a large horsebound force; for this and other reasons, the [nomads](/wiki/Nomad) who conquered states in China, India, and the Middle East often found themselves adapting to the local, more affluent societies.

The Islamic [Caliphate](/wiki/Caliphate) took over the Middle East and Central Asia during the [Muslim conquests](/wiki/Muslim_conquests) of the 7th century. The [Mongol Empire](/wiki/Mongol_Empire) conquered a large part of Asia in the 13th century, an area extending from China to Europe. Before the Mongol invasion, [Song dynasty](/wiki/Song_dynasty) reportedly had approximately 120 million citizens; the 1300 census which followed the invasion reported roughly 60 million people.[[30]](#cite_note-30) The [Black Death](/wiki/Black_Death), one of the most devastating [pandemics](/wiki/Pandemic) in human history, is thought to have originated in the arid plains of central Asia, where it then travelled along the [Silk Road](/wiki/Silk_Road).[[31]](#cite_note-31) The [Russian Empire](/wiki/Russian_Empire) began to expand into Asia from the 17th century, and would eventually take control of all of Siberia and most of [Central Asia](/wiki/Central_Asia) by the end of the 19th century. The [Ottoman Empire](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) controlled Anatolia, the Middle East, North Africa and the Balkans from the 16th century onwards. In the 17th century, the [Manchu](/wiki/Manchu_people) conquered China and established the [Qing Dynasty](/wiki/Qing_Dynasty). The Islamic [Mughal Empire](/wiki/Mughal_Empire) and the Hindu [Maratha Empire](/wiki/Maratha_Empire) controlled much of India in the 16th and 18th centuries respectively.[[32]](#cite_note-32)

## Geography and climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|right|The](/wiki/File:Himalayas.jpg) [Himalayan](/wiki/Himalayas) range is home to some of the planet's highest peaks. Asia is the largest [continent](/wiki/Continent) on Earth. It covers 8.8% of the Earth's total surface area (or 30% of its land area), and has the largest coastline, at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). Asia is generally defined as comprising the eastern four-fifths of [Eurasia](/wiki/Eurasia). It is located to the east of the [Suez Canal](/wiki/Suez_Canal) and the [Ural Mountains](/wiki/Ural_Mountains), and south of the [Caucasus Mountains](/wiki/Caucasus_Mountains) (or the [Kuma–Manych Depression](/wiki/Kuma–Manych_Depression)) and the [Caspian](/wiki/Caspian_Sea) and [Black Seas](/wiki/Black_Sea).[[2]](#cite_note-2)<ref name=autogenerated1>[Template:Cite encyclopedia](/wiki/Template:Cite_encyclopedia)</ref> It is bounded on the east by the [Pacific Ocean](/wiki/Pacific_Ocean), on the south by the [Indian Ocean](/wiki/Indian_Ocean) and on the north by the [Arctic Ocean](/wiki/Arctic_Ocean). Asia is subdivided into 48 countries, two of them ([Russia](/wiki/Russia) and [Turkey](/wiki/Turkey)) having part of their land in Europe.

Asia has extremely diverse climates and geographic features. Climates range from arctic and subarctic in Siberia to tropical in southern India and Southeast Asia. It is moist across southeast sections, and dry across much of the interior. Some of the largest daily temperature ranges on Earth occur in western sections of Asia. The monsoon circulation dominates across southern and eastern sections, due to the presence of the Himalayas forcing the formation of a thermal low which draws in moisture during the summer. Southwestern sections of the continent are hot. Siberia is one of the coldest places in the Northern Hemisphere, and can act as a source of arctic air masses for North America. The most active place on Earth for tropical cyclone activity lies northeast of the Philippines and south of Japan. The [Gobi Desert](/wiki/Gobi_Desert) is in [Mongolia](/wiki/Mongolia) and the [Arabian Desert](/wiki/Arabian_Desert) stretches across much of the Middle East. The [Yangtze River](/wiki/Yangtze_River) in China is the longest river in the continent. The [Himalayas](/wiki/Himalayas) between Nepal and China is the tallest mountain range in the world. Tropical rainforests stretch across much of southern Asia and coniferous and deciduous forests lie farther north.

<gallery> File:Paysan soignant ses boeufs (Kerala).jpg|[Kerala backwaters](/wiki/Kerala_backwaters) File:Naadam rider 2.jpg|Mongolian [steppe](/wiki/Steppe) File:1 li jiang guilin yangshuo 2011.jpg|[South China Karst](/wiki/South_China_Karst) File:Akkem Valley 2011.jpg|[Altai Mountains](/wiki/Altai_Mountains) File:Hunza Valley from Eagle Point.jpg|[Hunza Valley](/wiki/Hunza_Valley) </gallery>

### Climate change[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

A survey carried out in 2010 by global risk analysis farm [Maplecroft](/wiki/Maplecroft) identified 16 countries that are extremely vulnerable to climate change. Each nation's vulnerability was calculated using 42 socio, economic and environmental indicators, which identified the likely climate change impacts during the next 30 years. The Asian countries of [Bangladesh](/wiki/Bangladesh), [India](/wiki/India), [Vietnam](/wiki/Vietnam), [Thailand](/wiki/Thailand), [Pakistan](/wiki/Pakistan) and [Sri Lanka](/wiki/Sri_Lanka) were among the 16 countries facing extreme risk from climate change. Some shifts are already occurring. For example, in tropical parts of India with a [semi-arid climate](/wiki/Semi-arid_climate), the temperature increased by 0.4 °C between 1901 and 2003. A 2013 study by the [International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics](/wiki/International_Crops_Research_Institute_for_the_Semi-Arid_Tropics) ([ICRISAT](/wiki/ICRISAT)) aimed to find science-based, pro-poor approaches and techniques that would enable Asia's agricultural systems to cope with climate change, while benefitting poor and vulnerable farmers. The study's recommendations ranged from improving the use of climate information in local planning and strengthening weather-based agro-advisory services, to stimulating diversification of rural household incomes and providing incentives to farmers to adopt natural resource conservation measures to enhance forest cover, replenish groundwater and use [renewable energy](/wiki/Renewable_energy).[[33]](#cite_note-33)

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|right|250px|](/wiki/File:1_singapore_city_skyline_dusk_panorama_2011.jpg)[Singapore](/wiki/Singapore) has one of the [busiest ports in the world](/wiki/World's_busiest_port) and is the world's fourth largest [foreign exchange](/wiki/Foreign_exchange_market) trading center.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Rank** | **Country** | [**GDP**](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_past_and_projected_GDP_(PPP)) **(PPP, 2014) millions of** [**USD**](/wiki/International_dollar) |
| 1 | align=left|[Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 18,088,054 |
| 2 | align=left|[Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 7,411,093 |
| 3 | align=left|[Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 4,767,157 |
| 4 | align=left|[Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 3,745,157 |
| 5 | align=left|[Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 2,685,893 |
| 6 | align=left|[Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 1,783,950 |
| 7 | align=left|[Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 1,609,628 |
| 8 | align=left|[Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 1,514,859 |
| 9 | align=left|[Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 1,357,028 |
| 10 | align=left|[Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 1,078,792 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Rank** | **Country** | [**GDP**](/wiki/List_of_IMF_ranked_countries_by_past_and_projected_GDP_(nominal)) **(nominal, 2014) millions of** [**USD**](/wiki/International_dollar) |
| 1 | align=left|[Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 10,360,105 |
| 2 | align=left|[Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 4,602,367 |
| 3 | align=left|[Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 2,066,902 |
| 4 | align=left|[Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 1,860,598 |
| 5 | align=left|[Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 1,410,383 |
| 6 | align=left|[Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 888,648 |
| 7 | align=left|[Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 799,535 |
| 8 | align=left|[Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 746,249 |
| 9 | align=left|[Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 529,597 |
| 10 | align=left|[Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 416,490 |

Asia has the second largest [nominal](/wiki/Real_versus_nominal_value_(economics)) GDP of all continents, after Europe, but the largest when measured in [purchasing power parity](/wiki/Purchasing_power_parity). As of 2011, the largest economies in Asia are [China](/wiki/China), [Japan](/wiki/Japan), [India](/wiki/India), [South Korea](/wiki/South_Korea) and [Indonesia](/wiki/Indonesia).[[34]](#cite_note-34) Based on Global Office Locations 2011, Asia dominated the office locations with 4 of top 5 being in Asia, [Hong Kong](/wiki/Hong_Kong), [Singapore](/wiki/Singapore), [Tokyo](/wiki/Tokyo), [Seoul](/wiki/Seoul) and [Shanghai](/wiki/Shanghai). Around 68 percent of international firms have office in Hong Kong.[[35]](#cite_note-35) In the late 1990s and early 2000s, the economies of the [China](/wiki/China)[[36]](#cite_note-36) and India have been growing rapidly, both with an average annual growth rate of more than 8%. Other recent very-high-growth nations in Asia include [Israel](/wiki/Israel), [Malaysia](/wiki/Malaysia), [Indonesia](/wiki/Indonesia), [Bangladesh](/wiki/Bangladesh), [Pakistan](/wiki/Pakistan), [Thailand](/wiki/Thailand), [Vietnam](/wiki/Vietnam), [Mongolia](/wiki/Mongolia), [Uzbekistan](/wiki/Uzbekistan), [Cyprus](/wiki/Cyprus) and the [Philippines](/wiki/Philippines), and mineral-rich nations such as [Kazakhstan](/wiki/Kazakhstan), [Turkmenistan](/wiki/Turkmenistan), [Iran](/wiki/Iran), [Brunei](/wiki/Brunei), [United Arab Emirates](/wiki/United_Arab_Emirates), [Qatar](/wiki/Qatar), [Kuwait](/wiki/Kuwait), [Saudi Arabia](/wiki/Saudi_Arabia), [Bahrain](/wiki/Bahrain) and [Oman](/wiki/Oman).

According to [economic historian](/wiki/Economic_historian) [Angus Maddison](/wiki/Angus_Maddison) in his book *The World Economy: A Millennial Perspective*, India had the world's largest economy during 0 BCE and 1000 BCE.[[37]](#cite_note-37)[[38]](#cite_note-38) [India](/wiki/India) (5,000) and [Uzbekistan](/wiki/Uzbekistan) (4,000).[[54]](#cite_note-54) [Christianity](/wiki/Christianity) is a widespread religion in Asia with more than 286 million adherents according to [Pew Research Center](/wiki/Pew_Research_Center) in 2010,[[55]](#cite_note-55) and nearly 364 million according to [Britannica](/wiki/Encyclopædia_Britannica) Book of the Year 2014.[[56]](#cite_note-56) constituting around 12.6% of the total population of Asia. In the Philippines and [East Timor](/wiki/East_Timor), Roman Catholicism is the predominant religion; it was introduced by the [Spaniards](/wiki/Spain) and the [Portuguese](/wiki/Portugal), respectively. In [Armenia](/wiki/Armenia) and Asian Russia the main religion is [Oriental Orthodox Christianity](/wiki/Oriental_Orthodoxy) and [Eastern Orthodox Christianity](/wiki/Eastern_Orthodox_Church), respectively. Various Christian [denominations](/wiki/Christian_denomination) have adherents in portions of the Middle East, as well as China and India. [Saint Thomas Christians](/wiki/Saint_Thomas_Christians) in [India](/wiki/India) trace their origins to the evangelistic activity of [Thomas the Apostle](/wiki/Thomas_the_Apostle) in the 1st century.[[57]](#cite_note-57) [Islam](/wiki/Islam), which originated in [Saudi Arabia](/wiki/Saudi_Arabia), is the largest and most widely spread religion in Asia. With 12.7% of the world Muslim population, the country currently with the largest Muslim population in the world is [Indonesia](/wiki/Indonesia), followed by [Pakistan](/wiki/Pakistan), [India](/wiki/India), [Bangladesh](/wiki/Bangladesh), [Iran](/wiki/Iran) and [Turkey](/wiki/Turkey). [Mecca](/wiki/Mecca), [Medina](/wiki/Medina) and to a lesser extent [Jerusalem](/wiki/Jerusalem) are the holiest cities for Islam in all the world. These religious sites attract large numbers of devotees from all over the world, particularly during the [Hajj](/wiki/Hajj) and [Umrah](/wiki/Umrah) seasons. [Iran](/wiki/Iran) is the largest [Shi'a](/wiki/Shi'a) country and [Pakistan](/wiki/Pakistan) has the largest [Ahmadiyya](/wiki/Ahmadiyya) population.

The [Bahá'í Faith](/wiki/Bahá'í_Faith) originated in Asia, in Iran (Persia), and spread from there to the Ottoman Empire, Central Asia, India, and Burma during the lifetime of Bahá'u'lláh. Since the middle of the 20th century, growth has particularly occurred in other Asian countries, because Bahá'í activities in many Muslim countries has been severely [suppressed](/wiki/Persecution_of_Bahá'ís) by authorities. [Lotus Temple](/wiki/Lotus_Temple) is a big Baha'i Temple in India.

#### Indian and East Asian religions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[thumb|right|The](/wiki/File:Akshardham_Lotus.jpg) [Swaminarayan](/wiki/Swaminarayan_Hinduism) [Akshardham Temple](/wiki/Akshardham_(Delhi)) in [Delhi](/wiki/Delhi), according to the [Guinness World Records](/wiki/Guinness_World_Record) is the *World's Largest Comprehensive Hindu Temple*[[58]](#cite_note-58) Almost all Asian religions have philosophical character and Asian philosophical traditions cover a large spectrum of philosophical thoughts and writings. [Indian philosophy](/wiki/Indian_philosophy) includes [Hindu philosophy](/wiki/Hindu_philosophy) and [Buddhist philosophy](/wiki/Buddhist_philosophy). They include elements of nonmaterial pursuits, whereas another school of thought from India, [Cārvāka](/wiki/Cārvāka), preached the enjoyment of the material world. The religions of [Hinduism](/wiki/Hinduism), [Buddhism](/wiki/Buddhism), [Jainism](/wiki/Jainism) and [Sikhism](/wiki/Sikhism) originated in India, South Asia. In East Asia, particularly in China and Japan, [Confucianism](/wiki/Confucianism), [Taoism](/wiki/Taoism) and [Zen Buddhism](/wiki/Zen) took shape.

As of 2012, Hinduism has around 1.1 billion adherents. The faith represents around 25% of Asia's population and is the second largest religion in Asia. However, it is mostly concentrated in South Asia. Over 80% of the populations of both India and Nepal adhere to Hinduism, alongside significant communities in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and [Bali](/wiki/Bali), Indonesia. Many overseas Indians in countries such as Burma, Singapore and Malaysia also adhere to Hinduism.

Buddhism has a great following in mainland Southeast Asia and East Asia. Buddhism is the religion of the majority of the populations of [Cambodia](/wiki/Cambodia) (96%),[[59]](#cite_note-59) [Thailand](/wiki/Thailand) (95%),[[60]](#cite_note-60) [Burma](/wiki/Burma) (80%–89%),[[61]](#cite_note-61) [Japan](/wiki/Japan) (36%–96%),[[62]](#cite_note-62) [Bhutan](/wiki/Bhutan) (75%–84%),[[63]](#cite_note-63) [Sri Lanka](/wiki/Sri_Lanka) (70%),[[64]](#cite_note-64) [Laos](/wiki/Laos) (60%–67%)[[65]](#cite_note-65) and [Mongolia](/wiki/Mongolia) (53%–93%).[[66]](#cite_note-66) Large Buddhist populations also exist in [Singapore](/wiki/Singapore) (33%–51%),[[67]](#cite_note-67) [Taiwan](/wiki/Taiwan) (35%–93%),[[68]](#cite_note-68)[[69]](#cite_note-69)[[70]](#cite_note-70)[[71]](#cite_note-71) [South Korea](/wiki/South_Korea) (23%–50%),[[72]](#cite_note-72) [Malaysia](/wiki/Malaysia) (19%–21%),[[73]](#cite_note-73) [Nepal](/wiki/Nepal) (9%–11%),[[74]](#cite_note-74) [Vietnam](/wiki/Vietnam) (10%–75%),[[75]](#cite_note-75) [China](/wiki/China) (20%–50%),[[76]](#cite_note-76) [North Korea](/wiki/North_Korea) (1.5%–14%),[[77]](#cite_note-77)[[78]](#cite_note-78)[[79]](#cite_note-79) and small communities in [India](/wiki/India) and [Bangladesh](/wiki/Bangladesh). In many Chinese communities, Mahayana Buddhism is easily syncretized with Taoism, thus exact religious statistics is difficult to obtain and may be understated or overstated. The Communist-governed countries of China, Vietnam and North Korea are officially atheist, thus the number of Buddhists and other religious adherents may be under-reported.

[Jainism](/wiki/Jainism) is found mainly in India and in oversea Indian communities such as the United States and Malaysia. [Sikhism](/wiki/Sikhism) is found in Northern India and amongst overseas Indian communities in other parts of Asia, especially Southeast Asia. [Confucianism](/wiki/Confucianism) is found predominantly in Mainland China, South Korea, Taiwan and in overseas Chinese populations. [Taoism](/wiki/Taoism) is found mainly in Mainland China, Taiwan, Malaysia and Singapore. Taoism is easily syncretized with [Mahayana Buddhism](/wiki/Mahayana_Buddhism) for many Chinese, thus exact religious statistics is difficult to obtain and may be understated or overstated.

<gallery> File:Traditional wedding at Meji-jingu 72570539 f30636e2ef o.jpg|[Japanese wedding](/wiki/Marriage_in_Japan#Weddings_in_Japan) at the [Meiji Shrine](/wiki/Meiji_Shrine) File:A day of devotion – Thaipusam in Singapore (4316108409).jpg|[Hindu](/wiki/Thaipusam) festival celebrated by Singapore's [Tamil](/wiki/Tamil_people) community File:Cross Procession in Novosibirsk 01.jpg|[Orthodox](/wiki/Eastern_Orthodox_Church) cross procession in [Novosibirsk](/wiki/Novosibirsk) File:Black Nazarene procession.jpg|Catholic procession of the [Black Nazarene](/wiki/Black_Nazarene) of [Manila](/wiki/Manila) File:İstanbul 4258.jpg|Muslim men praying in [Turkey](/wiki/Turkey)

</gallery>

## Modern conflicts[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[thumb|U.S forces drop](/wiki/Image:Napalm.jpg) [Napalm](/wiki/Napalm) on suspected [Viet Cong](/wiki/Viet_Cong) positions in 1965 [thumb|Wounded civilians arrive at a hospital in](/wiki/File:Wounded_civilians_arrive_at_hospital_Aleppo.jpg) [Aleppo](/wiki/Aleppo) during the [Syrian civil war](/wiki/Syrian_civil_war), October 2012 Some of the events pivotal in the Asia territory related to the relationship with the outside world in the post-[Second World War](/wiki/Second_World_War) were:

* The [Korean War](/wiki/Korean_War)
* The [French-Indochina War](/wiki/First_Indochina_War)
* The [Vietnam War](/wiki/Vietnam_War)
* The [Indonesia–Malaysia confrontation](/wiki/Indonesia–Malaysia_confrontation)
* The [Sino-Vietnamese War](/wiki/Sino-Vietnamese_War)
* The [Bangladesh Liberation War](/wiki/Bangladesh_Liberation_War)
* The [Yom Kippur War](/wiki/Yom_Kippur_War)
* The [Iranian Revolution](/wiki/Iranian_Revolution)
* The [Soviet war in Afghanistan](/wiki/Soviet_war_in_Afghanistan)
* The [Iran–Iraq War](/wiki/Iran–Iraq_War)
* The [Indonesian occupation of East Timor](/wiki/Indonesian_occupation_of_East_Timor)
* The [Cambodian Killing Fields](/wiki/Killing_Fields)
* The [Insurgency in Laos](/wiki/Insurgency_in_Laos)
* The [Lebanese Civil War](/wiki/Lebanese_Civil_War)
* The [Sri Lankan Civil War](/wiki/Sri_Lankan_Civil_War)
* The [Dissolution of the Soviet Union](/wiki/Dissolution_of_the_Soviet_Union)
* The [Gulf War](/wiki/Gulf_War)
* The [Nepalese Civil War](/wiki/Nepalese_Civil_War)
* The [India-Pakistan Wars](/wiki/India-Pakistan_Wars)
* The [Nagorno-Karabakh War](/wiki/Nagorno-Karabakh_War)
* The [War in Afghanistan](/wiki/War_in_Afghanistan_(2001–present))
* The [Iraq War](/wiki/Iraq_War)
* The [2006 Thai coup d'état](/wiki/2006_Thai_coup_d'état)
* The [Burmese Civil War](/wiki/Burmese_Civil_War)
* The [Saffron Revolution](/wiki/Saffron_Revolution)
* The [Arab Spring](/wiki/Arab_Spring)
* The [Arab–Israeli conflict](/wiki/Arab–Israeli_conflict)
* The [Syrian Civil War](/wiki/Syrian_Civil_War)
* The [Sino-Indian War](/wiki/Sino-Indian_War)
* The [2014 Thai coup d'état](/wiki/2014_Thai_coup_d'état)
* The [Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant](/wiki/Islamic_State_of_Iraq_and_Syria)

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[Template:Expand section](/wiki/Template:Expand_section) [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

### Nobel prizes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[thumb|upright|Bengali polymath](/wiki/File:Tagore3.jpg) [Rabindranath Tagore](/wiki/Rabindranath_Tagore) was awarded the [Nobel Prize for Literature](/wiki/Nobel_Prize_for_Literature) in 1913, and became Asia's first Nobel laureate

The [polymath](/wiki/Polymath) [Rabindranath Tagore](/wiki/Rabindranath_Tagore), a [Bengali](/wiki/Bengali_literature) poet, dramatist, and writer from [Santiniketan](/wiki/Santiniketan), now in [West Bengal](/wiki/West_Bengal), India, became in 1913 the first Asian [Nobel laureate](/wiki/Nobel_Prize). He won his [Nobel Prize in Literature](/wiki/Nobel_Prize_in_Literature) for notable impact his prose works and poetic thought had on English, French, and other national literatures of Europe and the Americas. He is also the writer of the national anthems of [Bangladesh](/wiki/Bangladesh) and India.

Other Asian writers who won Nobel Prize for literature include [Yasunari Kawabata](/wiki/Yasunari_Kawabata) (Japan, 1968), [Kenzaburō Ōe](/wiki/Kenzaburō_Ōe) (Japan, 1994), [Gao Xingjian](/wiki/Gao_Xingjian) (China, 2000), [Orhan Pamuk](/wiki/Orhan_Pamuk) (Turkey, 2006), and [Mo Yan](/wiki/Mo_Yan) (China, 2012). Some may consider the American writer, [Pearl S. Buck](/wiki/Pearl_S._Buck), an honorary Asian Nobel laureate, having spent considerable time in China as the daughter of missionaries, and based many of her novels, namely [*The Good Earth*](/wiki/The_Good_Earth) (1931) and [*The Mother*](/wiki/The_Mother_(1934_novel)) (1933), as well as the biographies of her parents of their time in China, [*The Exile*](/wiki/The_Exile_(1936_book)) and [*Fighting Angel*](/wiki/Fighting_Angel), all of which earned her the Literature prize in 1938.

Also, [Mother Teresa](/wiki/Mother_Teresa) of India and [Shirin Ebadi](/wiki/Shirin_Ebadi) of Iran were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their significant and pioneering efforts for democracy and human rights, especially for the rights of women and children. Ebadi is the first Iranian and the first Muslim woman to receive the prize. Another Nobel Peace Prize winner is [Aung San Suu Kyi](/wiki/Aung_San_Suu_Kyi) from [Burma](/wiki/Burma) for her peaceful and non-violent struggle under a military dictatorship in Burma. She is a nonviolent pro-democracy activist and leader of the National League for Democracy in Burma (Myanmar) and a noted prisoner of conscience. She is a [Buddhist](/wiki/Buddhist) and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991. Chinese dissident [Liu Xiaobo](/wiki/Liu_Xiaobo) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for "his long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights in China" on 8 October 2010. He is the first Chinese citizen to be awarded a Nobel Prize of any kind while residing in China. In 2014, [Kailash Satyarthi](/wiki/Kailash_Satyarthi) from India and [Malala Yousafzai](/wiki/Malala_Yousafzai) from Pakistan were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize "for their struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education".

Sir [C. V. Raman](/wiki/C._V._Raman) is the first Asian to get a Nobel prize in Sciences. He won the [Nobel Prize in Physics](/wiki/Nobel_Prize_in_Physics) "for his work on the scattering of light and for the discovery of the [effect named after him](/wiki/Raman_scattering)".

Japan has won the most Nobel Prizes of any Asian nation with 24 followed by India which has won 13.

Amartya Sen, (born 3 November 1933) is an Indian economist who was awarded the 1998 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences for his contributions to welfare economics and [social choice theory](/wiki/Social_choice_theory), and for his interest in the problems of society's poorest members.

Other Asian Nobel Prize winners include [Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar](/wiki/Subrahmanyan_Chandrasekhar), [Abdus Salam](/wiki/Abdus_Salam), [Robert Aumann](/wiki/Robert_Aumann), [Menachem Begin](/wiki/Menachem_Begin), [Aaron Ciechanover](/wiki/Aaron_Ciechanover), [Avram Hershko](/wiki/Avram_Hershko), [Daniel Kahneman](/wiki/Daniel_Kahneman), [Shimon Peres](/wiki/Shimon_Peres), [Yitzhak Rabin](/wiki/Yitzhak_Rabin), [Ada Yonath](/wiki/Ada_Yonath), [Yasser Arafat](/wiki/Yasser_Arafat), [José Ramos-Horta](/wiki/José_Ramos-Horta) and Bishop [Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo](/wiki/Carlos_Filipe_Ximenes_Belo) of [Timor Leste](/wiki/Timor_Leste), [Kim Dae-jung](/wiki/Kim_Dae-jung), and 13 Japanese scientists. Most of the said awardees are from Japan and [Israel](/wiki/Israel) except for Chandrasekhar and Raman (India), Salam (Pakistan), Arafat (Palestinian Territories), Kim (South Korea), and Horta and Belo (Timor Leste).

In 2006, Dr. [Muhammad Yunus](/wiki/Muhammad_Yunus) of [Bangladesh](/wiki/Bangladesh) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for the establishment of [Grameen Bank](/wiki/Grameen_Bank), a community development bank that lends money to poor people, especially women in Bangladesh. Dr. Yunus received his PhD in economics from Vanderbilt University, United States. He is internationally known for the concept of micro credit which allows poor and destitute people with little or no collateral to borrow money. The borrowers typically pay back money within the specified period and the incidence of default is very low.

The Dalai Lama has received approximately eighty-four awards over his spiritual and political career.[[80]](#cite_note-80) On 22 June 2006, he became one of only four people ever to be recognized with Honorary Citizenship by the Governor General of Canada. On 28 May 2005, he received the Christmas Humphreys Award from the Buddhist Society in the United Kingdom. Most notable was the Nobel Peace Prize, presented in [Oslo, Norway](/wiki/Oslo,_Norway) on 10 December 1989.

## Political geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|From 1841 to 1997,](/wiki/File:20091002_Hong_Kong_6269.jpg) [Hong Kong](/wiki/British_Hong_Kong) was a British colony.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [**Arms**](/wiki/Coat_of_arms) | [**Flag**](/wiki/Flag) | **Name** | [**Population**](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_population) | [**Area**](/wiki/List_of_countries_and_dependencies_by_area) **(km²)** | [**Capital**](/wiki/Capital_city) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Afghanistan](/wiki/Afghanistan) | 30,419,928 | 647,500 | [Kabul](/wiki/Kabul) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Armenia](/wiki/Armenia) | 2,970,495 | 29,743 | [Yerevan](/wiki/Yerevan) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Azerbaijan](/wiki/Azerbaijan)[[81]](#cite_note-81) | 9,493,600 | 86,600 | [Baku](/wiki/Baku) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Bahrain](/wiki/Bahrain) | 1,248,348 | 760 | [Manama](/wiki/Manama) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Bangladesh](/wiki/Bangladesh) | 150,039,000 | 147,570 | [Dhaka](/wiki/Dhaka) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Bhutan](/wiki/Bhutan) | 716,896 | 38,394 | [Thimphu](/wiki/Thimphu) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Brunei](/wiki/Brunei) | 408,786 | 5,765 | [Bandar Seri Begawan](/wiki/Bandar_Seri_Begawan) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Cambodia](/wiki/Cambodia) | 14,952,665 | 181,035 | [Phnom Penh](/wiki/Phnom_Penh) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [China (PRC)](/wiki/China) | 1,343,239,923 | 9,596,961 | [Beijing](/wiki/Beijing) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [East Timor](/wiki/East_Timor) | 1,143,667 | 14,874 | [Dili](/wiki/Dili) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Egypt](/wiki/Egypt)[[82]](#cite_note-82) | 89,199,000 | 1,010,408 | [Cairo](/wiki/Cairo) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [India](/wiki/India) | 1,210,193,422 | 3,287,263 | [New Delhi](/wiki/New_Delhi) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Indonesia](/wiki/Indonesia)[[83]](#cite_note-83) | 248,645,008 | 1,904,569 | [Jakarta](/wiki/Jakarta) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Iran](/wiki/Iran) | 78,868,711 | 1,648,195 | [Tehran](/wiki/Tehran) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Iraq](/wiki/Iraq) | 31,129,225 | 438,317 | [Baghdad](/wiki/Baghdad) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Israel](/wiki/Israel) | 8,502,900 | 20,770 | [Jerusalem](/wiki/Jerusalem) (disputed) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Japan](/wiki/Japan) | 127,368,088 | 377,915 | [Tokyo](/wiki/Tokyo) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Jordan](/wiki/Jordan) | 6,508,887 | 89,342 | [Amman](/wiki/Amman) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Kazakhstan](/wiki/Kazakhstan)[[84]](#cite_note-84) | 17,522,010 | 2,724,900 | [Astana](/wiki/Astana) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Kuwait](/wiki/Kuwait) | 2,646,314 | 17,818 | [Kuwait City](/wiki/Kuwait_City) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Kyrgyzstan](/wiki/Kyrgyzstan) | 5,496,737 | 199,951 | [Bishkek](/wiki/Bishkek) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Laos](/wiki/Laos) | 6,586,266 | 236,800 | [Vientiane](/wiki/Vientiane) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Lebanon](/wiki/Lebanon) | 4,140,289 | 10,400 | [Beirut](/wiki/Beirut) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Malaysia](/wiki/Malaysia) | 29,179,952 | 329,847 | [Kuala Lumpur](/wiki/Kuala_Lumpur) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Maldives](/wiki/Maldives) | 394,451 | 298 | [Malé](/wiki/Malé) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Mongolia](/wiki/Mongolia) | 3,179,997 | 1,564,116 | [Ulaanbaatar](/wiki/Ulaanbaatar) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Myanmar](/wiki/Myanmar) | 54,584,650 | 676,578 | [Naypyidaw](/wiki/Naypyidaw) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Nepal](/wiki/Nepal) | 29,890,686 | 147,181 | [Kathmandu](/wiki/Kathmandu) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [North Korea](/wiki/North_Korea) | 24,589,122 | 120,538 | [Pyongyang](/wiki/Pyongyang) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Oman](/wiki/Oman) | 3,090,150 | 309,500 | [Muscat](/wiki/Muscat,_Oman) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Pakistan](/wiki/Pakistan) | 190,291,129 | 796,095 | [Islamabad](/wiki/Islamabad) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Philippines](/wiki/Philippines) | [BROKEN](/wiki/BROKEN) | 300,000 | [Manila](/wiki/Manila) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Qatar](/wiki/Qatar) | 1,951,591 | 11,586 | [Doha](/wiki/Doha) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Russia](/wiki/Russia)[[85]](#cite_note-85) | 142,517,670 | 17,098,242 | [Moscow](/wiki/Moscow) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Saudi Arabia](/wiki/Saudi_Arabia) | 26,534,504 | 2,149,690 | [Riyadh](/wiki/Riyadh) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Singapore](/wiki/Singapore) | 5,535,000 | 697 | [Singapore](/wiki/Singapore) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [South Korea](/wiki/South_Korea) | 50,004,441 | 100,210 | [Seoul](/wiki/Seoul) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Sri Lanka](/wiki/Sri_Lanka) | 21,481,334 | 65,610 | [Colombo](/wiki/Colombo) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Syria](/wiki/Syria) | 22,530,746 | 185,180 | [Damascus](/wiki/Damascus) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Tajikistan](/wiki/Tajikistan) | 7,768,385 | 143,100 | [Dushanbe](/wiki/Dushanbe) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Thailand](/wiki/Thailand) | 67,091,089 | 513,120 | [Bangkok](/wiki/Bangkok) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Turkey](/wiki/Turkey)[[86]](#cite_note-86) | 79,749,461 | 783,562 | [Ankara](/wiki/Ankara) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Turkmenistan](/wiki/Turkmenistan) | 5,054,828 | 488,100 | [Ashgabat](/wiki/Ashgabat) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [United Arab Emirates](/wiki/United_Arab_Emirates) | 5,314,317 | 83,600 | [Abu Dhabi](/wiki/Abu_Dhabi) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Uzbekistan](/wiki/Uzbekistan) | 28,394,180 | 447,400 | [Tashkent](/wiki/Tashkent) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Vietnam](/wiki/Vietnam) | 91,519,289 | 331,212 | [Hanoi](/wiki/Hanoi) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Yemen](/wiki/Yemen) | 24,771,809 | 527,968 | [Sana'a](/wiki/Sana'a) |

Within the above-mentioned states are several partially recognized countries with [limited to no international recognition](/wiki/List_of_states_with_limited_recognition). None of them are members of the UN:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [**Arms**](/wiki/Coat_of_arms) | [**Flag**](/wiki/Flag) | **Name** | [**Population**](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_population) | [**Area**](/wiki/List_of_countries_and_dependencies_by_area) **(km²)** | [**Capital**](/wiki/Capital_city) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Abkhazia](/wiki/Abkhazia)[[87]](#cite_note-87) | 242,862 | 8,660 | [Sukhumi](/wiki/Sukhumi) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Nagorno-Karabakh](/wiki/Nagorno-Karabakh)[[88]](#cite_note-88) | 146,573 | 11,458 | [Stepanakert](/wiki/Stepanakert) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Northern Cyprus](/wiki/Northern_Cyprus)[[89]](#cite_note-89) | 285,356 | 3,355 | [Nicosia](/wiki/Nicosia) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Palestine](/wiki/State_of_Palestine)[[90]](#cite_note-90) | 4,279,699 | 6,220 | [Ramallah](/wiki/Ramallah) ([*Jerusalem*](/wiki/Jerusalem)) (claimed) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [South Ossetia](/wiki/South_Ossetia)[[91]](#cite_note-91) | 51,547 | 3,900 | [Tskhinvali](/wiki/Tskhinvali) |
| [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) | [Taiwan (ROC)](/wiki/Taiwan)[[92]](#cite_note-92) | 23,261,747 | 36,193 | [Taipei](/wiki/Taipei) |

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) **References to articles:**

* [Subregions of Asia](/wiki/Subregions_of_Asia)

**Special topics:**

* [Asian Century](/wiki/Asian_Century)
* [Asian cuisine](/wiki/Asian_cuisine)
* [Asian furniture](/wiki/Asian_furniture)
* [Asian Games](/wiki/Asian_Games)
* [Asian Monetary Unit](/wiki/Asian_Monetary_Unit)
* [Asian people](/wiki/Asian_people)
* [Eastern world](/wiki/Eastern_world)
* [Eurasia](/wiki/Eurasia)
* [Far East](/wiki/Far_East)
* [East Asia](/wiki/East_Asia)
* [Southeast Asia](/wiki/Southeast_Asia)
* [South Asia](/wiki/South_Asia)
* [Central Asia](/wiki/Central_Asia)
* [Fauna of Asia](/wiki/Fauna_of_Asia)
* [Flags of Asia](/wiki/Flags_of_Asia)
* [Middle East](/wiki/Middle_East)
  + [Eastern Mediterranean](/wiki/Eastern_Mediterranean)
  + [Levant](/wiki/Levant)
  + [Near East](/wiki/Near_East)
* [Pan-Asianism](/wiki/Pan-Asianism)

**Lists:**

* [List of cities in Asia](/wiki/List_of_cities_in_Asia)
* [List of metropolitan areas in Asia by population](/wiki/List_of_metropolitan_areas_in_Asia_by_population)
* [List of sovereign states and dependent territories in Asia](/wiki/List_of_sovereign_states_and_dependent_territories_in_Asia)

[Template:Div col end](/wiki/Template:Div_col_end)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## Bibliography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)

## Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

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* Kamal, Niraj. "Arise Asia: Respond to White Peril". New Delhi:Wordsmith,2002, ISBN 978-81-87412-08-3
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* Levinson, David, and Karen Christensen. *Encyclopedia of Modern Asia*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2002.

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links)

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* [Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)
* [Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)
* [Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)

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[Template:Authority control](/wiki/Template:Authority_control)

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