

Portal:Asia

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



WIKIPEDIA'S ASIA portal

Wikipedia portals

Culture · Geography · Health · History · Mathematics · Natural sciences · People · Philosophy · Religion · Society · Technology

Main

Philippines



Geography

Asia is the world's largest and most populous continent, located primarily in the eastern and northern hemispheres. It covers 8.7% of the Earth's total surface area (or 30% of its land area) and with approximately 3.9 billion people, it hosts 60% of the world's current human population. It is traditionally defined as part of the landmass of Africa-Eurasia lying east of the Suez Canal, east of the Ural Mountains, and south of the Caucasus Mountains and the Caspian and Black Seas.

The **history of Asia** can be seen as the collective history of several distinct peripheral coastal regions such as, East Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East linked by the interior mass of the Eurasian steppe. The coastal periphery was the home to some of the world's earliest known civilizations, with each of the three regions developing early civilizations around fertile

river valleys. These valleys were fertile because the soil there was rich and could bear lots of root crops. The civilizations in Mesopotamia, the Indus Valley, and China shared many similarities and likely exchanged technologies and ideas such as mathematics and the wheel. Other notions such as that of writing likely developed individually in each area. Cities, states and then empires developed in these lowlands. The steppe region had long been inhabited by mounted nomads, and from the central steppes they could reach all areas of the Asian continent. The northern part of the continent, covering much of Siberia was also inaccessible to the steppe nomads due to the dense forests and the tundra. These areas in Siberia were very sparsely populated. The centre and periphery were kept separate by mountains and deserts. The Caucasus, Himalaya, Karakum Desert, and Gobi Desert formed barriers that the steppe horsemen could only cross with difficulty. While technologically and culturally the city dwellers were more advanced, they could do little militarily to defend against the mounted hordes of the steppe. However, the lowlands did not have enough open grasslands to support a large horsebound force. Thus the nomads who conquered states in the Middle East were soon forced to adapt to the local societies.

The **culture of Asia** is human civilization in Asia. It features different kinds of cultural heritage of many nationalities, societies, and ethnic groups in the region, traditionally called a continent from a Western-centric perspective, of Asia. The region or "continent" is more commonly divided into more natural geographic and cultural subregions, including the Central Asia, East Asia, South Asia (the "Indian subcontinent"), North Asia, West Asia and Southeast Asia. Geographically, Asia is not a distinct continent; culturally, there has been little unity or common history for many of the cultures and peoples of Asia. Asian art, music, and cuisine, as well as literature, are important parts of Asian culture. Eastern philosophy and religion also plays a major role, with Hinduism, Taoism, Confucianism, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam; all playing major roles. One of the most complex parts of Asian culture is the relationship between traditional cultures and the Western world.

Asia has the second largest nominal GDP of all continents, after Europe, but the largest when measured in

purchasing power parity. As of 2010, the largest economies in Asia are China, Japan, India, South Korea and Indonesia. Based on Global Office Locations 2011, Asia dominated the office locations with 4 of top 5 were in Asia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Tokyo, London and Shanghai. Around 68 percent of international firms have office in Hong Kong. According to Citigroup in The Wealth Report 2012 stated that Asian centa-millionaire overtook North America's wealth for the first time as the world's "economic center of gravity" continued moving east. At the end of 2011, there were 18,000 Asian people mainly in Southeast Asia, China and Japan who have at least \$100 million in disposable assets, while North America with 17,000 people and Western Europe with 14,000 people.

Selected panorama

edit (https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Portal:Asia/Selected_panorama/6&action=edit)



The night skyline of **Hong Kong**, Victoria Harbour and Kowloon, as seen from Victoria Peak, the tallest mountain on Hong Kong Island. Hong Kong is located on China's south coast on the Pearl River Delta, and borders Guangdong province in the north and faces the South China Sea in the east, west and south. It has a population of 6.9 million people, and is one of the most densely populated areas in the world.

edit (https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Portal:Asia/Featured_picture/6&action=edit)

Featured picture

edit (https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Portal:Asia/Featured_article/5&action=edit)

Featured article



The **Xá Lợi Pagoda raids** were a series of synchronized attacks on various Buddhist pagodas in the major cities of South Vietnam shortly after midnight on 21 August

1963. The raids were executed by the Army of the Republic of Vietnam Special Forces under Colonel Lê Quang Tung, and combat police, both of which took their orders directly from Ngô Đình Nhu, younger brother of the Roman Catholic President Ngô Đình Diệm. Xá Lợi, the largest in the South Vietnamese capital, Saigon, was the most prominent of the raided temples. Over 1,400 Buddhists were arrested, and estimates of the death toll and missing ranged up to the hundreds. In response to the Huế Vesak shootings



The **Kayan** or **Padaung** are a group of the Karen people found in Myanmar and Thailand. They are known for a particular body modification, which consists of coiling lengths of brass around the neck of the women. The coils are first applied when the girls are about five years old, and the coil is replaced with longer coils as the weight of the brass pushes down the collar bone and compresses the rib cage, resulting in the appearance of a very long neck. The practice has seen a surge in recent years because the custom draws tourists who buy their handicrafts.

edit (https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Portal:Asia/Featured_biography/5&action=edit)

Featured biography



Thích Quảng Đức was a Vietnamese Mahayana Buddhist monk who burned himself to death at a busy Saigon road intersection on 11 June 1963. Đức was protesting the persecution of Buddhists by South Vietnam's Roman Catholic government. Photos of his self-immolation were circulated widely across

the world and brought attention to the policies of the Diệm regime. Malcolm Browne won a Pulitzer Prize for his renowned photograph of the monk's death. After his

and a ban on the Buddhist flag in early May, South Vietnam's Buddhist majority rose in widespread civil disobedience and protest against the religious bias and discrimination of the Catholic-dominated Diệm government. Buddhist temples in major cities, most prominently the Xá Lợi pagoda, became focal points for protesters and assembly points for Buddhist monks from rural areas. In August, several Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) generals proposed the imposition of martial law, ostensibly to break up the demonstrations, but in reality to prepare for a military coup. However, Nhu, already looking to arrest Buddhist leaders and crush the protest movement, used the opportunity to preempt the generals and embarrass them. He disguised Tung's Special Forces in army uniforms and used them to attack the Buddhists, thereby causing the general public and South Vietnam's U.S. allies to blame the army, diminishing the generals' reputations and ability to act as future national leaders.

edit (https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Portal:Asia/Did_you_know&action=edit)

Did you know...

- ...that **Qutb al-Din al-Shirazi** gave the first accurate explanation for the formation of a rainbow?
- ...that family registers are known as **Koseki** in Japan?
- ...that the first head of the House of Saud was **Muhammad bin Saud** ?
- ...that **Fataluku** is a language commonly used on the eastern part of East Timor?
- ...that **Guozijian** was the national central institute of learning in Chinese dynasties after the Sui Dynasty?



edit (https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Portal:Asia/Asia_news&action=edit)

In the news

Wikinews Asia portal



- May 1: Two Australians executed in Indonesia over 2005 drug smuggling case
- April 24: Power outage at Fukushima poses radioactive risk
- April 11: Foreigners evacuated from Yemen by India
- March 24: Singapore's 'founding father' Lee Kuan Yew dies aged 91

death, his body was re-cremated, but his heart remained intact.Đức's act increased international pressure on Diệm and led him to announce reforms with the intention of mollifying the Buddhists. However, the promised reforms were not implemented, leading to a deterioration in the dispute. With protests continuing, the ARVN Special Forces loyal to Diệm's brother, Ngô Đình Nhu, launched nationwide raids on Buddhist pagodas, seizing Đức's heart and causing deaths and widespread damage. Several Buddhist monks followed Đức's example, also immolating themselves. Eventually, an Army coup toppled and assassinated Diệm on 2 November 1963. Accounts of the life of Thích Quảng Đức are derived from information disseminated by Buddhist organizations. These record him as being born in the village of Hoi Khanh, in Vạn Ninh District of Khanh Hoa province in central Vietnam. He was born as **Lâm Văn Túc**, one of seven children born to Lâm Hữu Ứng and his wife, Nguyễn Thị Nương. At the age of seven, he left worldly life to study Buddhism under Hòa thượng Thích Hoằng Tâm, who was his maternal uncle and spiritual master. Thích Hoằng Tâm raised him as a son and Lâm Văn Túc changed his name to**Nguyễn Văn Khiết**. At the age of 15, he took the samanera (novice) vows and was ordained as a monk at age 20 under the dharma name **Thích Quảng Đức**. After ordination, he traveled to a mountain near Ninh Hòa, vowing to live the life of a solitary Buddhism-practicing hermit for three years. He returned in later life to open the Thien Loc pagoda at his mountain retreat.

- March 16: Xu Caihou, former Chinese general, dies aged 71
- March 4: Explorers find shipwreck thought to be massive WWII battleship Musashi
- February 18: Pakistan releases 173 Indian prisoners at Wagah border
- February 11: Indian army helicopter crash kills two in Jammu and Kashmir
- February 8: Divers retrieve 100th corpse from Java Sea jet crash
- February 7: Taipei plane crash toll reaches 40

Associated Wikimedia

edit (<https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:WikimediaForPortals&action=edit>)

The following Wikimedia sister projects provide more on this subject:

Wikipedia's Portals

[All Portals](#)
[Overview](#)
[Glossaries](#)
[Indices](#)
[Lists](#)
[Outlines](#)
[Categories](#)
[Reference](#)
[Culture](#)
[Geography](#)
[Health](#)
[History](#)
[Mathematics](#)
[Nature](#)
[People](#)
[Philosophy](#)
[Religion](#)
[Society](#)
[Technology](#)

Featured portals · **About portals**

Shortcuts to this page: [Asia portal](#) • [P:ASIA](#)

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Portal:Asia&oldid=649229620"

Categories: [Asia](#) | [Asian portals](#) | [WikiProject Asia](#) | [Portals by continent](#) | [Asia portal](#)

-
- This page was last modified on 28 February 2015, at 14:08.
 - Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.