

## East Asia, Southeast Asia, and Oceania

Survey of World Regions

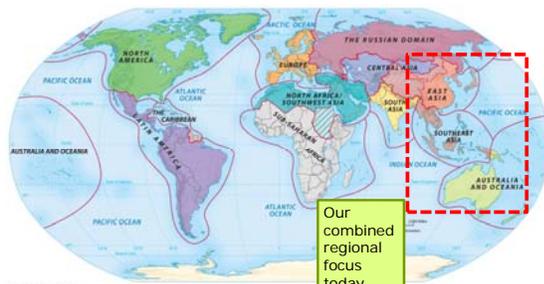


## Introduction: East Asia, Southeast Asia, and Oceania

Our focus today is a geographically large and complex set of world regions

- **East Asia:** including China, Japan, Taiwan, and North and South Korea
- **Southeast Asia:** including Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia, Singapore, and the Philippines
- **Oceania:** including Australia, New Zealand, and several island nations across the Pacific

### The East/Southeast Asia/Oceania Regions in a Global Context



Q: What observations can we make about today's focus regions as we see them on this map?

### The East Asia Region (as Defined in Your Textbook)



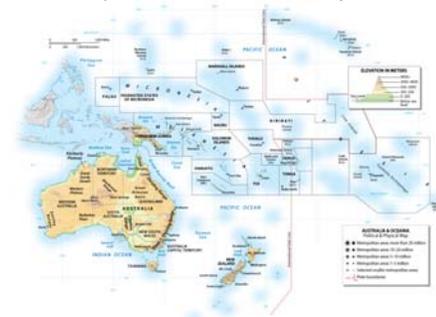
Q: Can we make further observations based on this "zoomed-in" view?

### The Southeast Asia Region (as Defined in Your Textbook)



Q: Can we make further observations based on this "zoomed-in" view?

### The Oceania Region (as Defined in Your Textbook)



Q: Can we make further observations based on this "zoomed-in" view?

## Environmental Issues

- **One obvious factor: these regions share many environmental challenges**
  - **Resource pressures:** large populations using many resources and having diverse impacts
    - Air and water pollution
    - Need for energy and population growth have led to massive public works projects (dams, land use change)
    - Climate change leading to regional & global impacts
  - **Environmental threats:** location in the “ring of fire” means earthquakes and tsunamis are a real issue across the region

## Environmental Issues

- **Much of our discussion will focus on China, because China is so big and important**
  - However, we will also need to recognize what is going on broadly across the region
    - Some regional issues are not specifically focused on China
    - Some issues are directly linked to China and its impacts on other countries in the region and around the world

Coal-Fired Power Plants in China



Air Quality Issues Near Beijing



Three Gorges in China



Q: What's the controversy with this region?

The Three Gorges Dam Project



Completed in 2006, this is the largest dam project in the world: 600 feet high, 1.5 miles wide, creating a 350 mile long reservoir that forced 1.2 million people to relocate

The next two slides show the massive scale of urban development ongoing in China

Shanghai's Pudong District in 1987



Shanghai's Pudong District in 2013



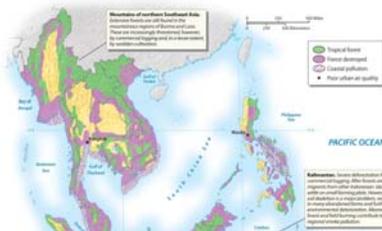
### Deforestation in Southeast Asia

Dark Pink = Destroyed Forests



### Deforestation in Southeast Asia

Dark Pink = Destroyed Forests



**Positive:** China has taken big steps in recent years to protect its forests (which were massively impacted by logging in previous decades)

**Issue:** China's growing economy still demands massive amounts of lumber, and it is getting what it needs from other countries

## Environmental Issues

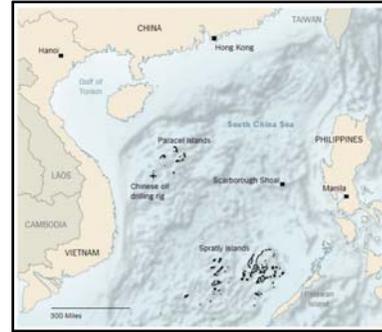
□ The real dilemma here can be summed up by referring to our earlier "ecological footprint" concept

- Look at these per capita footprints (2007 footprint figures, 2013 populations)
  - USA: 19.7 acres (population: 318 million)
  - Australia: 16.9 acres (population: 23 million)
  - China: 5.5 acres (population: 1.364 billion)
  - Vietnam: 3.4 acres (pop. 90 million)

Q: What happens to environmental impacts as China, Vietnam, and other developing countries continue to develop?

## Geo-Political Issues

- **Vast resource needs influence the region in many ways**
  - Another impact: geo-political change
  - One example of such change is the “China Sea Dispute” article reading from the course website
  - **Q:** What is this dispute all about?



## Geo-Political Issues

- **The dispute with Vietnam is only one example of China’s more assertive stance in relation to its neighbors**
  - China has other prominent ocean boundary disputes with the Philippines and Japan
  - One key driver behind much of this is access to resources
    - Recall our discussion about Russia’s actions in Crimea: very similar

## Geo-Political Issues

- **However, there is another aspect to this issue that should not be ignored: China’s history**
  - China entered the 20<sup>th</sup> century on a weak footing
  - Occupation of key territory by European colonizers (e.g. Great Britain in Hong Kong) and powerful neighbors (Japan, Russia)
  - **Shanghai** (China’s commercial hub) was divided among several foreign interests in the late 1800s and early 1900s

### Imperialism in East Asia: 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries

This map shows the Germans, French, British, and Russians held influence over much of the region.

The map also shows the extent of Japanese expansion.



## Geo-Political Issues

- **China’s occupation by Japan in World War 2 was humiliating for the entire country**

Japanese soldiers fighting the Chinese army in Shanghai, 1937



## Geo-Political Issues

- **China's present stance needs to be understood with this context in mind**
  - This doesn't mean that what China is doing is necessarily the best course to follow
  - However, a knowledge of China's history helps us to understand why the Chinese government is choosing such an aggressive strategy now

## Geo-Political Issues

- **Q:** What might be appropriate paths for other countries in the region to follow with regard to China?
  - What are the options open to a country like Vietnam, that both needs Chinese cooperation (Chinese markets are important) and needs resources to develop?

## Regional Development

- **All countries in the region desire to develop**
  - The economic dimension is the focus for most national leaders and decision-makers
  - **Q:** What is "development"?
    - Is "development" = "economic development"?
    - What other kinds of development are there?
    - Can economic development be harmful to a country or region?
    - How can we set priorities for the kinds of development a regions wishes to pursue?

## Regional Development

- **Singapore makes for an interesting regional economic development case study**



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## Regional Development

- **Singapore makes for an interesting regional economic development case study**
  - Unique in southeast Asia as a city-state
    - 37 miles across in its maximum dimension
    - **Q:** what unique issues would a "city-state" have?
  - In 1824, Singapore became a British colony
  - In 1963, it became part of Malaysia
  - In 1965, it was expelled from Malaysia and gained its present sovereign city-state status

## Regional Development

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- **Singapore makes for an interesting regional economic development case study**
  - Half a century ago, Singapore attracted business activity as a source of cheap labor
  - Today, it is one of the most developed, desirable business locations in the world
  - This raises the question, how did this happen?

## Regional Development

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- **We will now view a development case study**
  - Two focus regions:
    - **Singapore: Gateway to Southeast Asia** looks at the role that geography played in the successful development of the city-state
    - **Australia: New Links to Asia** looks at the historic role played by industry and how the country's economy has changed and become more connected to other countries in the Asia-Pacific region

## Regional Development

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- **Key themes to watch for**
  - **Singapore**
    - Historical Trends in Population Patterns
    - Singapore's Location as Key to its Success
    - The City-State's Role as a Global Distribution Hub
  - **Australia**
    - Australia's Population Distribution
    - Shift in Economic Orientation from Europe to Asia
    - Impact of Immigration

[Singapore and Australia Case Studies](#)