MAJOR GEOGRAPHIC QUALITIES

- A FRAGMENTED REALM OF NUMEROUS ISLAND COUNTRIES AND PENINSULAS
- EXHIBITS CHARACTERISTICS OF A SHATTER BELT
  - A ZONE OF CHRONIC POLITICAL SPLINTERING AND FRACTURING
- POLITICAL INSTABILITY AND CONFLICT
- CLUSTERED POPULATION PATTERNS
- POOR INTRAREGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS
- CULTURAL FRAGMENTATION (COMPLEX ETHNIC, LINGUISTIC, AND RELIGIOUS PATTERNS)

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

- STATE TERRITORIAL MORPHOLOGY
  - COMPACT - CAMBODIA
  - PROTRUDED (EXTENDED) - THAILAND
  - ELONGATED (ATTENUATED) - VIETNAM
  - FRAGMENTED - PHILIPPINES
  - PERFORATED - SOUTH AFRICA

THE IMPACT OF SHAPE?
SHAPES OF STATES

- ELONGATED
  - Chile
- COMPACT
  - Poland
- PERFORATED
  - South Africa
- PROTRUDED
  - Thailand
- FRAGMENTED
  - Malaysia

REGIONS OF THE REALM

- MAINLAND REGION
  - VIETNAM (PREVIOUSLY NORTH & SOUTH VIETNAM)
  - CAMBODIA (PREVIOUSLY FRENCH INDO-CHINA)
  - LAOS (PREVIOUSLY FRENCH INDO-CHINA)
  - THAILAND
  - MYANMAR (PREVIOUSLY BURMA)

MAINLAND REGION

- 5 STATES: VIETNAM, LAOS, CAMBODIA, THAILAND, MYANMAR
- BUDDHISM DOMINATES THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE
- A MULTICULTURAL AND MULTIETHNIC REGION
- ONE OF THE LEAST URBANIZED REALMS IN THE WORLD
- SOME COUNTRIES HAVE MORE THAN ONE CORE AREA (VIETNAM, MYANMAR)

VIETNAM

- 80.9 million people
- French delimited Vietnam
- Not a homogenous colony
- Divided into three units
  - Tonkin (Hanoi)
  - Cochin China (Saigon)
  - Annam (Hue)

VIETNAM

- Mekong River Delta
- Advantageous relative location on Pacific Rim
- Economic development slow (communist system)
- Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) has advantage over Hanoi (capital) - accessible by ocean-going vessels
- Special Economic Zone downstream from Saigon

ISSUES/CONCERNS

- POPULATION (80.9 MILLION) HAS DOUBLED SINCE THE END OF WAR IN 1975
- A CLASSIC "ELONGATED COUNTRY"
- A BI-POLAR ARRANGEMENT EXISTS BETWEEN SAI GON AND HANOI
- NEW STRATEGY - RETAIN COMMUNIST POLITICAL SYSTEM BUT PURSUE MARKET ECONOMICS
**Kingdom of Cambodia**
- Mekong River
- Core area in the interior
- Culturally homogenous (Khmers)
- Khmer Rouge (communist revolutionaries)
- Drove people from urban to rural areas
- Vietnam invaded in 1978
- UN sponsored elections 1993

**Cambodia**
- A CLASSIC “COMPACT STATE”
- POPULATION OF 12.7 MILLION, WITH STRONG ETHNIC AND CULTURAL HOMOGENEITY - 90% KHIMERS
- PHNOM PENH (1.2 MILLION) PRINCIPAL CITY AND CAPITAL
- A VICTIM OF WARS AND INSURGENCIES
  - VIETNAM SPILLOVER
  - 1970 - MILITARY DEPOSES OF THE KING
  - 1975 - COMMUNIST REVOLUTIONARIES (KHMER ROUGE) -> KAMPUCHEA
- INVADED BY VIETNAM IN LATE 1970s

**Laos**
- Independence 1949
- Lao People’s Democratic Republic (1975)
- Communist government
- Landlocked
- Rural-based population
- Little infrastructure and industry

**Laos**
- A “LANDLOCKED” STATE
- A FORMER FRENCH COLONY (1893-1953)
- POPULATION OF 5.5 MILLION, WITH 50% ETHNIC LAO
- 17% URBANIZED
- UNDEVELOPED WITH NO RAILROADS, LITTLE INDUSTRY, AND FEW ROADS
- THE REALM’S POOREST COUNTRY

**Kingdom of Thailand**
- Leading state of the region
- Economic growth
  - Relative location
  - Natural environment
  - Social conditions
  - Stifled by mismanagement
- Bangkok (Venice of Asia)
- Problems
  - Surface communications
  - Influx of refugees
  - Drugs

**Thailand**
- A CLASSIC “PROTRUDED STATE”
- POPULATION OF 63.1 MILLION HAS THE SLOWEST GROWTH RATE IN THE REALM
- PER CAPITA GNP IS HIGHER THAN VIETNAM, CAMBODIA, LAOS, AND MYANMAR COMBINED
- BANGKOK - A CLASSIC “PRIMATE CITY” OF 7.8 MILLION
- ECONOMIC SUCCESS
  - RELATIVE LOCATION
  - NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
  - TAI WORKFORCE
MYANMAR

- One of world’s poorest countries
- Independence: 1948
- Military government (1962)
- Irawaddy River
- Core areas: Yangon & Mandalay
- Ethnic diversity
  - Burman 68%
  - Shan 9%
  - Karen 7%

- A “PROTRUDED STATE”, WITH AN UNSERVED EXTENSION
- A FORMER BRITISH COLONY-Burma, which became independent in 1948
- POPULATION OF 50.9 MILLION, 80 % LITERATE, AND CULTURALLY DIVERSE
- AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL IS GOOD; VARIED SOIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS; SELF-SUFFICIENT IN RICE
- WORLD’S LEADING PRODUCER OF OPIUM POPPIES

INSULAR SOUTH ASIA

- A SUB-REALM OF PENINSULAS AND ISLANDS
- SOUTHEAST ASIA’S SOUTHERN AND EASTERN PERIPHERY
- COMPRISED OF 5 STATES, ALL OF WHICH HAVE COLONIAL HISTORIES
  - MALAYSIA
  - INDONESIA
  - PHILIPPINES
  - SINGAPORE
  - BRUNEI
  - FRAGMENTED POLITICAL ENTITIES
  - A MULTICULTURAL AND MULTI-ETHNIC REGION
  - ISLAM PREVALES
  - COLONIAL LEGACIES PERSIST

MALAYSIA

- FRAGMENTED STATE-MAINLAND-ISLAND TYPE
- A FORMER BRITISH COLONY
- MALAYSIA CAME INTO BEING IN 1963, REFERING TO THE FEDERAL ORGANIZATION AND EXPANSION OF MALAYA (ON THE MALAY PENINSULA) TO INCLUDE PARTS OF BORNEO
- POPULATION OF 24.2 MILLION WITH STRONG ADHERENCE TO ISLAM
- RAPIDLY GROWING ECONOMY WITH 3rd HIGHEST GNP IN THE REALM
- PINANG- A FUTURE SINGAPORE?

SINGAPORE

- A CITY-STATE
  - RECEIVED FROM MALAYSIA IN 1965
  - POPULATION OF 4.1 MILLION (76% ARE CHINESE, 15% MALAY, 6% SOUTH ASIAN)
  - ABSOLUTE LOCATION AND SITE WERE INITIAL CONSIDERATIONS, BUT RELATIVE LOCATION AND SITUATION WERE ITS KEYS
  - PER CAPITA GNP REACHED $30,000 IN 2000
**INDONESIA**
- A FRAGMENTED STATE OF MORE THAN 13,000 ISLANDS
- A DUTCH COLONIAL CREATION
- POPULATION OF 219 MILLION
- 4 MAJOR ISLANDS (GREATER SUNDA ISLANDS):
  - JAWA (JAVA)
  - SUMATERA (SUMATRA)
  - KALIMANTAN (PART OF BORNEO)
  - SULAWESI (CELEBES)
- JAWA IS THE CORE WITH 130 MILLION
- LARGEST MUSLIM POPULATION IN THE WORLD

**BRUNEI**
- AN ANOMALY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA - AN OIL EXPORTING ISLAMIC SULTANATE
- A BRITISH PROTECTED REMNANT
  - GAINED INDEPENDENCE IN 1984
- 340,000 PEOPLE WITHIN 2,225 SQ MI
- OIL DISCOVERED IN 1929, NATURAL GAS IN 1965
- POPULATION IS 64% MALAY, 20% CHINESE

**PHILIPPINES**
- ARCHIPELAGO OF >7,000 ISLANDS, MOST OF WHICH ARE < 1 SQUARE MILE
- FORMER SPANISH COLONY FOR 300+ YEARS; US POSSESSION (1898-1946)
- 83.9 MILLION PEOPLE; 83% CATHOLIC
- AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY
- MANILA: PRIMATE CITY

**CULTURAL ASSESSMENT**
Cambodia - It is socially acceptable for married men to have extramarital affairs, but women who commit adultery are disowned and rejected by their families and society. Families demonstrate love through food. In traditional families, boys may breastfeed for as many years as they desire to enhance their power and energy, whereas girls may be weaned at two years.

Laos - the basic family unit often involves three or four generations living together. Touching and kissing between brother and sister is not allowed.

Thailand - officially, men are the heads of families. However, the women usually rule behind the scenes.

Vietnam - pointing your finger at someone is considered rude. Although women defer to men, women frequently control men, the home, the family's health care, and the economic power of the community. Offensive behaviors include putting feet on furniture, photographing three people in a group, and voicing dissent.