

Lesson 5

European Claims in Southeast Asia



The Big Idea

Demand for Asian products drove Western imperialists to seek possession of Southeast Asian lands

Why it Matters Today

Southeast Asian independence struggles in the 20th century have their roots in this period of imperialism.

Setting the Stage

Just as European powers rushed to divide Africa, they also competed to carve up the lands of Southeast Asia. These lands form part of the Pacific Rim, the countries that border the Pacific Ocean. Western nations desired the Pacific Rim lands for their strategic location along the sea route to China. Westerners also recognized the value of the Pacific colonies as sources of tropical agriculture, minerals, and oil. As the European powers began to appreciate the value of the area, they challenged each other for their own parts of the prize.



Colonies in Southeast Asia, 1895

Tropic of Cancer

120°E

CHINA

Macao Hong Kong

PACIFIC OCEAN

BURMA

Rangoon

SIAM

Bangkok

FRENCH INDOCHINA

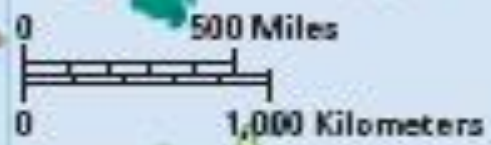
Saigon

South China Sea

Manila

PHILIPPINES

- British
- Dutch
- French
- Portuguese
- Spanish
- Independent state



0° Equator

INDIAN OCEAN

MALAY PENINSULA

Singapore

Borneo

DUTCH EAST INDIES

Batavia

Java

Bali

Celebes

Moluccas

Timor

Siam (Thailand) Monarchy Mongkut and Chulalongkorn



Siam Remains Independent

- The Kingdom of **Siam** (Thailand) lay between British-Burma and French- Indochina.
- France and Britain each aimed to prevent the other from gaining control of Siam.
- Knowing this, Siamese **King Mongkut** skillfully promoted Siam as a neutral zone between the two powers.
- To accomplish the changes, **Chulalongkorn** (son of Mongkut) started schools, reformed the legal system, and reorganized the government.
- The Siam government built its own railroads and telegraph systems and ended slavery.
- Because these changes came from their own government, the Siamese (Thai) people escaped the exploitation of European imperialism.

The King on Progress

“As the times and the course of things in our country have changed, it is essential to promote the advancement of all our academic and technical knowledge and to prevent it from succumbing (giving in) to competition from the outside. In order to achieve this, it is imperative to make haste in education so that knowledge and ability will increase.

-King Chulalongcorn

“Royal Proclamation in Education”



Colonial Impact

- In Southeast Asia, colonization brought mixed results.
- Economies grew because of **cash crops** or goods that could be sold on the world market.
- Roads, harbors, and rail systems improved communication and transportation, but mostly benefited Europeans businesses.
- Education, health, and sanitation did improve.
- Unlike other colonial areas, millions of people from other areas of Asia and the world migrated to work on plantations and in the mines in Southeast Asia.
- The region became a melting pot of Hindu, Muslim, Christian, and Buddhists.
- The resulting changes often led to racial and religious clashes that are still seen today.

#6

As you read about the colonization of southeast Asia, complete the chart about each European group. **Pg. 367-370**

1. Dutch East India Company: Pg. 368

Lands Claimed:	Major Products:	Impact of Colonization:

2. British: Pg. 369

Lands Claimed:	Major Products:	Impact of Colonization:

3. French: Pg. 369

Lands Claimed:	Major Products:	Impact of Colonization: