

# Khmer Empire(Angkor Kingdom) (802 CE - 1431 CE)

1200-1450

# State Development (SPICE: Political)

- ❖ Before modern Cambodia, Thailand, Southern Vietnam, Laos
- ❖ Had trade established with China and India, adopted Buddhism and Hinduism
- ❖ Very politically organized
  - Emperors had total power over state
- ❖ Leaders were “god-kings,” males of the royal family competed for throne after emperor’s death
- ❖ “Involuntary servitude” by citizens who dug canals and built temples
- ❖ At founding, used military conquests to secure land
- ❖ Daughters married off to strengthen bonds between families
- ❖ 1177 - conflict with Champa (presently Vietnam), Khmer won & took over Champa

# Belief Systems' Impact: (SPICE: social/economic)

-the first main religion was Hinduism---temples such as Angkor Wat were dedicated to Hindu gods. The Hindu-induced explosion of building and construction gradually ended, ultimately due to the rise of Theravada Buddhism, the second main religion.

-the city of the Khmer Empire was ultimately created on religious and political ideas, originally imported from India and eventually adapted to traditions local to the kingdom.

-the city, greatly impacted by influence of religion and belief, was oriented around a single central mountain or temple, thought to be the “home of the gods”.

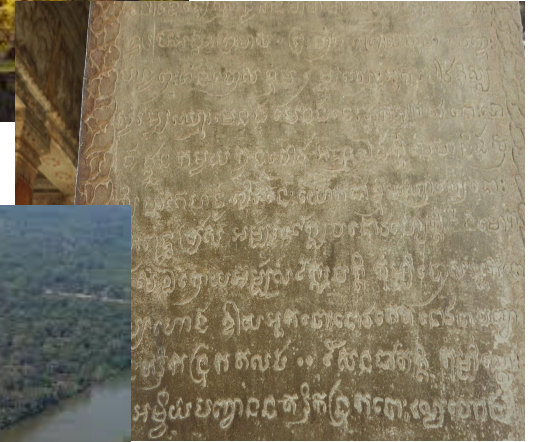
-belief systems and practices were exchanged mainly by trade; the Angkor Empire mainly traded rice and fish, discovering and spreading new religions through paths of trade.

SPICE-social/economic: belief systems and practices, which greatly impacted the way societies were built and functioned, were created and advanced by the economic interaction of trade and religious intercommunications.



# Architecture, Art, Literature, and Innovations

The Khmer Empire was a complex and interesting kingdom. They created the 7th wonder of the world (Angkor Wat) and invented a water management system which stopped any damages to towns or temples in their empire. They also had a writing system mostly based on Theravada Buddhism beliefs.



## SPICE Examples

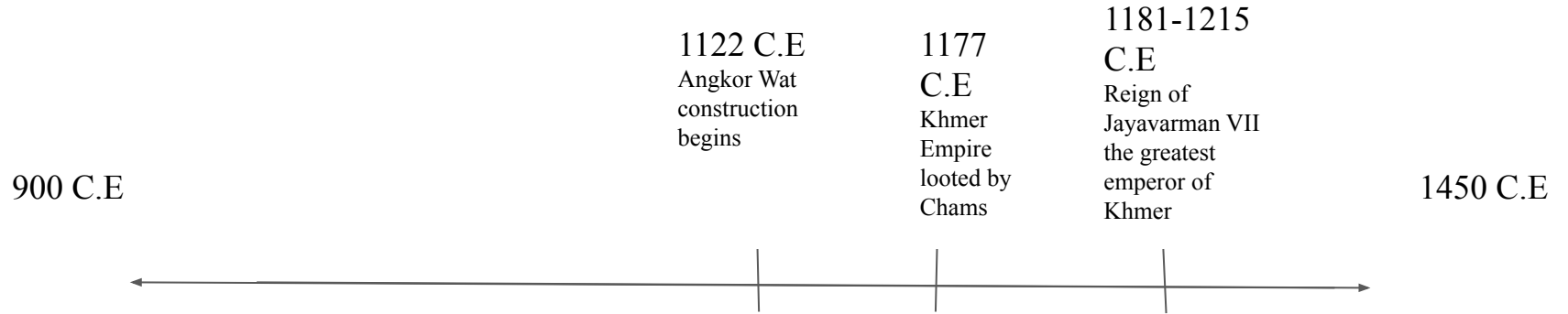
Social: Males of the royal family competed for throne after emperor's death

Political: Daughters were married off to strengthen bonds between families

Interactions: Beliefs spread through trade with China and India

Cultural: They had a writing system mostly based on Theravada Buddhism beliefs

Economic: The Angkor Empire mainly traded rice and fish



Khmer Empire Timeline

