



Khmer Empire

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Learning Objective 1.3

Explain how the various belief systems and practices of Southeast Asia affected society over time.

- The main religion of the empire was Hinduism
 - Main religious influence was India because of Indian Ocean Commerce
 - Hinduism was dominant until the reign of Jayavarman VII (1181-1218)
 - Buddhism became dominant
- Core Hindu beliefs
 - Dharma: ethics and duties
 - Artha: prosperity and work
 - Kama: desires and passions
 - Moksha: freedom from the cycle of rebirth
 - Originally a Hindu temple but changed to Buddhist after the rule of Jayavarman VII

Learning Objective 1.3

- Core Buddhist beliefs:
- Three Universal Truths
- Four Noble Truths
- Eightfold Path to achieve Nirvana
- How it shaped society
- Religion from India was very influential and many people in the empire converted from Hinduism to Buddhism.

Learning Objective 1.3 (SPICE)

S: Women were given more freedom in the Khmer Empire than the women in Indian and Chinese societies.

P: Jayavarman VII converted the empire to Buddhism during his reign

I: Buddhists believe in compassion towards nature and the environment, so they treated it well.

C: The main religions practiced were Hinduism, Buddhism and Animism.

E: Flourished in 800-1300,

Map of Khmer Empire



Architecture in the Khmer Empire



The Angkor Wat is the biggest religious monument in the world. It was originally constructed as a Hindu temple, but it changed to Buddhist at the end of the 12th century.

Learning Objective 1.3b

-Explain how and why various states of Southeast Asia developed and maintained power over time

-Khmer empire maintained political and trade relations with the Srivijaya empire and the Java empire via the development and use of trade routes and water systems.

-Rulers of the Khmer Empire were seen as God kings, giving them absolute power over the empire.

Learning Objective 1.3b

S: Most of the realms commerce was handled by women, giving women with the empire more power

P: The first king was Jayavarman II (802-850), who established the belief that the rulers were god kings.

I: Water systems were used to manage fluctuations in water quantity and happen to create intercommunications networks.

C: The kings were seen as Hindu-Gods on Earth, giving them absolute political and religious power.

E: Developing trade routes to india and other southeast asia empires allowed Khmer's economy to become stronger then the neighbors of the Khmer Empire.

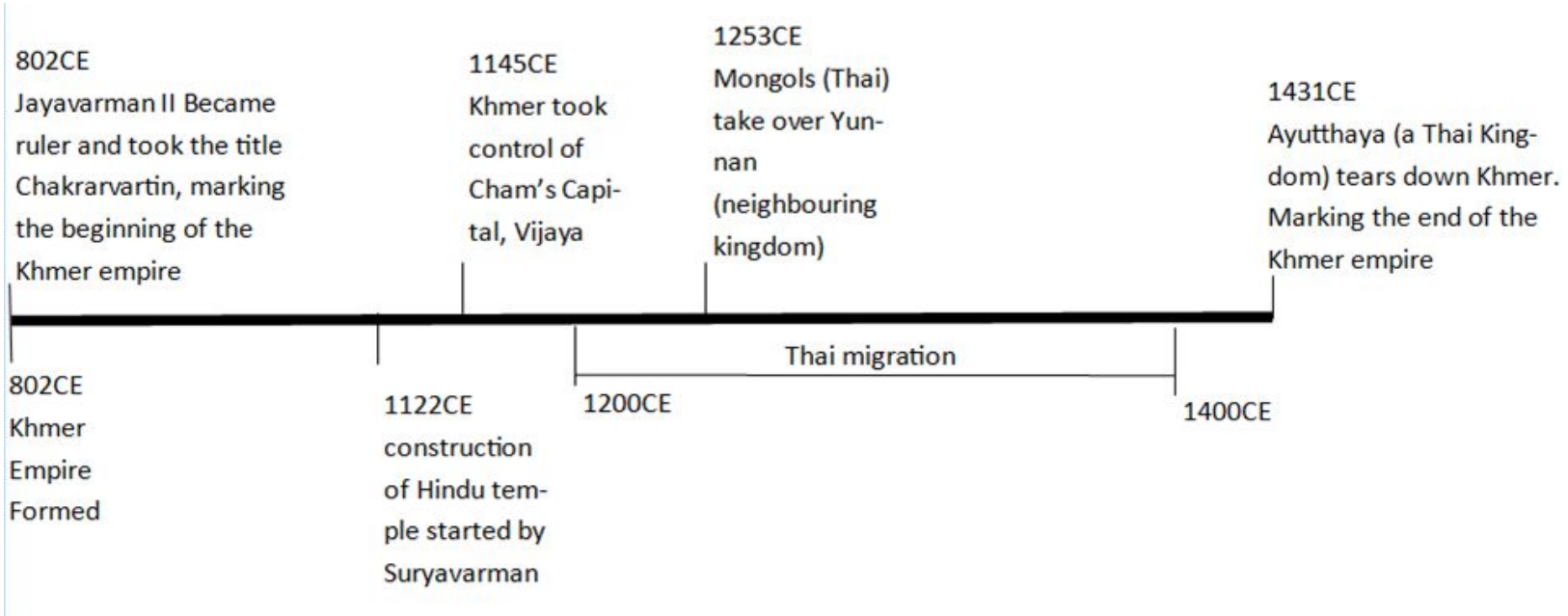
Architecture: Water Systems

Water systems were used to cope with vast changes in water quantities.

Large reservoirs (baray), roads, linear channels and embankments were used as water management and intercommunication networks in cities.



Timeline of the Khmer Empire



Art in the Khmer Empire



Stone carving was popular during the Khmer Empire as well as textiles and ceramics.

Literature in the Khmer Empire



Most Khmer literature was told orally (influenced by Buddhism and Hinduism from India) or written (this was mostly done by the Buddhist monasteries and the royal courts)