

Sukothai Kingdom

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Objective 1.3-Effect of belief systems on society

- Social - The Sukhothai Kingdom was the first Theravada Buddhist kingdom. The people in Sukhothai City, including the rulers, regularly attended temples and followed a Buddhist way of life. The time period in which this kingdom existed was referred to as the “Golden Age of Buddhism
- Political - Sukhothai developed into modern day Thailand which means “Land of the free”, and religiously individuals have the right to follow any religion or belief system as long as it does not impact one’s duties as a citizen
- Interactions - Formed when a Thai ruler revolted against the Khmer Empire, and gradually thai

1.3 continued

- Cultural - Buddhism spread from north-central Thailand throughout present day Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia. Even today, those countries still have the highest amount of practicing Theravada Buddhists. Buddhism was easily accepted in Sukhothai because it practiced the cherished belief of tolerance of inner freedom.
- Economic - The Sukhothai Kingdom's high agricultural production led them to be one of the most powerful kingdoms in SE Asia. Their successful economy allowed them to grow a large military of soldiers and elephants.

Objective 1.3b-Development and state formation

- Social- Both genders were seen as equal, and both were to be centered in the teachings of Theravada Buddhism.
- Political-The Kingdom was founded in the 13th century as a Thai ruler led a revolt against the Khmer Kingdom.
- Interactions-The Sukothai was also the first capital to expand the teachings of Theravada Buddhism to Laos and Cambodia.
- Culture- The art and Architecture was seen as a reflection of the Buddha making many statues and temples often times decorated with elephants.
- Economic-The kingdom was for many years the most vibrant and economically successful kingdom allowing it to expand its army with many elephants.



Art, architecture, literature and innovations that developed in the kingdom

