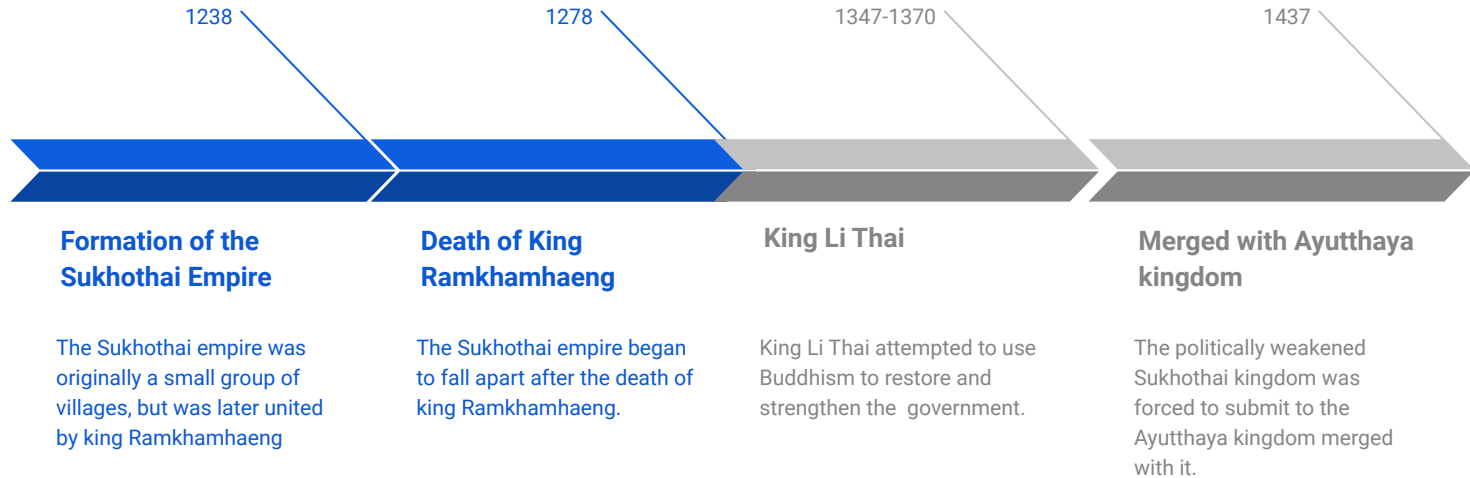


# Sukhothai Kingdom

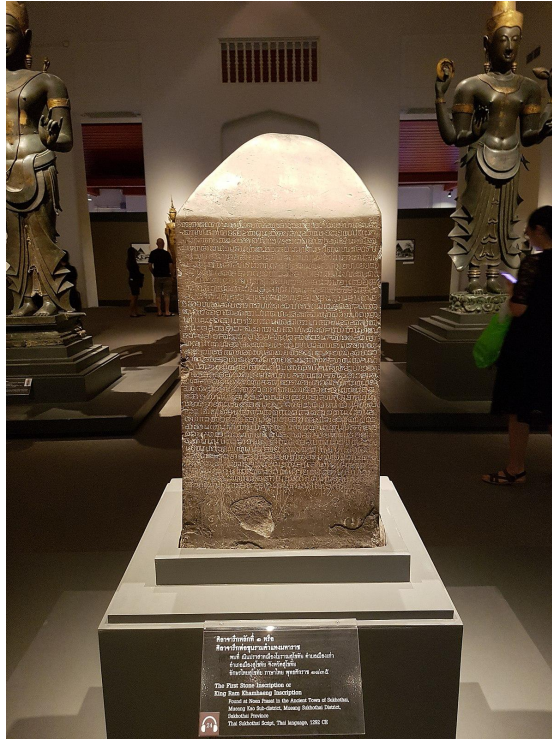


## Continuous factors: Kingship ideas, art, culture, and the duty free tax policy.

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# Art, architecture, literature and innovations



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

**S**-An idea of kingship followed by king Ramkhamhaeng was Dharma, the belief that the king should rule his subject according to the teachings of Buddha. These Buddhist influences also affected the Sukhothai region's art and culture, as shown by the cultural piece of SPICE.

**P**-The early kingship in Sukhothai followed the Hindu belief that the king derived his power from military might. This spread of Hinduism also affected society more directly through the creation of Hindu buildings and canals.

**I**-The Sukhothai kingdom had a large army with soldiers and war elephants, showing that the region in which it was located, (Indonesia), had elephants and that the people of Sukhothai utilized them as a natural resource. This use of elephants greatly improved the military of the Sukhothai kingdom, which helped the region's political stability and culture by ensuring greater regional security.

**C**-Buddhism was introduced by Nakhon Si Thammarat and heavily influenced by Sukhothai art, in Sukhothai culture it was regarded as the most beautiful art. The Sukhothai created bronze Buddha statues that were influenced by their art and culture, showing just how much this culture was influenced by other religious and cultural practices. The Sukhothai kingdom was also influenced by Hinduism, and both of these religions affected the region's culture.

**E**-King Ramkhamhaeng sent envoys to China, from which he obtained the technology of creating glazed ceramic vessels. The Sukhothai kingdom exported these vessels to Indonesia and the Philippines, prospering economically as a result. This improved the overall quality of life for the people of the Sukhothai kingdom..

# Explain how and why the Sukhothai of Southeast Asia developed and maintained power over time

**Social:** The idea of early kingship was based on two concepts based from Hinduism, inherited from the Khmers, and Theravada Buddhist beliefs (seen in the previous slide). The concept is based on the Hindu caste called “Kshatriya,” which also means “warrior-ruler” by which the king gets his powers from the strength of the military.

**Political:** Pho Kun Sri Indraditya, the first ruler, revolted against the Khmer Empire and gained sovereignty for the Sukhothai kingdom. The third ruler, Ramkhamhaeng, caused the kingdom to flourish by extending the power into present day Myanmar, Laos, and the Malay Peninsula

**Interactions:** After the death of Ramkhamhaeng the Sukhothai Kingdom began to deteriorate and was eventually absorbed into the Ayutthaya Kingdom. Sukhothai became a province but was independent from Ayutthaya control until it was brought under Burman influence. The environment made up of flowing rivers and rich mountain forests provided water and food for the citizens of the kingdom. Abundant nature fulfilled every basic need of people living in Sukhothai.

**Cultural:** The society of Sukhothai was largely Theravada Buddhist. The kingdom was noted for their bronze sculptures and pottery, but particularly their bronze sculptures of Buddha.

**Economic:** The kingdom was very active in trade and became prosperous because of Ramkhamhaeng’s drive to extend the empire. Once the Sukhothai kingdom was absorbed into the Ayutthaya Kingdom it was also exposed to rice production and trade. There was a "duty-free" tax policy that gave permission for all peoples to trade freely.