

East Asia and Southeast Asia (1945–Present)

SECTION 1

JAPAN BECOMES AN ECONOMIC SUPERPOWER

THE BIG IDEA

Due to a number of favorable factors, Japan emerged as an economic superpower.

TEXT SUMMARY

After World War II, the bombing left Japan devastated. The job of recovery included rebuilding burned-out cities and finding food and housing for the people.

Allied forces, led by United States General MacArthur, occupied the land. They had two goals: Stop military rebuilding and set up a democracy. In 1946, a new constitution let the Japanese elect lawmakers. It gave women equality, guarded rights, and took away the power of the emperor. In 1952, the Allied occupation ended.

By 1975, Japan had made an economic recovery. Success came from the produc-

tion of exports. Japan sent steel, cars, and electronics all over the world. Why did Japan succeed? It had a large force of educated workers. New factories had modern machines. High tariffs on foreign imports encouraged people to buy local goods. Finally, little military spending meant more money for business.

Along with economic success, Japan had its problems. Global events, like the 1970s oil crisis, meant a shortage of raw materials for a country with few natural resources. Eighty percent of the population lived in crowded cities. Past success came, in part, because employees gave their lives to work. Now, some seemed less willing to give up family time.

GRAPHIC SUMMARY: *The Recovery of Japan*

1945	1975
Japan occupied by Allies	Japan is ally of United States
New constitution strips emperor of power	Democracy in place
Many cities destroyed	Cities rebuilt
Japan not allowed to build up military	Japan counts on allies for defense; has more money to put into its economy
Japanese economy ruined	Japan develops high-quality exports and technology; makes foreign investments
Education only for the upper classes	Education available to all people
Few natural resources at hand	Japan exports finished goods while importing raw materials

Japan recovered from World War II and rose to economic power.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What were the two goals of the American forces that occupied Japan?

2. Chart Skills How did education in Japan change between 1945 and 1975?

FROM REVOLUTION TO REFORM IN CHINA

TEXT SUMMARY

After World War II, conflict in China continued. Mao Zedong led the Communists to victory over the Nationalists. Communists won control for several reasons. Mao won support from peasants by promising them land. Communism valued all workers, so most women also backed Mao. Finally, Mao's army was better than the Nationalists'. In 1949, Mao united the Chinese under communism and set up the People's Republic of China.

Mao ran a totalitarian state. He put all business in party hands. He urged peasants to join lands and make larger farms. Communist ideas replaced religion. New schools taught students to praise their leader. In 1958, Mao launched a program known as the Great Leap Forward. This program called for **communes**, groups of

people who live and work together, to meet production **quotas**, or shares. The program failed. In 1966, the Cultural Revolution forced people to be loyal to Mao. Red Guards made sure people followed policies.

In 1976, Mao died. New Chinese leadership brought more economic freedom, but little political change. Deng Xiaoping introduced the Four Modernizations aimed at updating farming, industry, science, and defense. In 1989, the army fiercely crushed a rally for democracy. In the 1980s and 1990s, China has tried to control its birthrate. Chinese leaders face the challenge of providing food, homes, and jobs for more than one billion people.

THE BIG IDEA

Communists succeeded in unifying China in 1949. They carried out reforms while building a totalitarian state.

GRAPHIC SUMMARY: Programs in Postwar China

Leader	Mao Zedong		Deng Xiaoping
Program	The Great Leap Forward	The Cultural Revolution	The Four Modernizations
Year Begun	1958	1966	1981
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase farm and factory output 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renew communist loyalties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reform economic system
Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communes Production quotas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Guards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family farms Some private businesses Some free-market sales
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program fails Two years of low production and hunger 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economy slows China closes to outside world People fear arrest Civil war threatened 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economy and standard of living improves Gap between rich and poor widens Foreign relations and trade improve

Postwar programs aimed to increase farm and factory output while keeping people under strict control.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Give three reasons why communist forces won control of China.
2. **Chart Skills** What was a goal of the Cultural Revolution?

TEXT SUMMARY

Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, and South Korea are called the “Asian tigers” because of their strong recovery after World War II. Their locations close to China and near major ocean trading routes helped their economies to grow rapidly. All four were influenced by Confucian ideas and Chinese power. Taiwan and Hong Kong have especially strong links to China. Hong Kong reunited with China in 1997. Taiwan remains a separate land.

After 1945, the Asian tigers became economic giants and centers of trade. Their great economic success began with light industry and then moved into heavy industry as well. These countries

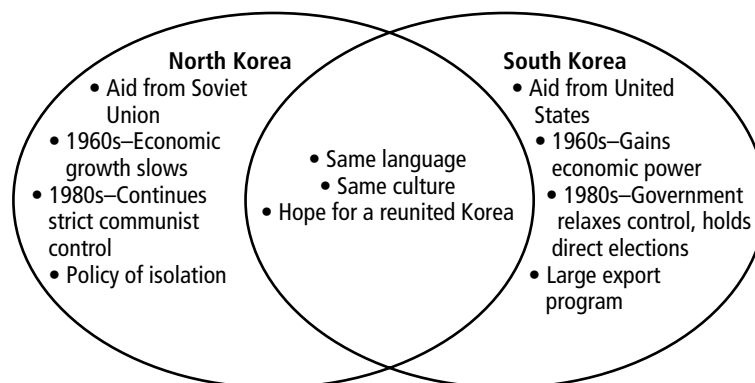
welcomed trade with China when it was closed to the rest of the world. They thrived not only because of trade but also because of electronics, textiles, and banking. As of 1980, Singapore, the smallest Asian tiger, had the busiest port in the world.

The Korean peninsula was another area that suffered during World War II. After the war, it was divided into communist North Korea and noncommunist South Korea. In 1950, the North invaded the South. A UN force helped the South while the Chinese helped the North. A **truce**, or cease-fire, in 1953 left Korea still divided. South Korea became one of the Asian tigers. North Korea struggled under totalitarian rule and a communist economy. (See diagram below.)

THE BIG IDEA

The nations known as the Asian tigers have combined industrialization, trade, and finance to achieve remarkable economic growth.

GRAPHIC SUMMARY: *The Two Koreas*



North Korea watched South Korea become an economic tiger.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are two reasons for the economic strength of the “Asian tigers”?

2. **Diagram Skills** Why do you think the economy of South Korea did better than that of North Korea?

SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC RIM

TEXT SUMMARY

After World War II, Europe hoped to regain its colonies in Southeast Asia. However, the colonies wanted to be free. Whether freedom came easily or after years of war, the newly freed lands had problems. They had little practice with self-rule. Regional and ethnic groups fought bitterly. Modernization proved difficult.

A thirty-year period of war began in 1946 in Vietnam, a French colony. The struggle became a major Cold War conflict. In 1954, communist fighters forced out the French. The nation split into the communist North and the noncommunist South. To stop a communist invasion of the South, the United States sent aid and then troops. The Soviet Union and China aided the North. Some Americans

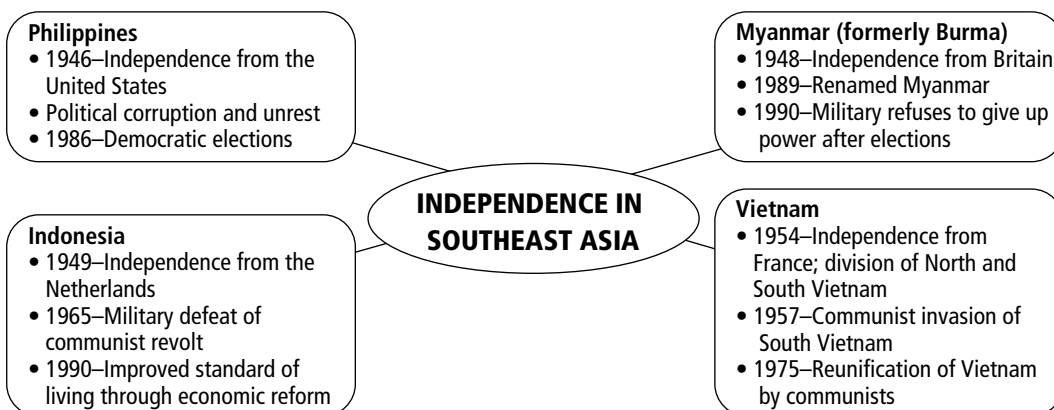
protested the United States role in Vietnam. In 1973, United States troops began pulling out. In 1975, the communists reunited Vietnam. They later came to control Laos and Cambodia.

Asian countries in the **Pacific Rim**, or countries bordering on the Pacific Ocean, became an important market in the world economy. The whole region profited from the busy ocean trade routes on which they are located. Foreign investors brought in money. In 1967, six lands—Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Brunei—formed the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to increase prosperity and improve self-reliance.

THE BIG IDEA

Following World War II, Southeast Asian nations struggled to free themselves from colonial rule.

GRAPHIC SUMMARY: *Self-rule for Southeast Asia*



Independence brought unrest to these Southeast Asian nations.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why did the United States become involved in the war between North and South Vietnam?
2. **Diagram Skills** Name three nations that lost their holds in Southeast Asia after World War II.