



# EAST ASIA PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

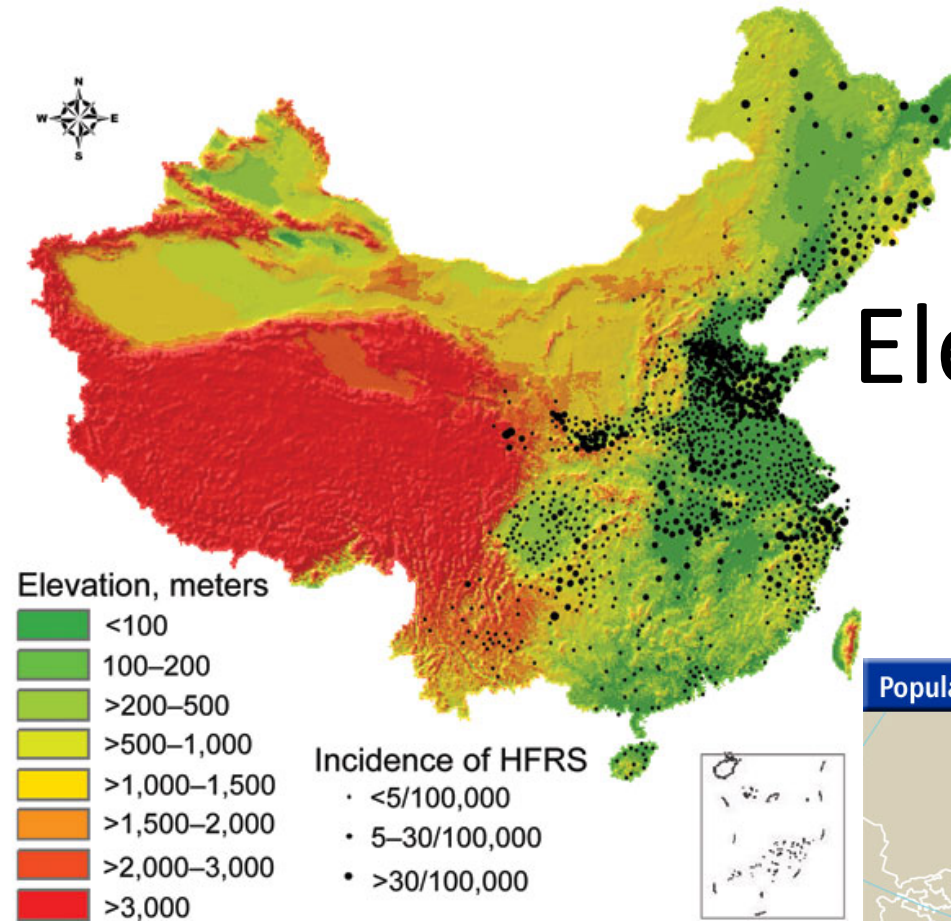


# Landforms and Rivers

- China
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> largest country by area, 1<sup>st</sup> by population
  - 40% of land is mountains (includes the Himalayas and Mt. Everest in the southwest)
  - Plateau of Tibet is the world's highest plateau
  - Most people live in the river valleys, along the coast, and in the plains of eastern China
  - Major rivers: Huang (Yellow), Chang (Yangtze), and Xi
  - While flooding of these rivers is vital to farming, it is often severe (Huang River—AKA “China’s Sorrow”)

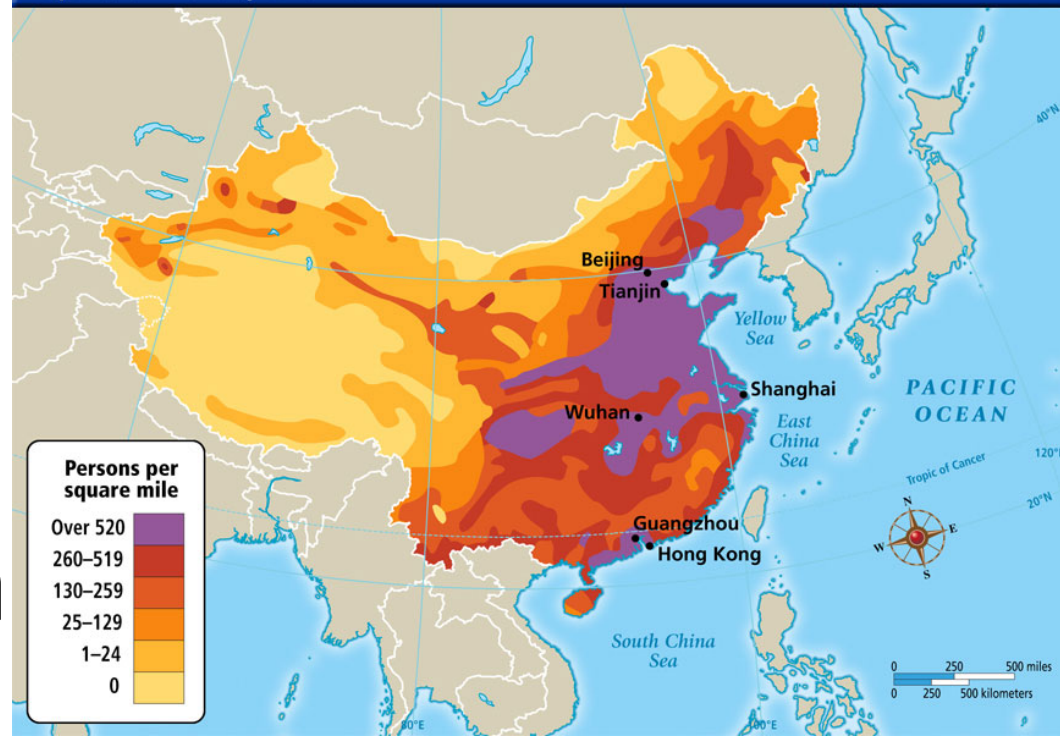


# Elevation of China



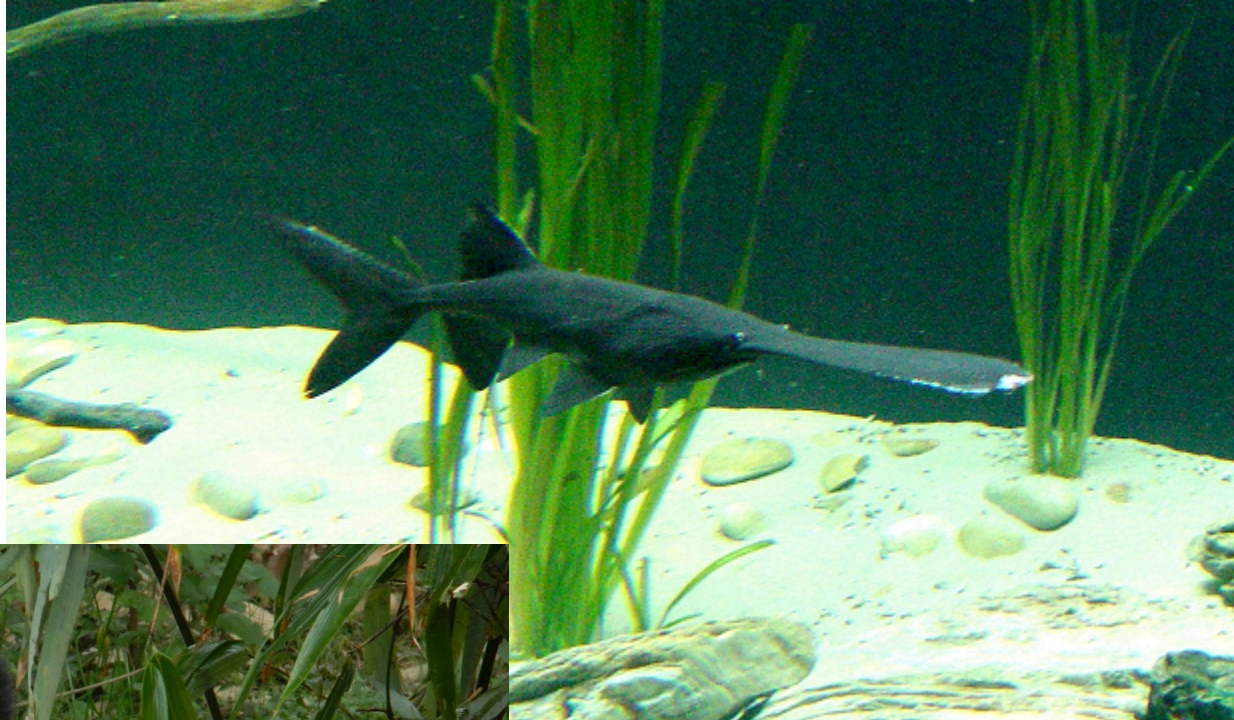
# Population Density of China

Population Density of China



# Climates, Plants, and Animals

- China
  - Most rain falls in eastern and southern China due to typhoons and monsoons
  - Large area creates a variety of climates and plant and animal life
    - Dry grasslands in north & west
    - Tropical rain forests in south
    - Common animals like camels, bears, wolves, horses, & carp; uncommon animals like the giant panda & paddlefish



# Natural Resources

- China

- World's leading producer of coal, lead, tin, and tungsten
  - Use of coal for energy creates extreme air pollution
- Large oil and natural gas reserves
- New focus on hydroelectricity to reduce air pollution
- Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze
  - World's biggest hydroelectric dam
  - Helps control flooding
  - Flooding from dam displaced 1 to 2 million people
  - Dam has disrupted ecosystems and animal migration





# Landforms and Rivers

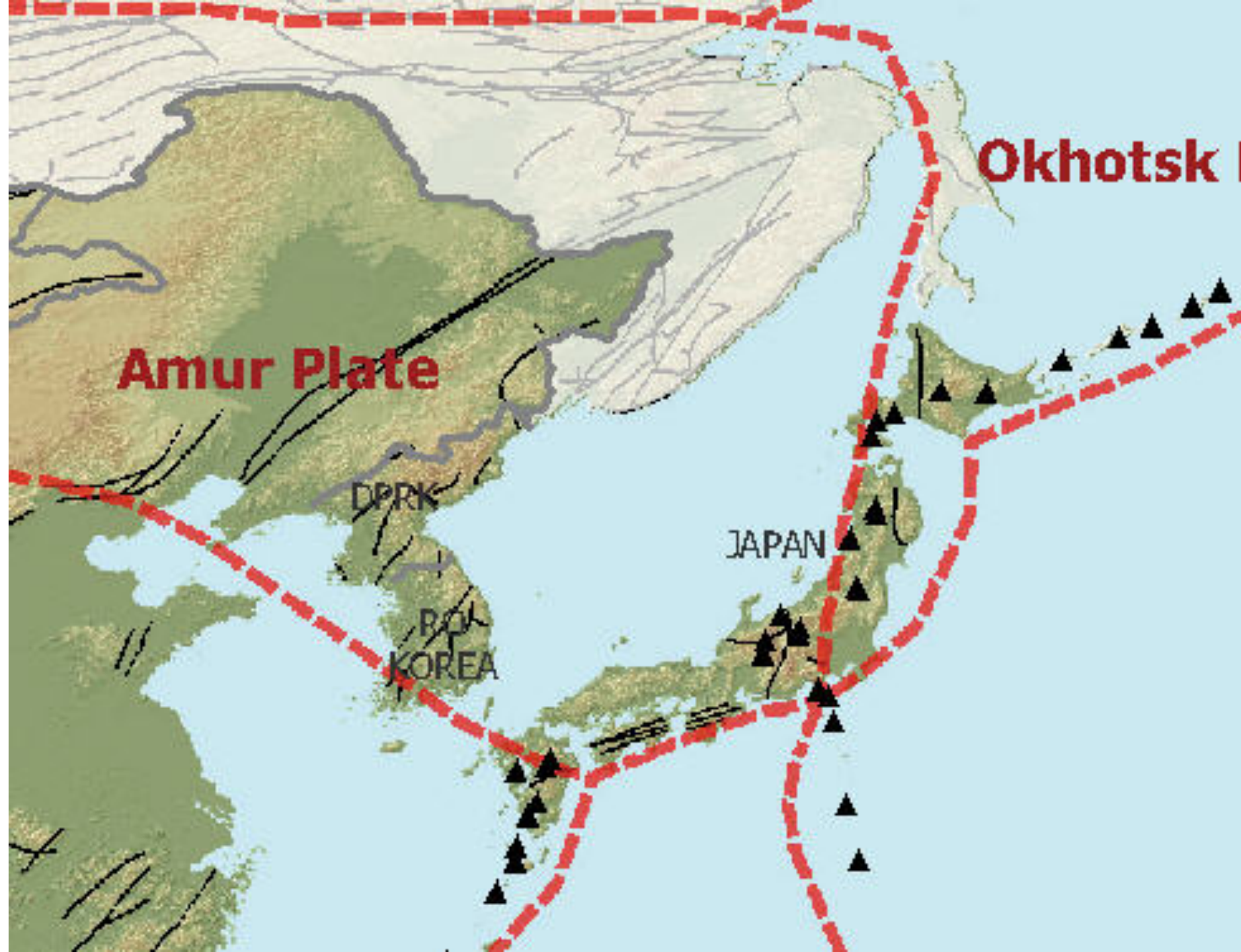
- Mongolia
  - Landlocked
  - Climate:
    - Very dry with extreme temps. (-50° F winters w/ severe blizzards & summers with spontaneous brush fires)
    - Caused by being so far away from any large bodies of water to regulate weather patterns



# Landforms and Rivers

- Japan
  - 4 main islands & thousands of small ones
  - 70% of land is mountainous, many being volcanic
    - Largest: Mt. Fuji
  - Part of the Ring of Fire
  - Tectonic activity creates tsunamis
    - Large sea waves
    - Impacts





# Climates, Plants, and Animals

- Japan and the Koreas
  - Climate dominated by monsoons and typhoons
  - Cold water currents bring cool summers and brutal winters to northern Japan and North Korea
  - Warm water currents bring mild winters & warm, humid summers to southern Japan & South Korea
  - Oak and pine forests across Japan and the Koreas with common forest animals
    - Deforestation has become an issue in the Koreas
  - Japan is a major flyway (migration route for birds)

# Natural Resources

- Japan and the Koreas
  - Limited resources in Japan forces industry to rely on imports (one of the main reasons for pre-WWII aggression)
  - Nuclear and hydroelectric power plants are used to reduce the need for oil imports
  - Japan is home to the world's largest fishing fleet; large fishing fleet in South Korea, too
  - Some iron, copper, lead, & coal deposits in N. Korea
  - 65% of Japan is forested, but to protect the environment most lumber is imported from US and Canada

# SE Asia Landforms and Rivers

- Mainland is one giant peninsula
  - Main landform is the Malay Peninsula
- Laos is the only landlocked country
- 3 landform regions:
  - Mountains to north trailing from the Himalayas
  - Plains in center
  - River valleys & deltas along coastlines and in south

# Landforms and Rivers

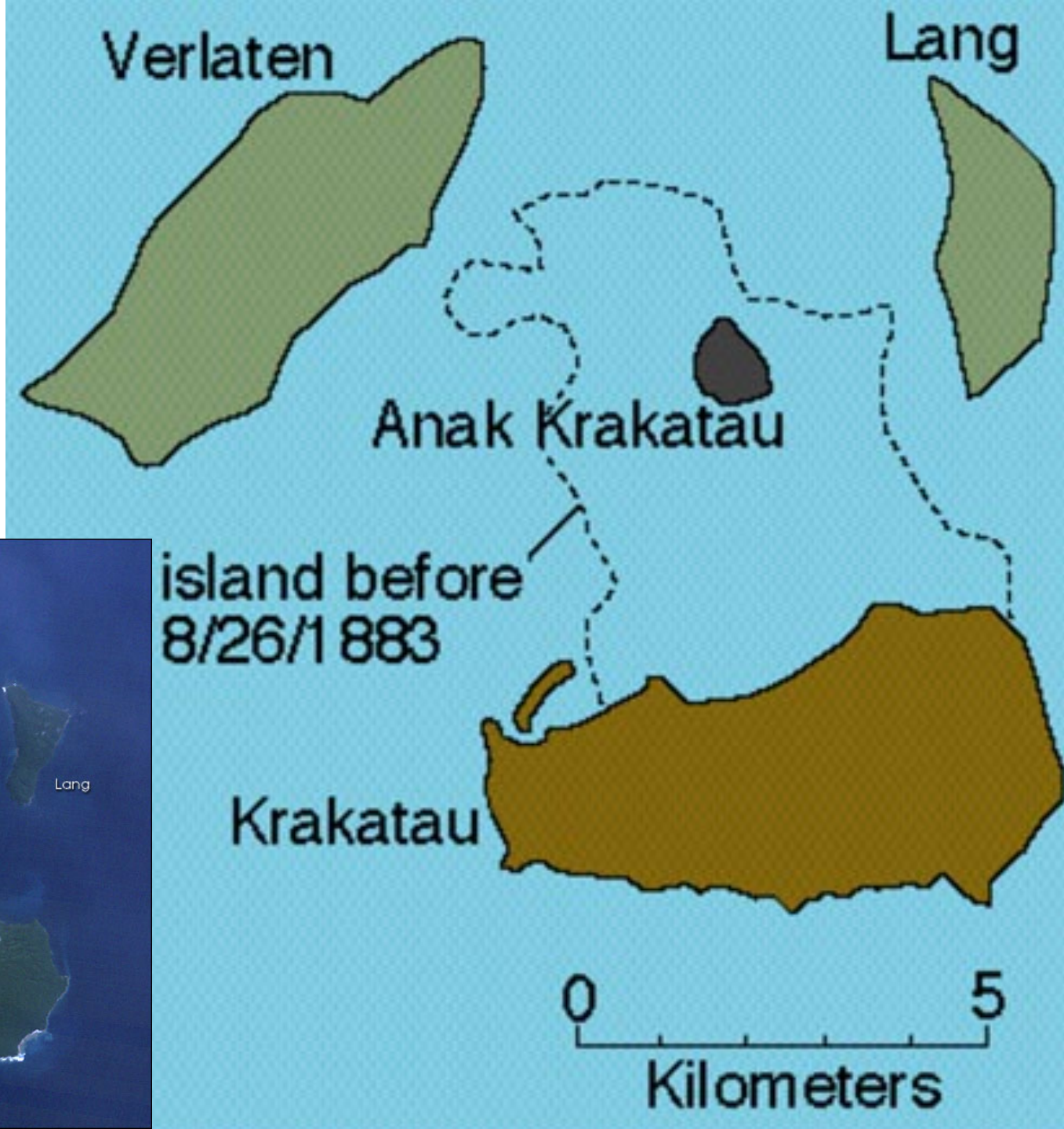
- Main rivers:
  - Irrawaddy in the west
  - Mekong in the center of the region is the longest
  - Hong (Red) in the north
- River and river valleys provide farmland and transportation routes



# Landforms and Rivers

- Islands south of the mainland are an archipelago
  - A large group/chain of islands
- Over 20,000 islands make up island SE Asia
  - Major islands are Borneo, Sumatra, Java, New Guinea, and the Philippines (largest=New Guinea)
  - Created by tectonic activity (world's most active area) including the volcano Krakatau
  - Tsunamis and lahars (volcanic mudflows) threaten many but also provide rich farming land

# Krakatau



# Climates, Plants, and Animals

- Natural parks have been created to protect the area's rare and endangered plants and animals and native tribes
  - Home of arboreal (tree-dwelling) animals like monkeys
  - Home of many endemic (native) species like the Komodo dragon (the world's biggest lizard) and orangutans



# Natural Resources

- Rainforests provide valuable hardwood & rubber
  - Thailand is the world's leading producer of rubber
  - Deforestation has led to soil erosion & flooding
- Metal deposits, precious gems, and some fossil fuels are present on both the mainland & islands
  - Brunei is tiny but home to a massive oil field
- Mainland rivers have the potential for hydroelectric dams
- Rich fishing grounds around the islands
- Volcanic soil makes the islands ideal for farming

# East and Southeast Asia Culture



# Chinese Culture

- China is the oldest living civilization today
- Built the Great Wall of China to keep out invading nomads from the north (Mongols)
- Other cultural achievements:
  - Made the 1<sup>st</sup> books with pages of wood
  - Paper
  - 1<sup>st</sup> printed books
  - Gunpowder/fireworks
  - Global trade (Silk Road)
  - Fishing reels
  - Suspension bridges

# Chinese Culture

- Unique language consisting of characters representing things/ideas rather than an alphabet representing the sounds in words
- To control population growth, China created a “1 Child” policy, but had unintended results...
  - In rural areas, largely ignored as kids are needed to work on farms
  - Girls abandoned/killed since boys carry family name
  - Lack of girls has led to a lack of marriages/families and high rates of rape
  - Changed to “2 Child” policy in hopes of fixing issues

# Mongolia

- People live as nomadic herdsman
- Unified under Genghis Khan
- Gained and maintained power through horrific violence
- Creates largest empire in human history
- Brought political stability and expanded trade across Asia
- After Genghis' death the empire falls apart, but the Mongols keep their unity and country
- As a neighbor and conqueror of China, much of the culture is similar



# Japanese & Korean Culture

- Culture originally adopted from China and then modified
- Being an island nation, Japan's culture is largely tied to the seas, especially food
- Performing arts very popular in Japan
  - Bunraku: marionette shows using life-size puppets
  - Kabuki Theater: emotions overly exaggerated meant to be funny

# Japanese Culture

- When Europeans showed up they changed Japan
  - Initially began trading and interacting with Europeans and adopting their culture
  - When Europeans began colonizing the region and manipulating China, Japan closed itself off & expelled all foreigners to preserve its culture and independence
- Being isolated caused the country to fall behind technologically until being forced open to trade by US warships in 1853

# Japanese Culture

- After being opened, Japan quickly modernized
  - Known as the Meiji Restoration
  - Colonized Korea for manufacturing resources after defeating Russia in a war
  - Invaded and colonized Manchuria (northern China)
  - Remained suspicious and hostile of Westerns and their actions
- In 1937 Japan invaded China starting WWII
- After being defeated, the US occupied Japan helping rebuild the country and changing the culture to be more Western

# Modern Japan: Tokyo at night



# Other Cultures

- Korean and SE Asian cultures are a result of foreign influences
- SE Asia influenced by China and India
  - Most areas adopted Indian culture from Indian traders
  - Vietnam is conquered by China and adopts its culture
  - In the 1500s Europeans began colonizing the region
  - WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam War has led to a heavy Western presence
  - Resulting culture is a blend of these influences



# Religion

- Most religions are actually philosophies of how people should live their lives, so people often blend them together
- China and the Koreas: main religion is Buddhism but Confucianism and Daoism also practiced
- Japan: Most people practice both Shintoism and Buddhism
- Mainland SE Asia: Buddhism with some Christians from European colonization
- Island SE Asia: Primarily Islamic from trade
- Philippines: Roman Catholic from colonization

# Confucianism

- A philosophy of social order and good government created by Confucius
- Core belief: Harmony comes from people accepting and fulfilling their role in society
- Other than friendship, none are equal
- Respect for parents most important (1<sup>st</sup> relationship; creates basis for all others); core part of Chinese culture today

# Daoism

- Taught to reject conflict and strife to maintain harmony and balance
- Yin and yang represent the balance in nature between chaos and order
- Encouraged very little gov't
- Most Chinese artwork is Daoist (focuses on nature)



# Shintoism

- Only true religion in East Asia
- Threat of natural forces in Japan led to worshipping the forces of nature
  - Has led to the Japanese being highly aware of environmental damage and protection





# Current Issues in East and Southeast Asia



# Economic Issues

- China is a largely rural, agricultural society despite recent urbanization & industrialization
- As part of the Cold War the Communist government made economic competition with the West a priority
  - Government took possession of farm land and built factories
  - In recent years private ownership has been allowed again to promote new economic growth
- Positive: China has created one of the world's largest and most rapidly growing economies
- Negative: forced growth has created an economic “bubble” causing a danger of collapse

# Chinese “Ghost Cities” & the economic bubble created by forced growth



# Economic Issues

- Focus on industrialization and urbanization has resulted in high levels of pollution
- Worst place: China
  - Few environmental & safety regulations to save \$
  - Air pollution creates a constant haze
  - So bad that some athletes refused to compete in the 2008 Beijing Olympics

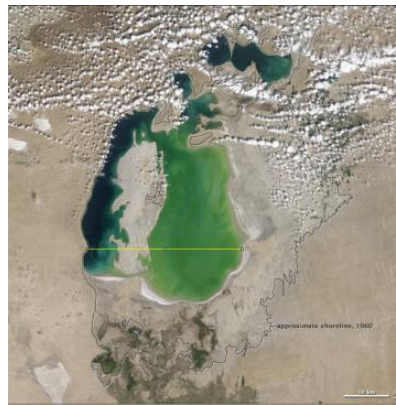


# Economic Issues

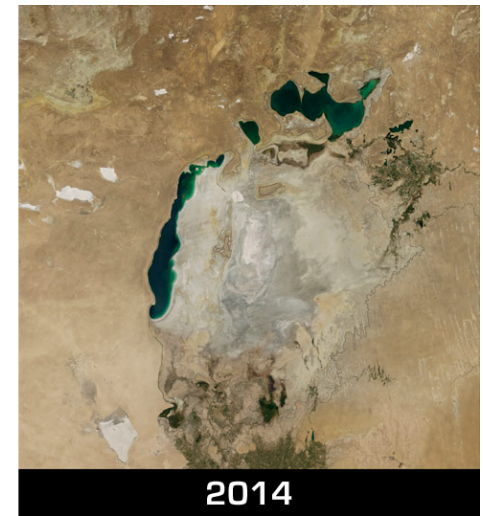
- Nearby example of economic development without environmental concern: Aral Sea



<1970



2000>



- Was the world's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest lake
- Soviets siphoned water out of the feeder rivers to turn desert into farm land
- As lake dried out salt and pollutants became concentrated killing all plant and animal life and creating toxic dust clouds

# Political Issues

- Taiwan:
  - Claimed to by China as a break-away province
  - To promote diplomacy and avoid conflict no country currently recognizes Taiwan as an independent country
  - Several countries do have diplomatic relations with Taiwan separate from China

# Political Issues

- China:
  - No political and very limited personal liberties
    - Special version of Google that filters websites not approved by the government
  - Has recently sparked protests in Shanghai where people have slightly greater economic freedom
- North Korea:
  - Has alienated all countries, even China, by pursuing nuclear weapons
  - Has tried inciting incidents with South Korea

# Political Issues

- Many SE Asian people feel isolated and no loyalty to their country
- East Timor is the newest country and a result of these feelings
- Despite disunity many countries realize the need to work together due to shortages
  - ASEAN: Association of Southeast Asian Nations
  - Regional economic alliance (like NAFTA)
  - Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) has recently been finalized and is now being sent to member countries for individual approval

# Conflict and Instability

- In Korea, at the end of the Korean War and armistice just stopped the fighting; technically the war is still not over
- Vietnam War:
  - Mine fields and unexploded bombs are a constant danger to people
  - Agent Orange: herbicide sprayed by plane to kill jungle and eliminate Vietcong hiding places
  - 2 lingering issues:
    - So heavily sprayed that some areas still can't grow anything
    - Has since been proven to cause genetic mutations, including birth defects and cancer
  - The Vietnam War caused instability in neighboring countries

# Agent Orange Birth Defects



# Urbanization

- Historically, these factors have been the most important factors in the development of cities because they attract people to live there...
  - Nearby Resources
  - Location and/or proximity to trade routes
  - Defense
- Southeast Asian cities have proven complicated and contradictory in how they are organized and function

# Urbanization

- A world city is...
  - The most important center of economic power and wealth.
  - A place where economy is dominated by global banks.
  - Where major decisions about the World's commercial networks and financial markets are made.
  - Examples: New York City, NY; London, United Kingdom; Tokyo, Japan

# Urbanization

- If the developed world (U.S., Canada, Europe, Japan, etc...) has World Cities, then the developing world has Globalizing Cities.
- Wages for an American worker cost too much, but laws are more lax in Taiwan and workers don't require as much pay, so the cost of an iPhone remains low.
  - Thus, Taipei becomes a Globalizing city, not too rich, but slowly getting richer.

# Urbanization

- Other examples of globalizing cities include Jakarta, Indonesia; Seoul, South Korea; Hanoi, Vietnam; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Singapore, Singapore; Manila, Philippines; and Bangkok, Thailand.
  - These cities have grown largely due to investment from Tokyo, although each city has a strong international backing...
  - Latin American cities like Buenos Aires, Argentina and Sao Paulo, Brazil grew due to investment from New York.

# Urbanization

- Globalizing Cities
  - The problem is that their population is growing faster than their economies making it impossible to provide for everyone
  - Population growth in these cities is coming from migration
    - People are migrating from the traditional agricultural regions into cities
    - Why would they do this?

# Urbanization

- What is happening in these cities?
  - SE Asian Cities like Jakarta and Manila are spreading outward, not upward like American urbanization.
  - More land is being used by more people.
  - The land is not being used as efficiently as possible.
  - Central business districts are growing because of foreign investment from World Cities/Core Nations while the outskirts of the city are expanding rapidly into areas that were rainforest/areas of agriculture.

# Jakarta, Indonesia



# Jakarta, Indonesia



# Growing Outward





# Urbanization

- What is a slum?
  - A slum, as defined by the United Nations, is a run down area of a city characterized by substandard housing, squalor, and a lacking in security.
  - 1 Billion people live in slums worldwide. By 2030, 2 billion.
- Slums in Southeast Asia are called *kampongs*.
  - These kampongs are not found in Singapore because of its wealth and its small borders

# Urbanization

- Problem with slums: unsafe due to...
  - Fire hazard
  - Collapse hazard
  - Little to no sanitation
  - Little to no access to fresh water
  - Overcrowding
  - Few jobs/opportunities
  - Few municipal functions (police, fire, etc.) due to the city being unable to afford it
  - Lack of health care, etc...