The India-Southeast Asia Connection
I. India and Early SE Asia

A. Need to keep in mind vs. today’s China

(India had a MUCH stronger influence than China which was still a northern state and had not expanded to today’s southern coast)
B. Early Religious Borrowing

1. Hinduism –

   a. traced even as far as the Philippines
   b. clear influence on mainland SE Asia
   c. continues in today’s Bali

   (strict code of behavior required for salvation + notions of “caste” are too alien for acceptance, except by ruling elite)
2. Buddhism –
   a. Theravada Buddhism – early form
      (Strict codes of conduct present in most of today’s Mainland Southeast Asia)
   b. Mahayana Buddhism – Chinese modified
      (Easier religion with Bodhisattvas to help faithful to Nirvana. Present in today’s Vietnam)

3. Islam – India serves as filter for Islam as it makes its way into Southeast Asia
C. Economic importance of the India-Southeast Asia Connection

1. The “Aquatic Silk Road” (maritime counterpart to the land route)
2. Monsoon dictates for travel & commerce
3. Dominance of Coromandel Coast (+ Malabar Coast & Sri Lanka)
D. Impact of Chola Empire
(military, political, AND commercial)

1. Rise of Chola from kingdom of Pandya ca. 9th Century

2. Rivalry between Pandya, Pallava, and Chola
3. Aggressive Chola

a. invasion of Sri Lanka 1017-1070 (hold capital of Anuradhapura)

b. 1025 defeat of Sri Vijaya navy ends dominance of the Southeast Asian trade empire of Sri Vijaya

c. 1068 return to SE Asia to protect its dependencies
4. Wealth of south Indian states

- a. indication of importance of Southeast Asian trade + productive irrigated agriculture

- b. manifested in urban culture

- c. temple complexes at
  Tanjore – Chola
  Madurai – Pandya
II. Southeast Asian Trade & Polities

A. Early trade forays

(Indonesian double-out-rigger ships to Ceylon & East Africa – 1st millennium B.C.)

B. Sri Vijaya – 7th-11th centuries

a. medieval trading empire
b. capital at Palembang on Sumatra
c. 1025 Chola attack ends dominance
C. Majapahit 1293-1528

1. based in central Java
2. combines trade + rice agriculture
3. area of influence 3x that of Sri Vijaya
4. spice trade with Europe
5. active trade relationship with China
6. competition from new Islamic states
   a. Melaka new trade state (15th century)
   b. Mataram with ports on Java’s north coast + “wet rice” agriculture inland
E. Melaka 1511

1. subjugated by Portugal to circumvent Venice & Ottoman Empire

2. Malay & Indian traders shift to other centers – principally Jahore

3. supplanted by British in Singapore 1819