



Cambodia

Culture: food and daily life

- They eat very little meat, mostly fish/seafood and vegetables
- Rice is served with pretty much any meal
- Urban population is better off than farmers even though Cambodia is impoverished



Traditions/Beliefs

- The population is primarily Theravada Buddhist, though other religions are followed
- Birthdays are normally not celebrated
- Life revolves around the family
- Country with the largest number of public holidays



Angkor Wat, a historic Buddhist temple

Language

- Official language is Khmer or Cambodian
- Most spoken language is Khmer
- English is also spoken by most of the population
- Language was derived from Sanskrit which is used in India

First series		Second series			
ក ka [ka:]	ខ kha [kʰa:]	គ ko [ko:]	ឃ kho [kʰo:]	ង no [ŋo:]	
ច ca [ca:]	ឆ cha [cʰa:]	ជ jo [co:]	ឈ jho [cʰo:]	ញ ño [ɲo:]	
ដ ʈa [dʰo:]	ឋ ʈha [tʰa:]	ឌ ɖo [dʰo:]	ឍ ɖho [tʰo:]	ណ ño [no:]	
ត ta [to:]	ថ tha [tʰo:]	ទ do [to:]	ធ dho [tʰo:]	ន no [no:]	
ប pa [po:]	ផ pha [pʰo:]	ព bo [po:]	ភ bho [pʰo:]	ម mo [mo:]	
ស sa [so:]	ហ ha [ho:]	យ yo [jo:]	រ ro [ro:]	ល lo [lo:]	
វ ʎa [ʎo:]	ឡ ʎa [ʎo:]	វ vo [wo:]			

Language: History

- Has been used since the 7th century AD
- Khmer has an old form and a modern form
- Has been found on tablets in southern Vietnam and Thailand as well as Cambodia



Old Khmer

Country History

- Became a French colony in 1863 but gained independence in 1953
- 1975-1979: Khmer Rouge (rural guerilla communist group) terrorizes the population and ~1.5 million people get killed
- Country was rebuilt with help from Vietnam and regained political autonomy in the 1990s



Government

- The Kingdom is an elective constitutional monarchy
- The current monarch is Norodom Sihamoni who was chosen by the Royal Council of the Throne as head of state
- The head of government is the Prime Minister, currently Hun Sen, the longest serving non-royal leader in Southeast Asia, ruling Cambodia since 1985

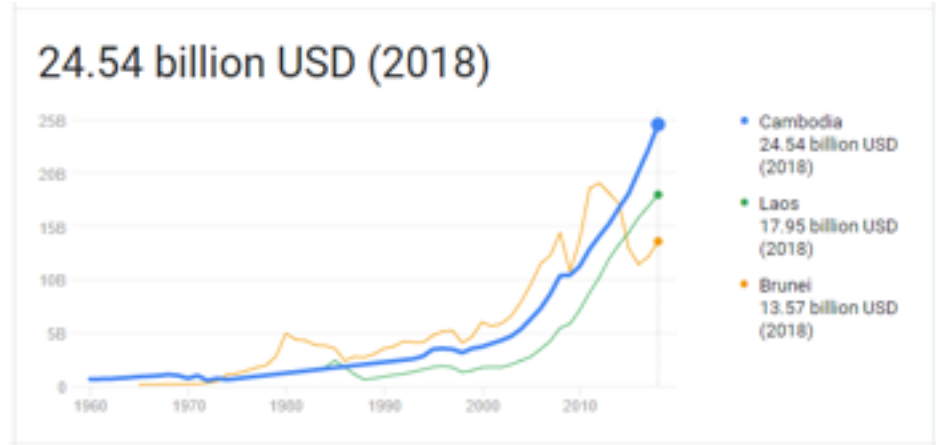


Trade/Economy

-Cambodia is currently our 58th largest goods trading partner with \$5.9 billion in total (two way) goods trade during 2019

- In 2019 the goods exports totaled \$514 million, and goods imports totaled \$5.4 billion

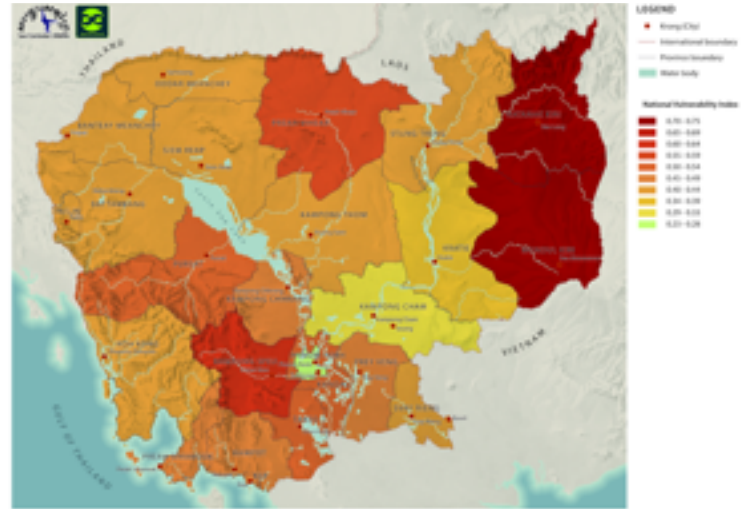
-In 2018 Cambodia's GDP was 24.54 billion USD and has been on a steep incline since around 2002



Climate

-Cambodia only has 2 seasons which they just refer to as “dry” (October to late April) and “wet” (May to late September)

-They still get quite a bit of rain but it comes in short showers



Allies

-The Cambodian government has diplomatic relations with most countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, and France, as well as all of its Asian neighbors, including China, India, Vietnam, Laos, South Korea, and Thailand.



Enemies

-Don't have many enemies but during the Cambodian Civil War North Vietnam and Viet Cong supported the Khmer group (or the Communist Party of Kampuchea) who were fighting against the government forces of the Kingdom of Cambodia.



Fun Facts

- Their flag is the only one in the world with a building on it
- Average age of the population is under 15
- the US dollar is one of their (un)official currencies
- No McDonalds in Cambodia

