

Encyclopedic Entry

Asia: Human Geography

Culture and Politics

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Asia is the largest of the world's [continents](#), covering approximately 30 percent of the Earth's land area. It is also the world's most [populous](#) continent, with roughly 60 percent of the total population.

The geographic term "Asia" was originally used by ancient Greeks to describe the [civilizations](#) east of their empire. Ancient Asian peoples, however, saw themselves as a varied and diverse mix of [cultures](#)—not a collective group. Today, the term "Asia" is used as a cultural concept, while subregion classifications describe the distinct geopolitical identities of the continent. These classifications are Western Asia, Central Asia, Southern Asia, Eastern Asia, Southeastern Asia, and Northern Asia.

Today, Asia is home to the citizens of Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal, North Korea, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste (East Timor), Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, and Yemen.

Asia's [physical geography](#), [environment](#) and resources, and [human geography](#) can be considered separately.

Asia is home to the world's earliest civilizations. Its [indigenous](#) cultures pioneered many practices that have been [integral](#) to societies for centuries, such as [agriculture](#), [city planning](#), and [religion](#). The social and political geography of the continent continues to inform and influence the rest of the world.

Cultural Geography

Historic Cultures

The [Fertile Crescent](#) is considered the birthplace of agriculture. Civilizations developed along a series of [watersheds](#), starting with the Nile River valley and arching up the Mediterranean coast, eastward toward Iraq and southward along the Tigris and Euphrates rivers until reaching the Persian Gulf.

[Nomadic](#) peoples settled along the lush river banks to harvest wild wheat and barley, becoming the world's first farmers. This represented a fundamental shift in the lifestyle of early humans, who until that point had survived by following their food as hunter-gatherers. Through agriculture, people learned to sustain themselves by manipulating the natural environment.

As more tribes settled and worked together, important agricultural innovations were developed, such as the wheel, [irrigation](#), and hand tools. Farmers used these tools to tame wild grasses, such as wheat, barley, and lentils. Farmers also domesticated animals such as cows, sheep, and pigs.

Agriculture made cities and civilizations possible by producing enough food for the community so not everyone had to provide for themselves. People not engaged in agriculture had time to develop writing, religion, [taxation](#), and [trade](#). For instance, the [cuneiform](#) writing system has preserved the history of the metropolis of Ur, part of the Sumerian civilization, which developed around 2100 BCE.

The Indus Valley was another hotspot of early civilization. From 2600 BCE to 1700 BCE, settlements developed on the flood plain of the Indus River, stretching millions of kilometers from northwestern India through Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The cities of the Indus Valley civilization established early forms of urban planning and construction. Buildings were well-organized and built out of durable materials such as brick and stone. Cities contained docks along the river, granaries, temples, residences, and warehouses. Cities were often surrounded by high walls, which offered protection from both [natural disasters](#), such as floods, and invading armies.

Placing a high priority on [hygiene](#), cities like Harappa and Mohenjo-daro (both in modern-day Pakistan) developed drainage systems, wells, and water-storage systems that were the most advanced of their time. For example, wastewater was directed from a home's bathhouse to covered drains that lined major streets. Houses only opened to inner courtyards and smaller lanes. This privacy radically reduced the spread of disease. These efficient and sanitary systems greatly influenced future urban development.

The spread of religion is an important example of how cultural practices expand into distant territories through a variety of direct and indirect actions. Buddhism, for example, has its roots in Nepal and India in the late 6th century BCE. Well-established [maritime](#) and land trade routes allowed Buddhist thought to spread to other Asian territories. Missionaries joined Buddhist merchants on their ships and [caravans](#), carrying with them religious manuscripts and images.

Buddhist missionaries remained in market cities for extended periods of time, facilitating the exchange of ideas and symbols. Today, Buddhism is the majority religion throughout most of eastern Asia, from Japan in the north to Cambodia, Thailand, Burma, and Laos in the south.

Art played an important role in the spread of Buddhism. Sculpture, paintings, and icons depicting Buddhist concepts and deities were easily understood and adopted by cultures outside Nepal and India. As Buddhist art was created in these specific cultural styles, the religion took on local significance in each region. Buddhism flourishes in part because it allowed its practitioners to express their devotion through creative means.

Asia's rich cultural heritage has modernized, along with its developing economies. The continent's growing middle class and increased investment from abroad support this modernization. Asian film, fashion, and music highlight the relationship between historic cultures and contemporary markets.

India is the world's largest producer of films, producing more than 2,500 movies every year. Film production is so widespread in India that it is categorized regionally. Areas such as Mumbai, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu produce distinct films that reflect regional language and culture. Government and private industry have invested heavily in India's film industry, and today more than 30 film production companies exist in the country. The world's largest film studio, Ramoji Film City, is in the city of Hyderabad. It offers more than 500 set locations and has the space to produce 60 films at the same time.

Indian cinema is a major export. The largest film industry is centered around Mumbai, and nicknamed Bollywood. Bollywood films screen in more than 90 countries around the world, and earn millions of dollars, especially in the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Singapore. The growing number of Indians working abroad has opened up new markets for Indian films. These so-called non-resident Indians (NRIs) account for roughly 12 percent of a film's total [revenue](#).

Central Asia's tradition of [textile](#)-making is enjoying a period of revival in such countries as Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. After the fall of the [Soviet Union](#), these former Soviet republics used their cultural history to help define a new national identity. Vibrant hand-dyed textiles were an important part of this cultural tradition, especially in Uzbekistan. *Suzani* textiles played a central role in Uzbek family ceremonies and denoted a family's status.

Today, workers dye, weave, and [embroider](#) Uzbek *suzani* textiles by hand after a long period of industrial production. Craftswomen are updating traditional designs and using natural dyes, such as indigo, walnut, and pomegranate, to create eye-catching pieces for the contemporary marketplace. Uzbek *suzanis* are sold internationally. Fashion and home décor companies from around the world have adopted *suzani* designs into their products. In order to support the growing demand, craftsmen's associations and nongovernmental organizations have been created to promote Uzbek textiles.

South Korean pop music, nicknamed K-pop, integrates traditional Korean song with contemporary pop, hip-hop, electronic, and R&B sounds. K-pop has developed into a pop culture phenomenon in Asia and abroad. Musical producers invest heavily in girl groups, boy bands, and soloists. Performers are followed by millions of fans, mostly Asian young adults, who have adopted their style and fashion trends.

K-pop producers and artists have invested heavily in broadening their appeal abroad. Korean artists tour with international headliners and work with producers such as American rappers Kanye West and will.i.am of the Black Eyed Peas. They also use Internet platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, to reach a larger audience. As a result, K-pop has a strong following in the United States, Canada, Australia, and Europe.

Political Geography

[Political geography](#) is the internal and external relationships between a continent's various [governments](#), citizens, and territories. Asian governments and citizens have created and responded to political and social change in ways that have profoundly affected these relationships at both the local and international level. As the continent continues to increase its political and economic prominence, its policy decisions will hold greater weight for the global community.

Historic Issues

One of the oldest and most intensely debated political disputes continues to be negotiated in the [Levant](#), an area in the eastern Mediterranean. The Levant, part of the Middle East, has been continuously occupied for thousands of years by the historic cultures of Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Israel.

The Levant is sometimes called "The Holy Land." This small region is spiritually important to followers of [Jewish](#), [Christian](#), and [Muslim](#) faiths. These are the three most populous and influential [monotheistic](#) religions in the world. All three faiths trace their origins to the Jewish patriarch [Abraham](#). For this reason, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are known as the "Abrahamic religions."

The religious conflict between Abrahamic religions in the Levant has endured for thousands of years. Christian leaders persecuted Jews in the region during the late Roman Empire. During the Middle Ages, European Christians sent soldiers on crusades to conquer and convert the Levant's Muslim majority.

The most recent conflict in the Levant is between Israel and neighboring nations. Israel, the only Jewish-majority nation in the world, was established in 1948. Prior to 1948, the area was a British colony called Palestine. Many non-Jewish natives identify as Palestinians. Neighboring states—including Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Egypt—accepted Palestinian immigrants and rejected the new Israeli government.

Major wars [plague](#) the region, including the Arab-Israeli War (1948), the Suez Crisis (1956), the Six Day War

(1967), and the Yom Kippur War (1973). Smaller conflicts, including incidents of [terrorism](#), are associated with Palestinian uprisings, or [intifadas](#). The First Intifada, which included nonviolent protests as well as armed assaults, took place in the late 1980s. The Second Intifada took place between 2000 and 2005.

The conflict in the Levant has resulted in Israel creating two “Palestinian Territories” (the West Bank and Gaza) within its boundaries. Treaties, such as the Camp David Accords (which established a lasting peace treaty between Egypt and Israel) have attempted to negotiate a lasting peace in the Levant.

The colonization of Southeast Asia is another example of how historic political geography can influence an entire region. [Colonialism](#) is foreign political rule imposed on a people. Chinese, Japanese, and European colonization of Southeast Asia lasted for more than 1,000 years. China, for instance, was the ruling power in Vietnam from about 110 BCE to 900 CE.

Colonial powers from Europe, the United States, and Japan imposed their rule on Southeast Asian peoples from the 1500s to the mid-1940s. While these powers had distinct motives, they were generally looking to expand their territory, increase trade, import cheap raw materials, and impose their cultural practices.

The Dutch and British established extremely powerful companies that oversaw trade and labor in their respective colonies. The Dutch East India Company, based in Indonesia, had the power to print its own money and engage in war. They enforced harsh labor practices on local peoples, who worked to collect [lucrative](#) spices and extract [precious metals](#). These resources were then sold in Europe.

Spanish and Portuguese colonists spread the Roman Catholic faith by converting indigenous peoples, especially in the Philippines. The French used their military to maintain control of their colonies, resulting in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people.

The countries of Southeast Asia are now independent. However, their economies, politics, and culture still maintain aspects of the colonial period. For instance, the Vietnamese language is written with the Roman alphabet, not the [glyphs](#), [ideograms](#), or indigenous alphabets of neighboring Asian nations. This is because the written Vietnamese language was established by the French, who use a Roman alphabet.

As with the colonial period, Asia was deeply affected by World War II and its aftermath. Japan was the most devastated Asian country in terms of loss of life and physical destruction. However, it also experienced a record period of economic growth after the war. Investment from the United States and innovative economic restructuring by the Japanese government stimulated this growth.

Japan’s Ministry of International Trade and Industry coordinated partnerships, known as *keiretsu*, between manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, and banks in order to streamline industry. The ministry also created a strong export economy, focusing on technology industries that still define Japan’s global image. Capital was invested in Japan’s infrastructure, especially in efficient transportation systems, communications, and technology. Japan’s intense public and private investment increased its [gross domestic product \(GDP\)](#) from \$91 billion in 1965 to more than \$1 trillion in 1980.

Current Issues

India’s and China’s economic growth has been profound in the last 20 years. Both countries have removed government controls, increased foreign trade, and built strong export-based economies. This economic growth has had both positive and negative effects.

China has the world’s fastest-growing economy, increasing 10 percent annually for the past 30 years. This is largely because China is the world’s largest [manufacturer](#) and exporter of goods. As a result of this growth, [wages](#) have increased rapidly, giving Chinese workers a better standard of living. More Chinese people have access to excellent [health care](#), [electricity](#), and education. China has a strong presence in international politics and influences

important debates, such as those surrounding terrorism and climate change. China has used its newfound wealth to invest around the world. China has invested billions of dollars in Nigeria, for instance, to extract [oil](#). Predicted to be the world's largest economy in the coming decades, China's economic decisions will greatly affect how and where future development occurs around the globe.

But China's rapid growth has caused a number of social, environmental, and economic problems. Rapid industrial growth in the cities has impoverished rural workers, who must migrate to congested urban areas to find jobs. Industrial activity has put stress on the country's energy and transportation systems and degraded air, water, and soil quality. Industrial growth also has major implications for global [climate change](#), as China is the world's largest producer of carbon dioxide emissions.

India's growth has been drastically different from China's. India is a [democracy](#), while China is a [totalitarian](#) state. This means that social and political reforms are debated more openly in India, and change is often more difficult because power resides in [coalitions](#) instead of one political party.

Unlike China, India's growth is largely a result of its rapidly growing [service industry](#)—not its manufacturing sector. In particular, India has become a major exporter of [information technology](#) services. Its telecommunications industry, which focuses on phone and Internet services, added more than 200 million subscribers in 2010. The country also hosts seven of the world's top technology [outsourcing](#) companies, which rely heavily on India's highly educated, English-speaking population.

India's growth has caused hourly wages to double during the past decade, bringing more than 430 million Indians out of [poverty](#) and creating an immense middle-class population. Much like China, India's urban infrastructure and global influence have also improved.

Despite this economic growth, India remains socioeconomically divided. India still has the world's largest concentration of people living in extreme poverty—below \$1.25 per day. The difference in revenue between India's more industrialized states and its poorer agricultural states has widened substantially. Much like China, India's urban infrastructure, education, and health systems are having difficulty adjusting to the large number of poor, rural migrants moving into cities.

In Asia's Arab region, conservative governments are under pressure from their citizens and the international community to enable political, economic, and social reform. While authoritarian rulers control the majority of these countries, their citizens broadly support democracy. In the so-called "[Arab Spring](#)" of 2011, social and political groups across the region staged armed protests calling for democratic reform. Governments have responded to these protests with both military force and political compromise. Syria and Jordan exemplify this political change in Arab Asia.

Protesters in Syria called for the legalization of political parties, the removal of [corrupt](#) officials, and the repeal of Emergency Law, which allows arrests without charge. In response to the protests, the Syrian government launched military campaigns to repress protesters. These campaigns have killed more than 450 people. Hundreds of Syrians have been jailed. The international community has responded by placing economic and political [sanctions](#) on the Syrian government.

Jordanians have staged weekly protests against corruption, rising prices, poverty, and unemployment. King Abdullah has responded to these protests by replacing his prime minister and forming the National Dialogue Committee. Made up of both government officials and opposition leaders, the committee is in charge of drafting reforms, including new laws for elections and political parties.

The implications of this complicated and often violent process of political reform are still too early to determine in Syria, Jordan, and other Asian states that have joined a common democratic cause. What is certain is that these changes will increase public participation in the political process.

Future Issues

Asia's growing political and economic prominence will continue to place stress on both local and global processes. Great focus has been placed on how Asia's increased development has negatively affected the environment. National governments and [international organizations](#) are working to protect local natural resources and the broader global climate.

The extreme loss of forest cover in Southeast Asia due to overharvesting of timber threatens the region's economy and biodiversity, as well as the world's [carbon budget](#). Between 1990 and 2010, Southeast Asia's forests contracted in size by roughly 33 million hectares (81.5 million acres), an area larger than Vietnam. By 2020, these forests are expected to shrink by an additional 16 million hectares (39.5 million acres).

This loss would mean an additional 8.72 gigatons of carbon dioxide would enter the world's atmosphere. It would destroy forests with important ecological value, such as Indonesia's lowland tropical forests. Furthermore, the loss would dramatically decrease the productivity of the region's wood industries, a main economic generator for many Southeast Asian countries.

International organizations and regional and national governmental bodies are enforcing [sustainable](#) forestry practices in order to combat forest degradation. The Cambodian government, for example, has encouraged the planting of fast-growing trees, modernized wood-processing equipment, and banned the export of many types of logs. Myanmar (Burma) has developed a network of more than 600 community forest management agreements that bring local people and the government together. Organizations such as the Forest Stewardship Council and the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme enable forest industries to pursue sustainable development. Roughly 3.5 percent of Southeast Asia's total forest area was sustainably certified in 2010.

Maldives, a country of hundreds of islands and [atolls](#) in the Indian Ocean, symbolizes the current and future effects of global climate change. Rising to only 2.3 meters (7.7 feet) above sea level at its highest point, Maldives has already felt the effects of rising sea levels. A 2004 [tsunami](#) flooded the entire country, killing 82 people, displacing 12,000, and inflicting \$375 million in damage.

The effects of global warming on Maldives will be more widespread during the coming decades. Along with rising sea levels, the country will be [susceptible](#) to coastal erosion, higher [storm surges](#), and loss of [biodiversity](#). This will drastically affect the country's [tourism](#)-based economy. A loss of beachfront property coupled with warmer winters in the Northern Hemisphere would keep residents of Europe and North America from visiting the islands.

The Maldivian government has taken decisive steps to curtail the effects of climate change, commanding the attention of the international community. Former President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom supported the construction of the artificial island of Hulhumalé, which now houses a hospital, school, government buildings, and residences for 50,000 people. Hulhumalé sits on ground several meters higher than the rest of the country.

In 2009, Maldivian President Mohamed Nasheed held the world's first underwater [cabinet](#) meeting in order to highlight the effects of climate change. At a table 6 meters (20 feet) below the water's surface, Maldivian leaders signed a document calling on all countries to cut their carbon dioxide emissions. President Nasheed also agreed to make Maldives the world's first carbon-neutral country by switching entirely to wind and solar energy within a decade. These acts have demonstrated that those who affect and are affected by climate change need to take decisive steps to create lasting environmental improvements.

VOCABULARY

Term	Part of Speech	Definition
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Abraham	<i>noun</i>	earliest Jewish patriarch and founder of the ancient Hebrew nation, claimed as an ancestor of the founders of Christianity (Jesus) and Islam (Mohammed).
agriculture	<i>noun</i>	the art and science of cultivating the land for growing crops (farming) or raising livestock (ranching).
Arab Spring	<i>noun</i>	(2010-ongoing) demonstrations and uprisings supporting democracy throughout North Africa and the Middle East.
atoll	<i>noun</i>	a coral reef or string of coral islands that surrounds a lagoon.
biodiversity	<i>noun</i>	all the different kinds of living organisms within a given area.
Buddhist	<i>noun</i>	person who follows the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha).
cabinet	<i>noun</i>	group of high-ranking government officials, usually top advisers to a president or monarch.
caravan	<i>noun</i>	group of people who travel together for safety and companionship through difficult territory.
carbon budget	<i>noun</i>	total amount of carbon and carbon compounds in the Earth and Earth's atmosphere.
Christian	<i>noun</i>	people and culture focused on the teachings of Jesus and his followers.
city planning	<i>noun</i>	activity of organizing and managing the future development of an urban community.
civilization	<i>noun</i>	complex way of life that developed as humans began to develop urban settlements.
climate change	<i>noun</i>	gradual changes in all the interconnected weather elements on our planet.
coalition	<i>noun</i>	a group of people or organizations united for a goal.
colonialism	<i>noun</i>	type of government where a geographic area is ruled by a foreign power.
continent	<i>noun</i>	one of the seven main land masses on Earth.
corrupt	<i>adjective</i>	dishonest or willing to take money for favors.
Crusades	<i>plural noun</i>	series of wars in which medieval European kingdoms attempted to gain control of the Middle East or "Holy Land."
culture	<i>noun</i>	learned behavior of people, including their languages, belief systems, social structures, institutions, and material goods.
cuneiform	<i>noun</i>	written language made up of different collections of wedge or triangle shapes.
democracy	<i>noun</i>	system of organization or government where the people decide policies or elect representatives to do so.
domestic animal	<i>noun</i>	animal that has been tamed for work or to be a pet.
economy	<i>noun</i>	system of production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services.
electricity	<i>noun</i>	set of physical phenomena associated with the presence and flow of electric charge.
embroider	<i>verb</i>	to decorate with elaborate sewing or needlework.
environment	<i>noun</i>	conditions that surround and influence an organism or community.

Fertile Crescent	<i>noun</i>	region extending from the eastern Mediterranean coast through Southwest Asia to the Persian Gulf.
glyph	<i>noun</i>	written mark or sign that indicates the meaning of what is written, such as a letter or symbol.
government	<i>noun</i>	system or order of a nation, state, or other political unit.
gross domestic product (GDP)	<i>noun</i>	value of the goods and services produced by a single country during a single year.
health care	<i>noun</i>	system for addressing the physical health of a population.
human geography	<i>noun</i>	the study of the way human communities and systems interact with their environment.
hygiene	<i>noun</i>	science and methods of keeping clean and healthy.
ideogram	<i>noun</i>	symbol that represents a concept or word instead of a sound or letter.
indigenous	<i>adjective</i>	native to or characteristic of a specific place.
industry	<i>noun</i>	activity that produces goods and services.
information technology	<i>noun</i>	development and maintenance of computer software and hardware systems.
infrastructure	<i>noun</i>	structures and facilities necessary for the functioning of a society, such as roads.
integral	<i>adjective</i>	very important.
international organization	<i>noun</i>	unit made up of governments or groups in different countries, usually for a specific purpose.
intifada	<i>noun</i>	revolt by Palestinians against Israeli rule.
irrigation	<i>noun</i>	watering land, usually for agriculture, by artificial means.
Jewish	<i>adjective</i>	having to do with the religion or culture of people tracing their ancestry to the ancient Middle East and the spiritual leaders Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
Levant	<i>noun</i>	area bordering the eastern Mediterranean Sea, including the nations of Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Israel.
lucrative	<i>adjective</i>	profitable or money-making.
manufacture	<i>verb</i>	to make or produce a good, usually for sale.
maritime	<i>adjective</i>	having to do with the ocean.
middle class	<i>noun</i>	people and culture characterized by incomes between the working class and the wealthy.
monotheistic	<i>adjective</i>	having a belief in a single god or goddess.
Muslim	<i>adjective</i>	having to do with Islam, the religion based on the words and philosophy of the prophet Mohammed.
natural disaster	<i>noun</i>	an event occurring naturally that has large-scale effects on the environment and people, such as a volcano, earthquake, or hurricane.
nomadic	<i>adjective</i>	having to do with a way of life lacking permanent settlement.
oil	<i>noun</i>	fossil fuel formed from the remains of marine plants and animals. Also known as petroleum or crude oil.

outsourcing	<i>noun</i>	process of moving jobs and factories to developing countries in order to lower costs.
persecute	<i>verb</i>	to harass or discriminate against, sometimes violently, on the basis of race, religion, or social and political beliefs.
physical geography	<i>noun</i>	study of the natural features and processes of the Earth.
plague	<i>verb</i>	to consistently bother, torment, or annoy.
political geography	<i>noun</i>	study of the spatial relationships that influence government or social policies.
populous	<i>adjective</i>	containing a large number of inhabitants.
poverty	<i>noun</i>	status of having very little money or material goods.
precious metal	<i>noun</i>	valuable metal, such as gold, silver, or platinum.
private industry	<i>noun</i>	business not funded by the government.
religion	<i>noun</i>	a system of spiritual or supernatural belief.
revenue	<i>noun</i>	income, or money earned before production costs are subtracted.
sanction	<i>noun</i>	penalty or fine for not following rules or structure.
service industry	<i>noun</i>	business that provides assistance to a customer. Also called tertiary economic activity.
Soviet Union	<i>noun</i>	(1922-1991) large northern Eurasian nation that had a communist government. Also called the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, or the USSR.
storm surge	<i>noun</i>	abnormal rise in sea level accompanying a hurricane or other intense storm. Also called a storm tide.
susceptible	<i>adjective</i>	able to be influenced to behave a certain way.
sustainable	<i>adjective</i>	able to be continued at the same rate for a long period of time.
tax	<i>noun</i>	money or goods citizens provide to government in return for public services such as military protection.
terrorism	<i>noun</i>	use of violence and threats of violence to influence political decisions.
textile	<i>noun</i>	cloth or other woven fabric.
totalitarian	<i>adjective</i>	having to do with an oppressive, centralized leadership that does not allow for differing opinions.
tourism	<i>noun</i>	the industry (including food, hotels, and entertainment) of traveling for pleasure.
trade	<i>noun</i>	buying, selling, or exchanging of goods and services.
tsunami	<i>noun</i>	ocean waves triggered by an earthquake, volcano, or other movement of the ocean floor.
wage	<i>noun</i>	money or goods traded for work or service performed.
watershed	<i>noun</i>	entire river system or an area drained by a river and its tributaries.

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