

HONG KONG

History:

Hong Kong was once a British colony that was established during the Opium wars in the mid-19th century. It could serve as a way into China for the British soldiers. In the very end of the 19th century (when there was peace) an agreement was made between the British Empire and China that made Hong Kong an English Colony for 99 years.

At that time Hong Kong was a poor colony and did not get much attention from Great Britain. During the communist revolution in China and the rise of Mao Zedong a lot of migrants from China fled to Hong Kong.

Politics:

Since Great Britain didn't care much about Hong Kong, Hong Kong had to take care of itself. Hong Kong developed a very free economy during the lack of resources to create a welfare state. In 1960 the economy began to grow, massively. The industry and trade was the main income for Hong Kong during that time. Now the industry companies have moved to China, after China opened up their economy because of the lower salaries. However, the development is still based in Hong Kong. Today Hong Kong is a service based economy.

Economy:

The currency of Hong Kong is Hong Kong Dollar (HKD). It is worth almost as much as the Swedish "krona" but it is worth slightly less, as 10HKD is the same 8.7SEK. Hong Kong does have a higher purchasing power than Sweden. The people of Hong Kong are richer than most people in Sweden, mostly due to very low taxes and it is easy to start your own business so there is no lack of jobs. Hong Kong is according to the "Index of Economic Freedom" the freest economy in the world.

SINGAPORE

History:

Singapore was a British colony and during World War II, Singapore was conquered and occupied by the Japanese Empire from 1942 to 1945. When the war ended, Singapore reverted to British control, with increasing levels of self-government being granted, culminating in Singapore's merger with the Federation of Malaya to form Malaysia in 1943. Singapore became an independent republic on 9 August 1965.

Religion:

Singapore is a multi-religious country, but the two religions with the most followers are Buddhism and Taoism, who over half of Singapore's population follows. That is because most of the people living in Singapore come from China, where both Buddhism and Taoism are two of the biggest religions.

Food :

The food in Singapore includes lots of fish and noodles and is very influenced by the Chinese food. In Singapore you can find all kinds of food, and also have some local favorites, like Bak Kut Teh. That is a Chinese pork ribs in soup cooked in herbs with five spices. Another typical food, Char Kway Teow is a savory sweet noodle dish.

Laws:

There are very strict laws in Singapore. Smoking in public, chewing gum, spitting in public, littering, and jaywalking are all illegal. Also, being gay is illegal and the penalty is up to two years. If you break these laws you'll get fines.

INDIA

History: The name India comes from the river "Indus" which now runs most of the river through the country Pakistan.

About thousand years ago before Christ, they started to build large cities in India. And the Vedic religion evolved and the inhabitants worshiped many different gods. And eventually the Dravidian people got into India and about 1500 people who got into India spoke Indo-European languages. Around 500 years before Christ the Buddhism religion also developed in India.

The British imperial had a lot of power in India. They soon controlled all of India, either by their own soldiers, officials and laws or under the Indian princes (rulers). When India was a British colony the country developed in many ways, the Britons invested in railways and

education for some group. At the same time oppressed the British Indian population and made sure that everything in the country favored the British.

In the late 1800 the Indian of the middle class wanted the country to become independent from the Britons. Some formed the Indian National Congress, which soon became a very large organization. It was led by "Mahatma" Gandhi, who believed that the problem would not be solved with violence. Instead they should not follow the British rules and buy the British goods, in the end, the Britons agreed to allow India to become independent.

Mahatma Gandhi was an Indian lawyer, politician and a spiritual leader. Mahatma Gandhi made India an independent country.

Religion:

India is the birth place of four of the world's major religions: Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism and Sikhism. Around 80 % of the population has Hinduism as a religion and it is the biggest religion in India. But the Muslim population in India is the third largest in the world.

Although there are many different religions in India they all respect each other's religion, the citizens of India are generally tolerant of each other's religions.

Climate:

North India is divided in two zones. It is small, temperate in the north and a large, tropical in the south. In India it is never below zero, the coldest time is in January when it's around 59 degrees (15 grader) and it's in the north of India. Otherwise it is always around 86 degrees and up. (30 grader).

Culture:

An overwhelming majority of Indians have their marriages arranged by their parents or other family members. Marriage is thought for life, and the divorce rate is extremely low. Child marriage is still a common practice, with more than half of the women in India marrying before the legal age of 18. Many families would never accept their daughter getting married with a non-Indian boy.

India has three national holidays, Republic day, Independence day and Gandhi Jayanti.

Traditional Indian dress varies in colour and style across regions and depends on various factors, including climate and faith. Popular styles of dress include draped garments such as sari for women and the dhoti or lungi for men.

Sport:

India's official national sport is field hockey. The Indian hockey team won the 1975 hockey world cup and have as of 2011, taken eight gold, one silver and two bronze Olympic medals and making it the sport's most successful team.

But cricket is by far the most popular sport and India has hosted or co-hosted several international sporting events.

THE PHILIPPINES

History: The Philippines history is divided into four different periods: The pre-Spanish period before 1521, The Spanish period 1521-1898, The American period 1898-1946 and the last one The post-independence period 1946 and present.

Religion:

The Philippines is a Christian country where more than 90% of the inhabitants are Christians but it's divided into two sections. Nearly 80% of the whole population belongs to the Roman Catholic Church and the rest which is 10 % belongs to Christian denominations. Five to ten percent of the population is Muslim

Industry:

The Philippines industry has a big influence to the rest of the world because the country produces some main products. Some of their production is: food, tobacco, plastic and textile products, all kind of clothing, leather products, wood, paper products, printing and publishing, furniture and electronics. But the heavier industries are dominated by the production of glass, cement, industrial chemicals, mineral products, transport equipment and refined petroleum products. The industrial part is focused in city areas, particularly in the Manila region.

Geography and Climate:

The Philippines, which includes almost 7000 islands is located in the southeast coast of Asia. The climate in The Philippines is very tropical climate with a lot of rainy and dry seasons. The summer brings heavy rainfalls while the winter season brings cooler and drier air but the temperatures don't often rise above 37 °C. The Philippines has suffered severely times from nature disaster like earthquakes, floods and drought.