Note Outline on “Imperialism in Southeast Asia and the Pacific”

1) What are the major geographic regions of Southeast Asia? Which peoples following which religions are found there?

2) What are the two largest island groups in Southeast Asia?

3) How did Britain gain control of Burma in the 19th century?

4) How did the British rule Burma? Why was it such a valuable colony for them?

5) Why were elephants considered to be particularly valuable and useful to the British in India and Burma? How are differences in social classes evident from the photos?

6) Why was Malaya (present day Malaysia), and specifically the Straits of Malacca, of geopolitical importance? Name three European countries, in chronological order, that successively claimed this area?

7) When did Malaya become a British colony? What other territories in the region did Britain control as colonies? How and why did the British change the composition of Malaysian society? Why were Malaysia’s products so valuable to the British?

8) Which country dominated Vietnam throughout much of its history? In the 17th century which two families had divided up Vietnam? Who did the French help? Why did the French ultimately come to control Vietnam?
9) How did French Indochina come into being? How did the French govern this region?

10) When was the Dutch East India Company created? Where did it concentrate its trading activities? Why did the Dutch government take over the company’s territories in 1800?

11) On which island did the Dutch centralize their control of the region? Why do you think they had difficulty in conquering and uniting the archipelago? When did they finally gain control of the region?

12) When and by whom were the Hawaiian Islands first settled? What happened to native Hawaiian rule? What were the steps by which Hawaii ultimately became the 50th state of the U.S.?

13) Where and when was the Spanish-American War fought? What was the result of the Treaty of Paris of 1898? Who was the independence leader in the Philippines? Why was he disappointed by the outcome of the Spanish-American War and Treaty of Paris?

14) When was the Philippine-American War fought? Why did it dissolve into a bloody guerilla war? How many U.S. soldiers and Filipino soldiers and civilians were casualties of that conflict?

15) What steps did the U.S. take after the war to “Americanize” the Philippines? When and how did the Philippines finally gain their independence from the U.S.?

16) Which country in Southeast Asia was the only one to maintain independence from foreign imperial rule? Why was it able to do so?