

Country Connections: Ancient & Modern

In this Study Group we will ask participants to pick two (or more) countries and discuss the influence one has had on the other. The influence could be positive or negative and can be in any area from the arts to military conquests. Only one of the countries needs to be in Asia and the relationship can be from any time period. We are hoping this theme will expose us to new and different ways of looking at the connections between nations.

Here are a few possible topics; please feel free to develop your own:

Korea & Japan: Pottery & Porcelain

USA & Vietnam: from war to normalization to friends

India & China: History of border disputes

Japan & Singapore: A history of the Japanese in Singapore: 1800's to present day

Australia & Asylum seekers from Vietnam, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, etc.

North & South Korea: the ups & downs since 1945

Holland & the Spice Islands

USA & Taiwan

China & Vietnam: The 4 periods of Northern Domination

USA & China: Trade flows

Portuguese Influence on Asian Food

French Indochina

UK & Japan: The Anglo-Japanese Style in decorative arts: 1851 to 1910

Portuguese Influence on Asian Food

French Indochina

USSR & Central Asia

India & Southeast Asia Trade textiles

Singapore: a safe haven for Asian money & investments