Lines of Thought

- Racial region?
- Ecological region?
- Historical region?
- Linguistic region?
- Cultural region?
Racial Region

- Idea of fixed number of geographic races has been debunked by physical anthropology
  - Usually there has been as much diversity \textit{within} the geographical races that anthropologists have tried to define, as \textit{between} them
  - Three races cannot even begin to encompass actual human diversity
  - In Stanley Garn’s 9-race classification East and Southeast Asia form one racial group, though even this one divides between north and south at about the Hwai River (an ecological boundary)
Garn’s Nine Race Classification
Ecological Regions

- Chingling-Hwai River Ecological Boundary
  - Water buffalo versus cattle
  - Rice versus wheat/barley/millet
- In north
  - Noodles, soybean, lamb, and beef
- In south
  - Rice, tea, bamboo, tropical fruits
- Japan mostly in “south” because of moderating ocean currents
- Korea divided like China
- Vietnam tropical
Ecological Boundaries in East Asia
Movements of People

- China a “pristine civilization” that evolved in situ in the North and expanded south
  - Northern deserts and steppes prevented northward movement
  - Mongols, Turks, and Manchus moved into North China during times of weakness

- Korea and Japan created early “contact states”
  - Aboriginal peoples from ancient times
  - Waves of Tungusic peoples moved down Korean peninsula and into Japan
  - Chinese colonies in North Korea 100 BC—400 AD
  - Mongols conquer China and Korea, but not Japan in 13th century

- Vietnam developed from rebellion against China
  - Indigenous southeast Asian type people from early on
  - Some non-Chinese groups move from Southern China into Vietnam
  - Mongols unable to conquer Vietnam, but ethnic Chinese have lived there in significant numbers
East Asia 100 BC-100AD
State Formation

- **China**
  - Pristine states formed in North China plain from 2000 BC
  - States warred and amalgamated into first empire 220BC
  - Times of unity and expansion as well as disunity and penetration

- **Korea**
  - Contact states on Korean peninsula from 2\textsuperscript{nd} century AD
  - First unified state in 668AD
  - Consolidation of Korean ethnic group from south to north absorbing Manchus and others in the process
State Formation

- **Japan**
  - Archaeological evidence of two prehistoric (contact?) states, one on northern Kyushu and one in the Kyoto Region
  - By first histories in 7th Century AD a unified state with capital in Kinki region with gradual expansion into “Ezo” areas in the north
  - Continental influence?

- **Vietnam**
  - Indigenous state created with rebellion against Chinese control
  - Expansion from Hanoi to the south absorbing Champa and parts of the Khmer Empire
East Asia in the 8th Century
East Asia Today
Linguistic Evidence

- Genetic Language Families
  - Process of language spread and differentiation from ancient original language creates “related” language

- East Asian language families
  - Altaic—Korean, Manchu, Mongolian . . . And probably Japanese
  - Sino-Tibetan—Chinese, Hmong, Tibetan, Burmese
  - Austro-Asiatic—Vietnamese, Khmer, Mon . . . And maybe Thai (or maybe Tai languages are a separate family)
Sino-Tibetan Language Family
Languages of Southeast Asia

The origins of the Koreans and Japanese are different from the Chinese
- Probably migration down from Siberia through Korea to Japan (and from Siberia down into Japan)
- Some Southeast Asia influence?

Chinese have always lived in North China, but absorbed Southeast Asian peoples in moving into South China

Vietnamese have probably always lived in North Vietnam, but historically the Vietnamese have been under the influence of Chinese Civilization while the related Khmer have received more influence from Indian civilization. Absorbed Khmer and Champa as moved south.
Religious Influences

- **Chinese religions—Confucianism, Buddhism, Daoism**
  - Buddhism introduced from India, but developed distinctively in East Asia
    - Chinese scriptures translated from Indian language
    - Mahayana Buddhism spread to Korea, Japan, and Vietnam and interacted with Buddhism in China
  - Confucianism adopted by ruling elites in Korea and Vietnam, and to a lesser degree in Japan
  - Daoism less influential outside of China

- **Indigenous religions**
  - Korean shamanism
  - Japanese Shinto
  - Vietnamese spiritualism
Religions of Asia
Linguistic Influences

- Literary Chinese the language of the “classical texts” (Confucian, Buddhist, Historical, Literary)
- The Korean, Japanese, and Vietnamese languages—though not related to the Chinese language family—have borrowed much vocabulary from Chinese
- “Return loan translations” from Japanese into Korean and Chinese
- Result—to a degree East Asian share a common ethical, and intellectual culture, and modes of thought even though they have different origins
Linguistic Differences

- (see hand out #2)
National Identity (Japan/Korea)

- Race, language, and culture tends to be viewed as a unitary whole (ethnonationalism = 民族主義)
- Japan—reduced to four main Islands plus Okinawa as a result of loss of WWII
  - National minorities present because of imperialism (ethnic Koreans, ethnic Chinese, and to a degree Okinawans) not conceptually well-integrated into the nation (Korean-Japanese considered a contradiction)
- For Korea—division into north and south was a result of the Cold War
  - South Korean (Han’guk = 대한민국) traces its legitimacy to the Great Han Empire (1897-1910) that was “continued” through the Provisional Government in exile in China during the Japanese occupation 1910-1945
    - “free-world, capitalist country allied with the US” that is an ethnic nation
  - North Korea (Chosŏn = 조선민주주의인민공화국) traces its legitimacy to the anti-imperialist guerilla movement
    - “independent socialist state” and “a revolutionary state . . Formed during the glorious revolutionary struggle against imperialist aggressors, in the struggle to achieve the liberation of the homeland and the freedom and well-being of the people” —also an ethnic nation
National Identity (China)

- China
  - Concept of “jiaohua” 教化 of “barbarian peoples” by assimilating them to Chinese culture was method of expansion
  - Today's PRC claims territory of the former Qing (Manchu) Empire incorporating peripheral areas according to “national minorities policy” 少數民族政策 (except Mongolia set up by Soviet Union in 1924)
    - Autonomous Regions and prefectures (自治區, 自治州)
    - Regions: Tibet, Qinghai, Xinjiang-Uighur, Kwangxi-Zhuang, Inner Mongolia, Ningxia-Hui
    - Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture (延邊朝鮮族自治州)
  - Hong Kong and Macao as SAR’s (Special Administrative Region) recovered from imperialism in 1998
  - Taiwan as “lost territory” or “independent nation”
    - reverted to Republic of China in 1945
    - never succumbed to the Chinese revolution because of US help
    - 80% “Taiwanese” (Fujian, Hakka, Cantonese spreaders), 20% “mainlander”
National Identity (Vietnam)

Vietnam

- Multi ethnic country with Southeast Asia pattern of dominant sedentary agricultural group in the lowlands (Kinh) versus less developed highland groups of various ethnicities (“montagnards”)
- Issue of the relationship of South to North and cosmopolitanism to ethnic nationalism still an item of discussion
- North Vietnam around Hanoi the heartland of Vietnamese national culture that became independent in 938 AD
- Central Vietnam the center of the Nguyen monarchy
- Cochin China (area around Saigon) cosmopolitan and only settled by Kinh in 18th century
  - Earlier residents had been Cham (Muslim Austronesian speakers), and Cambodians (Buddhist/Hindu Austro-Asiatic speakers)—and minorities of both ethnic groups still live in the area