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Views from the Other Side
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Crowned Gods and the Art of Power in Early Southeast Asia

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Selected historical figures:

- Buddhagupta, a “great sea captain,” possibly from Bengal, who made Buddhist dedications on the Malay Peninsula, ca. 6th century
- Devanika, king ruling the area around Vat Phou in southern Laos, ca. 5th century
- Purnavarman, king of west Java kingdom Tarumanagara, ca. 5th or 6th century
- Gunavarman, a prince of “Funan” (Mekong Delta), ca. 5th or 6th century
- Kulaprabhavati, a queen of “Funan”, ca. 5th or 6th century
- Ishanavarman I, king of Preangkorian kingdom of Ishanapura (or “Zhenla”), ca. 616–637 CE
- Jayavarman II, purported founder of the Kingdom of Angkor, reigned ca. 790–835 CE
- Jayavarman V, king of Angkor, ca. 968–1000
- Divakarabhata, brahman born along the Yamuna River in northern India; served King Jayavarman V and married the king’s sister, Indralakshmi
- Suryavarman II, king of Angkor, r. ca. 1113–1149

Selected locations, sites and temples:

- Wieng Sa, Chaiya, and Nakhon Si Thammarat (locations in peninsular/southern Thailand)
- Bujang Valley, Kedah, Malaysia
- Kampong Sungai Mas, Kedah, Malaysia
- Taruma/Tarumanagara, kingdom in western Java, Indonesia, ca. 4th–7th century
- Prasat Phnom Chhngok, Cambodia, ca. late 6th–early 7th cent.
- Prasat Phnom Da, Cambodia, ca. early 12th cent. (statuary, ca. late 6th–7th century)
- Sambor Prei Kuk (Ishanapura), Cambodia, 7th cent. and later
- Wat Phu (or Vat Phou), Cambodia, (ca. 7th–12th centuries with earlier origins)
- Prasat Aram Rong Chen, Cambodia, early 9th cent.
- Prasat Preah Einkosei, Siem Reap, Cambodia, 10th cent.
- Angkor Wat, Cambodia, first half 12th cent. with later additions
- Bayon, Cambodia, late 12th–13th cent.

Selected key terms:

- ***mukuta*** – hairstyle, crown, tiara
- ***kirita(mukuta)*** – diadem, crest, miter, jewelled crown
- **“Indianization”** and related theories
- **brahmins or brahmins** – priests, intellectual nobility
- **kshatriyas** – aristocracy, rulers, warriors
- **vaishyas** – merchants and trades
- ***abhisheka*** – a water-sprinkling ritual for the consecration of a king; an anointing ritual for a deity-image / icon
- ***linga*** (“sign, marker, symbol, or emblem”) – form/representation of the Hindu god Shiva as a pillar or cosmic axis, sometimes phallic in appearance

- **yonī** - womb, uterus, female organs of generation; stone pedestal for *linga* image
- **Lingodbhavamurti** – manifestation of Shiva in the form of a blazing pillar of immeasurable size
- Vishnu’s iconography includes: ball of earth (*bhu*, *prithivi*, *mahi*, *dharani*); disk or wheel (*chakra*); conch shell (*shankha*); club or mace (*gada*)
- **chakravartin** – A concept of sovereignty employing cosmic symbolism to proclaim the king the “lord of the four quarters” or a universal monarch
- **Vishnupada / Shivapada** – the footprints of Vishnu or Shiva
- **Trivikrama** (“he who strode over the three worlds in three steps”) – epithet/aspect of the Hindu deity Vishnu; a cosmic form as the “conqueror of the three worlds”
- **Anantashayana** (“lying upon Ananta”) – Form/representation of the Hindu god Vishnu reclining upon the world snake Ananta (“infinite”)
- **Krishna Govardhana** – epithet of the Hindu deity Krishna (i.e. “Vishnu”) holding aloft Mount Govardhana as a huge umbrella to shelter people and flocks from a torrential storm caused by the god Indra
- **Harihara** – composite deity, half Vishnu on the proper left and half Shiva on the right, particularly prominent in Preangkorian Khmer culture
- **Devarāja** – probably a form of the Hindu deity Shiva as a *linga* in whose name Jayavarman II founded (ca. 802 CE) rituals linked with royal power

Recommended Reading:

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