

Kingdom of Great Timurah

History

Timurah is a product of Arab and Indian trade, the unifying force of Sunni Islam, an era of Spanish colonialism, and a horribly brutal Japanese occupation that would cost Timurah dearly. In the late 1200s, the land forming Timurah on the far eastern reaches of our world's Indonesia were settled by those of mixed Arab or Indian, Indonesian and Aboriginal Australian heritage. The Timurah were predominantly Sunni Muslim while at the time Hinduism was still the most common religion on the archipelago. Arab and Muslim Indian traders were becoming more common visitors to the lands forming Timurah at the time. Sunni Islam became a unifying force for the many peoples in the region of Timurah, and more Arab and Indian traders began to settle permanently into Timurah, marrying the local women and fathering children that would become the Timurah. Timurah became a decently powerful trading region, and the mixing of Arab, Muslim and Indian influences with that of Southeast Asian heritage already present in the area spawned a distinct culture. The Timurah developed their own language, at first a dialect of Malay, becoming more distinct as words from Arabic and Indian languages were mixed in. Bhasa Timurah would cement into the dominating language in Timurah starting in the 15th century. As the 14th century began, the Hindu Majapahit rulers felt threatened by the Timurah. In the lands the Majapahit controlled, the spread and practice of Islam was banned, Muslim proselytizers were executed, the wearing of the hijab banned, and mosques destroyed. The Timurah, treated as rebels and seen as devils, were at stake of being eliminated by the Majapahit. The Majapahit attacked Timurah around 1450, massacring the Timurah people and threatening to wipe out the entire populace. It was then that the First Timurah Jihad, as modern historians would refer to it, began. The Timurah saw their war against the Majapahit as a defense of their faith, seeing the fate of Islam in greater Indonesia. Timurah mujahideen would ultimately claim victory near the turn of the century, and expanded eastward, taking all the land currently forming Irian Jaya and Papua New Guinea. A Timurah Golden Age began shortly after this time, with a flourishing in Timurah culture. A complete translation of the Qur'an into Bhasa Timurah was completed in 1521, stunning mosques were constructed, trade stretched as far as the Muslim African sultanates and Joseon Korea (a very close trading partner before she became a hermit kingdom), and Timurah warships occupied numerous islands to the east of their established territory, creating an archipelagic empire of their own. The Timurah, by then accepted as a distinct ethnic group, became a dominant power in the Pacific. The Majapahit collapsed, replaced by a succession of Hindu and Buddhist kingdoms, while Timurah held onto Islam. Some travelers referred to Mutulua, the capital, as the "Mecca of the East". All would continue to flourish for Timurah until about fifty years later in the 1560s.

The Spaniards, finding themselves in this timeline unable to establish a foothold in the Old World, set their sights on the Pacific rather than trying to cross the Atlantic. Southern India, the Philippines, greater Indonesia and

soon Timurah were all claimed for Spain. The Second Timurah Jihad was initiated in 1564, led by a charismatic imam of mixed Timurah and Korean descent named Dahuud al-Mutulua. Timurah-Koreans were an uncommon but not unheard of minority in the empire, as Korean merchants found new homes in Timurah and Korean concubines were sent to Timurah kings as part of trade delegations. al-Mutulua had no prior military experience, but became both the military and spiritual leader of the Timurah in their struggle against the Catholic Spanish. He controlled a small fleet that defended the far-reaching islands under Timurah's sway, and led ragtag militias to victory against the Spanish in the name of their faith. The Second Jihad was nearly a success, but in the end, Timurah spears, arrows and wooden warships could not defeat Spanish guns and steel. al-Mutulua was flayed alive before the people who had come to see him as their leader and beheaded, his head impaled on a flagpole that now bore the Spanish banner. He remains the most famous Timurah-Korean in history. The Spanish pillaged Timurah for her bountiful spices, minerals and jewels. To finance their never-ending extraction, slaves from India, the Philippines and Morocco were brought into the islands of Timurah, new additions to the melting pot. The rest of greater Indonesia was also brought into the Spanish Empire, and adopted Catholicism soon after. Filipina and Moroccan women married with Timurah men, forming sizable minorities that persist to this day. Spanish words found their way into Bhasa Timurah, and vice versa, before the Spanish Crown decreed that the usage of Bhasa Timurah and the open practice of Islam was banned on the Timurah islands. Schools were made to teach Spanish and restrict the use of Bhasa Timurah, and also made to preach Catholicism. By the time the Spanish Empire was deposed from Timurah through an uprising in 1901, most Timurah were at least conversant in Spanish but were also still predominantly Sunni Muslims, with a growing Catholic minority(which was permitted to continue following their faith).

As the 20th century began, Timurah was no longer a regional power, with the Timurah Archipelago constantly facing revolts and skirmishes. The King of Timurah also received reports an invasion from the north could be coming soon. Japan had grown into an imperial power through reform, and was winning wars against China, Russia and soon, Spain. The Spanish Empire met a humiliating end as Japan fell upon the Philippines, Indonesia proper, and Spanish holdings in India in the Spanish-Japanese Wars. Though they were repelled in the Philippines and mostly unsuccessful in India, Timurah was sure to be next. The Timurah army was horribly outdated and small in number, and it was clear a Japanese invasion would be hopeless to defend against. However, a woman from one of the faraway islands in the Pacific spurred a Third Jihad and began holding great influence across Timurah. Yasura ibnat Ishaan claimed to have a vision of angels telling her that if she assembled a mujahideen army of exactly seven hundred, God would shower His wrath upon the Japanese invaders and hurl them into the sea. The seven hundred mujahideen were assembled, but Yasura ibnat Ishaan was almost immediately crushed by the Japanese Army. She was beheaded much like al-Mutulua before her, and the Third Jihad collapsed before it had even started. Though her war was a resounding failure, Yasura ibnat Ishaan is remembered for her courage and piety, and her birthday is a holiday in Timurah. The Japanese saw the Timurah as freakish mongrels, and treated them as inferior to the Japanese by nature. Timurah men and children

were taken away to become soldiers or slaves, and Timurah women were raped or made to be comfort women. Mosques and copies of the Qur'an were burnt down, and worship of the Emperor was harshly enforced. Bhasa Timurah, already replaced with Spanish, was forbidden and the people were made to learn Japanese. Any revolt was shot down by planes and soldiers who patrolled the streets. By the end of the Japanese occupation, most of Timurah lay in ruins, and the two hallmarks of Timurah's identity(Sunni Islam and Bhasa Timurah) had vanished from the memories of most. Those who were old enough to remember the two years between the Spanish and Japanese conquests by now knew more Japanese than they did Bhasa Timurah. Many see the aftermath of Japan's conquest as a cultural genocide of Timurah. In 1943, after a failed invasion of Australia, Japan was put to a stop by the British and the Americans and ultimately surrendered a year later as the Allied Powers pushed into the Empire from the north and south. The Kingdom of Great Timurah, forged from the ashes of the newly liberated islands, was formally established in 1946.

Today, the Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy, with the Kings and Queens of Timurah playing largely ceremonial roles. Efforts to reteach Bhasa Timurah and revive Timurah's Muslim legacy are ongoing. Nowadays, most are largely secular Muslims, know more English than Bhasa Timurah, and do not have a clear sense of the origins of the Timurah people. A developing country, Timurah relies on its mining, fishing and tourism industries. As it entered the 21st century, Timurah had one of the fastest growing economies in the world. The country struggles with corruption, poverty, desires for independence in the Pacific islands of the east, and far-right Indonesian irredentist movements.

Culture and Demographics

As mentioned before, Timurah's heritage was nearly devastated by centuries of foreign occupation. However, historians and scholars were able to forge an account of Timurah history and use it to revive national pride. Timurah is a diverse country with various ethnic groups. The Timurah, the descendants of Arabs, Indians, Malay and Aboriginal Australians, make up 62.8% of the population. Timurah became a popular destination for refugees from Southeast Asian countries escaping civil war and Communist dictatorships, and these minorities staff Timurah's vast mining industry. Africans and East Asians also form sizable minorities in Timurah. Sunni Islam is the state religion(though rarely enforced), and most follow it in practice. Timurah's greatest national treasure is the original text of the Bhasa Timura translation of the Qur'an, miraculously surviving both occupations. Inscriptions of the Shahada('There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is the messenger of Allah') in Bhasa Timurah script(a mix of Arabic, Devanagari, Gujarati and Hangul scripts) can be commonly found on walls or signs. The Shahada in Bhasa Timurah also served as the national motto before a period of secularization began. Catholic, Hindu and Buddhist minorities are sometimes discriminated against. Timurah holidays include Eid al-Fitr and other Muslim holidays, Independence Day on September 1st, the Glorious Day of the Three Jihads on August 8th(the probably symbolic date that the First Jihad was declared), the Day of Flowering Hope(the last day of the year where many look towards a better and more prosperous future for Timurah) and the Queen's Birthday. The national animal is the manta ray,

symbolizing the resilience of the people. It is said in Timurah folklore that Dahuud al-Mutulua rode a manta ray into battle against the Spanish. The national flower is the plumeria, used as a grave flower, to represent the mourning of ancient Timurah as she was destroyed and humiliated by the Spanish and the Japanese.