



Let's Not Get Angkor: The Court of Suryavarman II During the Construction of Angkor Wat

Committee Title: Let's Not Get Angkor: The Court of Suryavarman II During the Construction of Angkor Wat

Date: 1122 CE

Location: Yasodharapura, Khmer Empire



Credit: Business Insider Australia

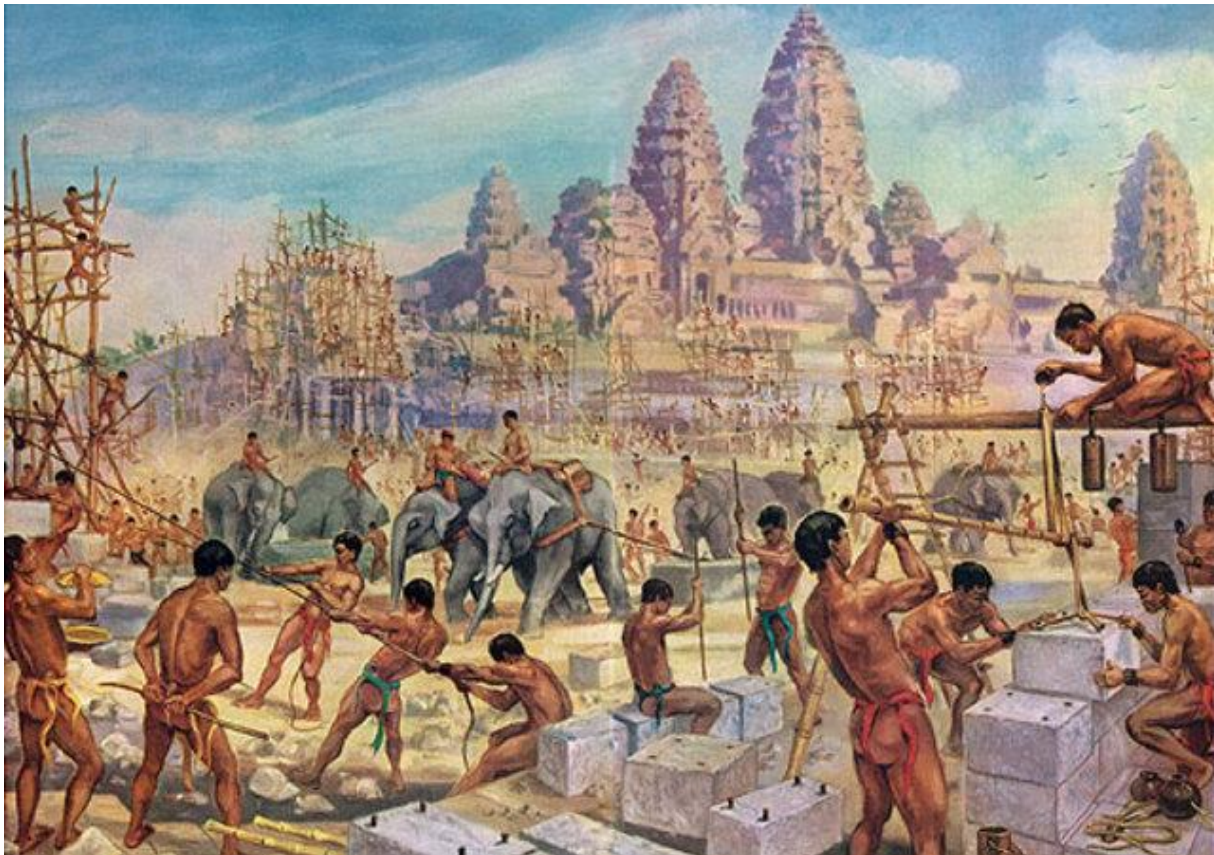
Introduction

This body is a meeting between courtiers and the great King Suryavarman the II to construct a new temple that will be named Angkor Wat. Vishnu has been made the patron of the mighty kingdom and has blessed the first 9 years of King Suryavarman's reign. In return priests have demanded that an edifice to the glory of Vishnu, Suryavarman's reign, and the Khmer Empire be constructed. The crisis begins in 1122 CE the date ordained by Vishnu, and history, to be the start of construction of the capital temple, Angkor Wat. The major goal of this simulation is to build the edifice; raising tons of sandstone, laterite, and brick will take effort. You must navigate the Khmer Empire through trial and tribulation to complete

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the mission ordained by the Gods and maintain the success the kingdom has had since the rising of Suryavarman the II to the throne in 1113 CE.

Background



Credit: Angkor National Museum - <https://angkornationalmuseum.com/>

The construction of Angkor Wat during the reign of Emperor Suryavarman II was preceded by a series of pivotal events that established the foundation for this monumental project. Suryavarman II ascended to the throne around 1113 CE after a period of political instability and conflict. His rise to power involved consolidating various factions within the Khmer Empire and securing his position through a combination of military prowess and strategic alliances. Once in power, Suryavarman II embarked on a campaign to stabilize and expand the empire, ensuring a strong and unified state capable of undertaking grand architectural projects.

A significant factor that enabled the construction of Angkor Wat was the economic prosperity and resource availability during Suryavarman II's reign. The Khmer Empire, under his leadership, saw increased agricultural productivity, primarily through the enhancement of irrigation systems that improved rice cultivation. This agricultural boom provided the necessary surplus to support a large workforce and fund massive construction projects. Additionally, the empire's trade networks expanded,



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bringing in wealth and exotic materials that would be utilized in the building of Angkor Wat. The stable economic environment allowed Suryavarman II to allocate considerable resources towards his ambitious vision of constructing a temple dedicated to Vishnu.

Religious devotion and political strategy were intertwined in Suryavarman II's decision to build Angkor Wat. By dedicating the temple to Vishnu, he aimed to establish his legitimacy and divine right to rule. This religious dedication also served to unify the diverse population of the Khmer Empire under a common spiritual framework. Suryavarman II's commitment to this project reflected his desire to leave a lasting legacy and to demonstrate the might and sophistication of his reign. The events leading up to the construction of Angkor Wat were marked by strategic consolidation of power, economic prosperity, and a deep intertwining of religious and political objectives, all of which set the stage for the creation of one of history's most iconic architectural wonders.

Hydrology of Angkor Wat

The plot of land chosen for Angkor Wat presented unique hydrological challenges that significantly influenced its construction. Situated in the floodplain of the Tonle Sap Lake and adjacent to the Siem Reap River, the area was subject to seasonal flooding and fluctuating water levels. This hydrological dynamic required careful planning and engineering to ensure the stability and longevity of the temple complex. The high-water table and the potential for soil erosion posed significant risks, necessitating innovative solutions to manage and harness the water effectively. The Khmer engineers had to devise methods to prevent waterlogging and to maintain a stable foundation for the massive sandstone structures.

To overcome these challenges, in history the Khmer builders implemented an advanced and intricate system of canals, moats, and reservoirs. The moat surrounding Angkor Wat, measuring 1.5 kilometers by 1.3 kilometers and 5 meters deep, was not only a defensive feature but also a crucial part of the water management system. It helped to control the water levels around the temple, preventing flooding and stabilizing the soil. Additionally, the construction of a network of canals facilitated the drainage of excess water and allowed for its redirection to reservoirs. This sophisticated hydrological engineering demonstrated the Khmer Empire's profound understanding of water management and their ability to adapt their architectural ambitions to the natural landscape. By effectively controlling the hydrology of the area, they ensured the durability and resilience of Angkor Wat, allowing it to stand as a testament to their ingenuity and technical prowess.

The Wealth of the Khmer

The construction of Angkor Wat in 1113 AD was preceded by a series of events and developments that culminated in the prosperity of the Khmer Empire, setting the stage for this monumental project. The Khmer Empire, established in the early 9th century, had by this time undergone significant territorial expansion and consolidation under various powerful rulers. King Jayavarman II, regarded as the founder of the Khmer Empire, initiated this era of expansion and centralization, declaring himself the universal monarch and establishing the cult of the devaraja, or god-king. This divine kingship ideology played a crucial role in unifying the diverse regions and peoples under a central authority, creating a cohesive and powerful state.



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Economic prosperity flourished because of advancements in agricultural practices and the development of an extensive irrigation system. The Khmer Empire's heartland, centered around the Tonle Sap Lake, was particularly fertile, and the construction of vast barays (reservoirs) and an intricate network of canals allowed for the control and distribution of water. This ensured consistent rice production, even during dry seasons, leading to surplus crops and economic stability. The empire's strategic location also facilitated trade with neighboring regions, further boosting its wealth. The combination of political stability, economic surplus, and control over water resources enabled the Khmer rulers to embark on ambitious construction projects, including the grand temple complex of Angkor Wat, envisioned by Suryavarman II as a symbol of his divine rule and the empire's prosperity.

Hinduism In the Khmer Empire

The construction of Angkor Wat in 1113 AD was deeply rooted in the religious landscape of the Khmer Empire, which had been profoundly influenced by Hinduism for several centuries. Hinduism was introduced to Southeast Asia through Indian traders and missionaries as early as the first few centuries CE. Over time, the Khmer rulers adopted and adapted Hindu beliefs, rituals, and iconography, integrating them into their own culture and governance. By the time of King Jayavarman II in the early 9th century, the devaraja cult had become central to Khmer political and spiritual life, establishing the king as a divine ruler and an earthly representative of the gods, particularly Shiva and Vishnu.

This religious framework laid the groundwork for monumental temple construction, which served both as places of worship and as symbols of royal authority. Temples were designed to represent Mount Meru, the mythical abode of the gods, with their intricate carvings and towering spires symbolizing the universe's cosmic order. The integration of Hinduism into Khmer statecraft reinforced the divine legitimacy of the rulers and their role as protectors and sustainers of cosmic harmony. By the time Suryavarman II ascended to the throne, Hinduism was deeply embedded in the empire's identity, and the construction of Angkor Wat as a temple dedicated to Vishnu was a natural continuation of this religious tradition. Suryavarman II's devotion to Vishnu and his desire to immortalize his reign through grand architectural achievements were pivotal in the decision to build Angkor Wat, which would stand as a testament to both his piety and his power.

(Rest of the World) Outside of the Khmer Empire



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Credit: Wikipedia Public Domain

Lavo Kingdom (Light Blue)

The Lavo Kingdom, located in what is today central Thailand, played a crucial role in the political and cultural landscape of Southeast Asia during the 12th century. At the heart of its policy positions was the ambition to establish itself as a dominant regional power, navigating the complex dynamics of alliances and rivalries. The Lavo Kingdom's leadership focused on strengthening its military capabilities, enhancing its economic infrastructure, and fostering diplomatic relations with neighboring states. This included forging trade agreements that ensured the steady flow of goods, such as ceramics, textiles, and agricultural products, which were vital for the kingdom's prosperity and influence.

Central to Lavo's foreign policy was its intricate relationship with the Khmer Empire, one of the most powerful and expansive empires in Southeast Asia during this period. The Lavo Kingdom's policy towards the Khmer Empire was multifaceted, characterized by both cooperation and competition. On one hand, Lavo sought to benefit from the Khmer's advanced administrative systems and architectural innovations, adopting and adapting these elements to strengthen its own governance and cultural identity. On the other hand, Lavo was cautious of the Khmer's territorial ambitions, which posed a constant threat to its sovereignty. This led to a delicate balancing act, where Lavo engaged in strategic marriages and alliances to secure its position while also fortifying its defenses against potential Khmer aggression.

In the broader context of regional politics, the Lavo Kingdom's relationship with the Khmer Empire had significant implications. Lavo's policy decisions were often influenced by the need to



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navigate the power dynamics between the Khmer Empire and other neighboring states, such as the Pagan Kingdom and Srivijaya. The Lavo leadership was adept at leveraging its geographic position and resources to maintain a degree of autonomy and influence. By fostering a resilient and adaptive approach to diplomacy, the Lavo Kingdom was able to preserve its cultural and political identity amidst the shifting tides of regional power struggles in the 12th century.

Hariphunchai Kingdom (Green)

The Hariphunchai Kingdom, situated in what is now northern Thailand, was a significant center of Mon culture and influence during the 12th century. Hariphunchai's policy positions were primarily focused on cultural preservation, religious patronage, and economic prosperity. The kingdom's rulers prioritized the promotion of Theravada Buddhism, which shaped its social and political structures. Temples and monasteries played a central role in Hariphunchai's society, and the kingdom became renowned for its contributions to Buddhist scholarship and architecture. This emphasis on religious and cultural development was a cornerstone of Hariphunchai's internal policies, aimed at strengthening its identity and cohesion.

The relationship between the Hariphunchai Kingdom and the Khmer Empire was characterized by a mix of diplomatic engagement and cautious independence. Unlike some of its contemporaries, Hariphunchai was not directly under Khmer control but had to navigate the empire's expansive influence. The kingdom's leaders sought to maintain friendly relations with the Khmer Empire, recognizing the benefits of trade and cultural exchange. However, Hariphunchai was also wary of the Khmer's military power and territorial ambitions. To safeguard its autonomy, the kingdom invested in fortifying its capital, Lamphun, and developing a network of alliances with other regional powers. This strategic diplomacy allowed Hariphunchai to preserve its sovereignty while benefiting from the Khmer Empire's economic and cultural advancements.

Hariphunchai's foreign policy extended beyond its dealings with the Khmer Empire, as it interacted with neighboring polities such as the Lavo Kingdom, the Pagan Kingdom, and the emerging Tai states. The kingdom's strategic location along trade routes enabled it to become a prosperous trade hub, facilitating the exchange of goods, ideas, and religious practices. Hariphunchai's leaders leveraged this economic strength to enhance their diplomatic influence, forging alliances that ensured regional stability and protected the kingdom from potential threats. Through a combination of cultural patronage, strategic fortification, and astute diplomacy, the Hariphunchai Kingdom maintained its cultural and political identity amidst the complex dynamics of 12th-century Southeast Asia.

Champa (Yellow)

The Champa Kingdom, located in what is now central and southern Vietnam, was a major maritime power in Southeast Asia during the 12th century. Champa's policy positions were driven by its strategic coastal location, which made it a key player in regional trade networks. The kingdom prioritized the development of its naval capabilities, fostering a robust merchant fleet that facilitated commerce across the South China Sea and beyond. Champa's economy was bolstered by the export of high-demand goods such as spices, ivory, and sandalwood. This economic prosperity enabled Champa to invest in the



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construction of grand temples and palaces, which reflected its Hindu and Buddhist influences and reinforced its cultural identity.

The relationship between the Champa Kingdom and the Khmer Empire was complex, marked by both cooperation and conflict. While the two states engaged in trade and cultural exchanges, their interactions were frequently overshadowed by territorial disputes and military confrontations. The Champa Kingdom's policy towards the Khmer Empire involved a combination of diplomacy and military readiness. Champa's leaders sought to balance the benefits of peaceful relations, such as trade and cultural enrichment, with the necessity of defending their territory against Khmer incursions. This dynamic led to periods of alliance and warfare, as both powers vied for control over strategic territories along their borders.

In the broader geopolitical landscape of the 12th century, Champa's foreign policy was shaped by its need to navigate relationships with other regional powers, including the Song Dynasty in China, the Srivijaya Empire, and the Dai Viet to the north. Champa's maritime prowess and strategic alliances allowed it to exert influence across a wide area, fostering a network of trade and diplomacy that extended throughout Southeast Asia. The kingdom's ability to leverage its economic and military strengths, while maintaining a distinct cultural and religious identity, enabled Champa to remain a significant and resilient player in the region. Through adaptive policies and strategic alliances, Champa managed to sustain its sovereignty and prosperity amid the shifting dynamics of regional power.

Dai Viet (Blue)

Dai Viet, known today as Vietnam, emerged as a formidable power in Southeast Asia during the 12th century following its independence from Chinese rule in 938 AD. Under the leadership of the Ly Dynasty, Dai Viet's policy positions were heavily influenced by the need to consolidate its sovereignty, develop its administrative structures, and expand its territory. The kingdom focused on strengthening its centralized government, with the Ly rulers implementing Confucian principles to solidify their authority and promote social order. This era saw significant developments in agriculture, infrastructure, and education, which were pivotal in enhancing the kingdom's stability and prosperity.

The relationship between Dai Viet and the Khmer Empire was characterized by cautious diplomacy and occasional conflict. Dai Viet sought to establish itself as a dominant power in the region, which often brought it into competition with the Khmer Empire. The two states engaged in both cooperative trade and military skirmishes over contested territories along their borders. Dai Viet's policy towards the Khmer Empire involved a pragmatic approach, balancing the benefits of economic exchanges with the need to defend against potential invasions. This involved fortifying its southern frontiers and maintaining a capable military to deter Khmer advances while engaging in diplomatic negotiations to manage tensions.

In the broader context of regional politics, Dai Viet's foreign policy was marked by its interactions with neighboring states such as Champa to the south and the Song Dynasty to the north. Dai Viet maintained a tributary relationship with the Song Dynasty, which provided a framework for diplomatic and economic exchanges while asserting its autonomy. The kingdom also engaged in frequent conflicts with Champa, driven by territorial ambitions and competition over trade routes. Through



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strategic marriages, military campaigns, and diplomatic missions, Dai Viet navigated the complexities of regional power dynamics. The Ly Dynasty's focus on administrative reforms, military strength, and cultural development enabled Dai Viet to emerge as a resilient and influential state in 12th-century Southeast Asia.

Pagan (Pink)

The Pagan Kingdom, located in what is now Myanmar, was a significant political and cultural center in Southeast Asia during the 12th century. Following the foundational reign of King Anawrahta in the previous century, the kingdom's policy positions in the 12th century focused on further consolidating its power and expanding its cultural and religious influence. Under the leadership of successive kings, Pagan continued to promote Theravada Buddhism as the state religion, which played a central role in the kingdom's identity and governance. This period saw the construction of thousands of Buddhist temples and stupas in the capital city of Bagan, reflecting the kingdom's commitment to religious patronage and architectural grandeur.

Pagan's relationship with the Khmer Empire in the 12th century was marked by both collaboration and rivalry. The two powerful empires, although geographically separated, interacted through trade and cultural exchanges. Pagan admired the Khmer Empire's advanced administrative systems and monumental architecture, which influenced its own developments. However, the two kingdoms also competed for dominance over smaller neighboring states and control of vital trade routes. This competition occasionally led to conflicts and shifting alliances as both powers sought to assert their influence over the region. Despite these rivalries, there was a mutual respect and exchange of cultural and religious practices that enriched both civilizations.

In the broader context of Southeast Asian geopolitics, Pagan's foreign policy during the 12th century involved strategic interactions with other regional powers such as the Mon kingdoms to the south, the Chola Dynasty of India, and the Song Dynasty of China. The kingdom's strategic location along key trade routes facilitated its role as a major hub of commerce and cultural exchange. Pagan's rulers focused on maintaining strong diplomatic and trade relationships with these neighboring states while also securing their borders through military strength. The kingdom's emphasis on cultural and religious patronage, combined with its strategic diplomatic efforts, allowed Pagan to maintain its status as a dominant power in Southeast Asia during the 12th century, leaving a lasting impact on the region's cultural and religious landscape.

Chola (Absent)

The Chola Empire, located in southern India, was a dominant maritime and military power in South Asia during the 12th century. Under the reign of influential rulers such as Kulothunga Chola I and his successors, the Chola Empire focused on consolidating its vast territories and expanding its influence through a combination of military prowess, administrative efficiency, and maritime trade. The Cholas maintained a well-organized administrative system, with an emphasis on local governance through village assemblies and a sophisticated revenue collection mechanism. This structure allowed for the efficient management of resources, which supported the empire's economic and military ambitions.



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The relationship between the Chola Empire and the Khmer Empire during the 12th century was multifaceted, involving both diplomatic engagements and indirect competition. The Cholas and Khmers shared interests in the lucrative trade routes of the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea. While direct military conflicts between the two empires were rare, their interactions were characterized by a strategic rivalry for dominance over these trade networks. The Cholas, with their powerful navy, sought to control and protect their maritime trade routes, establishing commercial and cultural ties with Southeast Asian kingdoms, including the Khmer Empire. These interactions facilitated the exchange of goods, ideas, and religious practices, contributing to the cultural richness of the region.

In the broader geopolitical context, the Chola Empire's foreign policy during the 12th century was marked by its expansive maritime ambitions and strategic alliances. The Cholas conducted naval expeditions to Southeast Asia, including the conquest of Srivijaya, a major maritime power in the region, which allowed them to secure key trade routes and expand their influence. Additionally, the Cholas maintained diplomatic relations with the Song Dynasty in China and the Abbasid Caliphate, enhancing their commercial and cultural exchanges. The empire's focus on maritime dominance and international trade, combined with its internal administrative strength and cultural patronage, enabled the Chola Empire to maintain its position as a formidable power in the 12th century, leaving a legacy on the political and cultural landscape of South and Southeast Asia.

Srivijayan Empire (Light Green)

The Srivijayan Empire, centered in what is now Indonesia, was a dominant maritime power in Southeast Asia during the 12th century. Known for its strategic control over the vital maritime trade routes through the Strait of Malacca and the Sunda Strait, Srivijaya's policy positions focused on maintaining and enhancing its trade dominance. The empire's leadership prioritized the development of a strong naval presence to protect its commercial interests and secure the flow of goods such as spices, gold, and silk. Srivijaya's economic prosperity was underpinned by a network of tributary states, which contributed to its wealth and influence in the region.

The relationship between the Srivijayan Empire and the Khmer Empire in the 12th century was characterized by a blend of competition and cooperation. Both empires were key players in the regional trade networks, and their interactions were influenced by their mutual interest in controlling lucrative trade routes. While there were periods of rivalry, especially regarding influence over smaller neighboring states and trade dominance, there were also instances of diplomatic engagement and cultural exchange. Srivijaya and the Khmer Empire both benefited from the exchange of goods, religious practices, and cultural influences, which enriched their respective civilizations.

In the broader context of Southeast Asian geopolitics, Srivijaya's foreign policy during the 12th century involved strategic alliances and conflicts with other regional powers such as the Chola Empire of India, the Song Dynasty of China, and various Southeast Asian polities. The Chola Empire's naval expedition against Srivijaya in the early 11th century had a lasting impact, prompting Srivijaya to fortify its defenses and strengthen its naval capabilities. Srivijaya also maintained diplomatic and trade relations with the Song Dynasty, ensuring a steady flow of Chinese goods and fostering cultural exchanges. The empire's focus on maritime dominance, economic prosperity, and strategic diplomacy enabled Srivijaya to



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maintain its position as a central hub of trade and cultural exchange in the 12th century, leaving a significant legacy on the history of Southeast Asia.

Major Issues

Sourcing Materials for Angkor –

The sourcing of materials for the construction of Angkor Wat represented a formidable challenge for the Khmer Empire, requiring significant logistical coordination and resource management. The primary building material for the temple was sandstone, which had to be quarried from the Kulen Mountains, located over 50 kilometers northeast of the construction site. The sheer volume of sandstone needed for the temple's massive structures and intricate carvings was enormous, necessitating the transportation of large, heavy blocks across considerable distances. This task was further complicated by the dense jungle terrain and the lack of advanced transportation technology, making the movement of these materials a monumental feat of engineering and organization.

To address this issue, the Khmer engineers and laborers utilized a sophisticated network of canals and rivers to transport the sandstone blocks. These waterways served as natural highways, allowing for the movement of materials by boat and raft. However, this method also required extensive planning and maintenance of the canal systems to ensure they could handle the heavy loads. Additionally, the construction of temporary infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, was necessary to facilitate the initial movement of materials from the quarries to the water transport points. The successful execution of this complex logistical operation underscored the empire's advanced understanding of hydraulic engineering and its capacity to mobilize and coordinate a large workforce.

The sourcing of other materials, such as wood for scaffolding, bricks for secondary structures, and metals for tools and ornamental elements, also posed significant challenges. The vast quantities of wood needed for construction supports and scaffolding required careful management of forest resources, while bricks had to be produced locally in large kilns, adding another layer of logistical complexity. Metals, which were used for both construction tools and decorative purposes, had to be mined and smelted, often requiring importation from neighboring regions. This extensive demand for diverse materials put a strain on the empire's resources and necessitated efficient resource allocation and management. The ability to overcome these challenges and successfully source and transport the necessary materials for Angkor Wat's construction is a testament to the organizational and administrative prowess of the Khmer Empire.

Rising Foreign Powers –

During the period of Angkor Wat's construction in the early 12th century, the Khmer Empire faced significant threats from rising foreign powers. One of the most notable threats came from the neighboring Champa Kingdom to the east, in present-day central and southern Vietnam. The Cham people were a formidable maritime power with a strong military tradition, and their expansionist ambitions often brought them into conflict with the Khmer Empire. Raids and skirmishes along the borders were frequent, and the Champa Kingdom's growing influence in the region posed a continuous threat to Khmer territorial integrity and stability.



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To the west, the Burmese Kingdom of Pagan also emerged as a potential adversary. Under the rule of King Anawrahta and his successors, Pagan experienced a period of consolidation and expansion, exerting influence over the surrounding regions. Although direct conflict between the Khmer Empire and Pagan was less frequent than with Champa, the rise of a powerful state to the west created a strategic challenge for the Khmer rulers. Maintaining control over their western territories required vigilance and resources, diverting attention and manpower that could have otherwise been dedicated to internal development and construction projects like Angkor Wat.

Additionally, the influence of the Srivijaya Empire, a dominant maritime and commercial power based in Sumatra, loomed over the region. Srivijaya controlled key trade routes and had extensive economic and cultural ties throughout Southeast Asia. While not directly hostile, Srivijaya's control over maritime trade presented both an economic challenge and a potential strategic threat to the Khmer Empire. Any shift in Srivijaya's policies or alliances could impact the Khmer economy and its access to vital trade goods. The presence of these rising foreign powers necessitated that the Khmer Empire maintain a strong military and diplomatic stance, balancing the need to defend its borders with the ambition to undertake grand projects like Angkor Wat.

The Future of Khmer –

Establishing a legacy was a paramount concern for Suryavarman II during his reign, and Angkor Wat was central to this ambition. Ascending to the throne amidst political instability and factional rivalries, Suryavarman II understood the importance of consolidating power and demonstrating the divine legitimacy of his rule. By commissioning Angkor Wat, he sought to create a symbol of his reign's grandeur and the empire's prosperity. The temple, dedicated to the Hindu god Vishnu, was intended to reflect his devotion and reinforce the idea of the king as a divine ruler, a key aspect of Khmer political ideology. This monumental project was a means to unify his subjects under a common religious and cultural identity, thus strengthening the internal cohesion of the empire.

Angkor Wat also served as a tangible representation of Suryavarman II's political and military successes. Throughout his reign, he embarked on numerous military campaigns to expand and secure the empire's borders, asserting Khmer dominance over rival states and neighboring territories. The resources and wealth amassed through these conquests were channeled into the construction of Angkor Wat, symbolizing the empire's might and the king's capability as a warrior and leader. The temple's grand scale and intricate artistry were designed to awe both his subjects and foreign dignitaries, projecting an image of an invincible and culturally sophisticated empire. In doing so, Suryavarman II aimed to leave an indelible mark on history, ensuring his reign would be remembered as a pinnacle of Khmer achievement.

Moreover, Suryavarman II's focus on establishing a legacy through Angkor Wat extended beyond his lifetime, aiming to secure the prosperity and stability of the Khmer Empire for future generations. By investing in such an enduring and monumental structure, he provided a foundation for the continued cultural and religious development of Khmer society. Angkor Wat was not only a religious center but also a hub of administrative and economic activity, supporting the growth and cohesion of the empire long after his death. The temple's enduring presence and significance ensured that Suryavarman II's legacy would be celebrated, and his contributions recognized, cementing his place in the annals of Khmer history as a visionary and transformative ruler.



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Characters

Historical – Members of the court as recorded by history. Background is based off the existing works and reflects a person who existed with same name and identity.

Suryavarman II (King of the Empire of Khmer):

Suryavarman II, one of the most renowned kings of the Khmer Empire, ruled from the early to mid-12th century. His reign, beginning around 1113 CE, was marked by significant military and architectural achievements that solidified his legacy in Southeast Asian history. Suryavarman II is best known for commissioning the construction of Angkor Wat, the largest religious monument in the world, originally dedicated to the Hindu god Vishnu. This architectural marvel not only served as a temple but also as a mausoleum for the king, reflecting his devotion and desire for immortality. Suryavarman II's military campaigns extended the empire's reach, securing its dominance over neighboring regions such as Champa and Dai Viet, and fortifying its internal stability.

Beyond his military and architectural accomplishments, Suryavarman II was a patron of the arts and culture, fostering a period of cultural flourishing within the Khmer Empire. His reign saw the enhancement of administrative and religious institutions, which helped consolidate his power and unify the diverse populations under his rule. The king's strategic marriages and alliances further strengthened his political position, ensuring the continuity of his dynasty. Despite facing challenges, including internal rebellions and external threats, Suryavarman II's leadership skills and visionary projects left an indelible mark on the Khmer Empire, cementing his status as one of its greatest rulers. His death around 1150 CE marked the end of an era of prosperity and expansion, though his legacy continued to influence the region for centuries.

Kulothunga II (Prince of Chola and Good Friend of S. II):

Kulothunga II, a prince of the Chola dynasty, was a contemporary and ally of Suryavarman II, the illustrious king of the Khmer Empire. Ruling the Chola Empire in southern India during the 12th century, Kulothunga II ascended the throne around 1133 CE and continued the legacy of his predecessors by maintaining the Chola Empire's dominance in the region. His reign was characterized by diplomatic and military prowess, which included strengthening relationships with neighboring kingdoms, such as the Khmer Empire. The alliance between Kulothunga II and Suryavarman II was mutually beneficial, as it facilitated trade and cultural exchanges between their empires, fostering economic prosperity and artistic enrichment.

Kulothunga II was also known for his contributions to art, architecture, and religion. Under his rule, the Chola Empire saw the construction of numerous temples and public works, which showcased the architectural brilliance and devotional fervor of the time. These projects not only reflected the empire's wealth and sophistication but also served to reinforce the king's divine right to rule. The king was a patron of Saivism, and many temples dedicated to Lord Shiva were either constructed or renovated during his reign. Kulothunga II's efforts to maintain stability and promote cultural development within his empire paralleled those of his ally, Suryavarman II, creating a period of relative peace and prosperity in the region. Despite the challenges posed by external threats and internal dissent, Kulothunga II's effective governance and strategic alliances ensured the continued prominence of the Chola dynasty in South India.



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Divarkarapandita (Brahman Sage – Chief Priest of the Empire):

Divarkarapandita, a prominent Brahman sage, served as the chief priest of the Khmer Empire during the reign of Suryavarman II in the early to mid-12th century. His role was pivotal in both religious and administrative capacities, reflecting the deep intertwining of spirituality and governance in the empire. As a highly esteemed spiritual advisor, Divarkarapandita played a crucial part in the construction of Angkor Wat, the grand temple complex dedicated to Vishnu. His profound knowledge of Hindu rituals and architectural principles guided the project's design and execution, ensuring it adhered to religious doctrines and cosmological alignments. Under his influence, Angkor Wat became not only a religious monument but also a symbol of divine kingship and cultural zenith.

Beyond his contributions to monumental architecture, Divarkarapandita's impact extended to the broader spiritual and cultural life of the Khmer Empire. He oversaw the performance of intricate rituals and ceremonies that reinforced the divine legitimacy of Suryavarman II's rule. His leadership in religious matters helped consolidate the king's authority, uniting the populace under a shared religious and cultural identity. As the chief priest, Divarkarapandita was instrumental in the propagation of Hinduism, specifically the Vaishnavite tradition, within the empire. His teachings and spiritual guidance fostered a sense of devotion and piety among the people, which in turn supported the stability and prosperity of the Khmer Empire during one of its most illustrious periods. Through his wisdom and dedication, Divarkarapandita left an indelible mark on the religious and cultural landscape of Southeast Asia.

Dharanindravarman (Cousin of S. II and heir to the Khmer Empire):

Dharanindravarman, a cousin of Suryavarman II, played a significant role in the political dynamics of the Khmer Empire during the early 12th century. As a member of the royal family and a potential heir to the throne, Dharanindravarman's position was crucial in the intricate web of succession and governance. When Suryavarman II ascended to the throne around 1113 CE, Dharanindravarman's loyalty and support were instrumental in solidifying Suryavarman's claim amidst the challenges of consolidating power. The relationship between the cousins was marked by mutual respect and strategic alliances, which helped stabilize the empire during the transition of power. Dharanindravarman's support ensured a smooth succession and reinforced the legitimacy of Suryavarman II's reign.

Following Suryavarman II's reign, Dharanindravarman eventually ascended to the throne himself, becoming Dharanindravarman II. His rule, which began after the death of Suryavarman II around 1150 CE, was marked by efforts to maintain the stability and prosperity established by his predecessor. Dharanindravarman II continued the architectural and cultural projects initiated by Suryavarman II, including the completion and enhancement of several temples and public works. His reign saw the preservation of the empire's territorial integrity and the continuation of its economic and cultural advancements. Despite facing internal and external challenges, Dharanindravarman II's leadership maintained the legacy of the Khmer Empire's golden age, ensuring its influence and grandeur persisted in the region.

Non-Historical – Documentation about court positions existed. Names and lives of specific persons who occupied said roles have been lost to the sands of time though. These characters are based off real life



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positions but have theoretical backgrounds. Do not put their name into google to research additional background info because it does not exist.

Khay Sok (Queen of Khmer Empire):

The Queen of the Khmer Empire stands as a pillar of wisdom and strength beside her husband Suryavarman II. Born into a noble family with a lineage deeply intertwined with the royal court, Khay Sok was groomed from an early age to possess critical skills in leadership and diplomacy. Importantly her education encompassed a wide array of arts and foreign languages allowing her to communicate with all states that border the Empire. This diverse education has prepared her to be more than just a consort but a formidable advisor and confidante to the Emperor. Known for her keen intellect and diplomatic prowess, Khay Sok can play a critical role in maintaining the internal stability of the empire and fostering alliances with neighboring states.

She is a patron of the arts, supporting the creation of literature, dance, and architectural projects that celebrate Khmer heritage and elevate its prestige. Her vision and patronage can be crucial tools leveraged by the court to maintain public support for both cultural festivals and great works of the empire. Her goal is to not only construct Angkor in harmony with the stated mission of the court, but of paramount importance maintain the good will of the public and display the benevolence of the royals.

Bopha Phom (Consort of Suryavarman II):

Bopha Phom, consort of King Suryavarman II, is a figure of considerable influence and grace in the court of the Khmer Empire. Born into a noble family, Bopha was trained in the arts, literature, and diplomacy from a young age, preparing her for the complex life at the royal court. Her marriage to Suryavarman II was not only a union of love but also a strategic alliance that bolstered the king's legitimacy and influence among the nobility. Known for her keen intellect and diplomatic acumen, Bopha often advises the king on matters of statecraft and foreign policy. Her insights and counsel have earned her a respected place in the inner circle of the court, where she navigates the intricate web of courtly politics with poise and astuteness.

However, Bopha's influence is not without its challenges. She finds herself in a subtle but intense conflict with Empress Khay Sok, the king's principal wife. Khay Sok, who hails from one of the most powerful families in the empire, sees Bopha as a threat to her own influence over the king and the court. This rivalry extends into both personal and political arenas, with each woman vying for the king's favor and the upper hand in court politics. Despite these tensions, Bopha remains steadfast in her roles, particularly as a patron of the arts and architecture. Her deep spiritual conviction and understanding of Hindu symbolism play a crucial role in the early conceptualization of Angkor Wat, ensuring that the temple's design and purpose reflect the empire's glory and piety. Bopha's presence in the court is a testament to the influential role of women in the Khmer Empire's history and a reminder of the intricate balance of power, faith, and culture that defines this golden age.

Thoung Thalem (Vishnu's Chosen – Titular Head Priest of Angkor):

Thoung Thalem, the revered Vishnu's Chosen and Titular Head Priest of Angkor, holds a position of immense spiritual and political significance in the court of King Suryavarman II. Born into a family



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with a long lineage of priests, Thalem was groomed from a young age for his sacred duties, mastering the ancient texts, rituals, and philosophies of Hinduism. His profound spiritual insight and unwavering dedication to Vishnu have earned him the title of Vishnu's Chosen, making him the highest religious authority in Angkor. As the second in command of religion in the Khmer Empire, he serves directly under the Chief Priest, Divarkarapandita. Thalem's role is not limited to spiritual guidance; he is a key advisor to the king on matters of religion, law, and governance, ensuring that the divine legitimacy of Suryavarman II's rule is upheld.

Though Thalem's influence is critical in the early stages of planning and constructing Angkor Wat, a project envisioned to be the epitome of Khmer architectural and spiritual achievement. Despite his high standing, Thalem faces significant challenges within the court, particularly from Bopha Phom, the king's consort. Their differing visions for Angkor Wat often lead to tensions; while Thalem insists on strict adherence to traditional religious principles and the glorification of Vishnu, Bopha's broader cultural aspirations sometimes clash with his orthodox views. Nevertheless, Thalem remains a steadfast guardian of the empire's spiritual heritage, working tirelessly to ensure that Angkor Wat not only symbolizes the empire's glory but also remains true to its sacred purpose. His presence in the court is a testament to the enduring importance of religious authority in the Khmer Empire's complex interplay of power, faith, and tradition.

Medoeknoam (Commander of the Armies of the Empire):

Medoeknoam, the formidable Commander of the Armies of the Khmer Empire, is a seasoned military strategist whose loyalty and martial prowess have earned him the unwavering trust of Suryavarman II. Born into a lineage of distinguished warriors, Medoeknoam's path was forged through rigorous training and numerous battlefield victories. His keen tactical mind and ruthless efficiency expanded and secured the empire's borders, making him a key figure in maintaining the empire's dominance in the region. Medoeknoam is a pragmatic leader, focused on the practicalities of war and governance, with little patience for pursuits he deems extraneous.

Regarding the construction of Angkor Wat, Medoeknoam views the grand temple as a necessary work to glorify the empire and solidify Suryavarman II's legacy. However, he is adamant that this project must not deplete the resources essential for the military. For Medoeknoam, the empire's strength and security are paramount, and the coffers that fund his war machine should not be compromised for architectural splendor. He champions a balanced approach, where the empire's cultural ambitions do not undermine its military capabilities. As a voice of practicality in the royal court, Medoeknoam's counsel emphasizes the need to safeguard the empire's martial prowess while pursuing grand projects, ensuring that Khmer remains unassailable against any threats.

Anak Thmakhsaeach (Chief Architect of Khmer):

The esteemed Chief Architect of the Khmer Empire is the visionary mind behind the construction of Angkor Wat, the grand temple complex that symbolizes the zenith of Khmer architectural and Anak's prowess. Born into a family of skilled artisans, Anak demonstrated exceptional talent and creativity from a young age, mastering the intricacies of design, engineering, and sculpture. His journey from gifted apprentice to chief architect was marked by relentless dedication to the project above all else. Under his



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guidance and assumptions of infinite resources the empire has been promised a great architectural achievement blending artistic beauty with structural integrity that will last a millennium. Anything less will be seen as a devastating failure for the great Anak Thmakhsaeach.

His role in the construction of Angkor Wat is pivotal, overseeing every aspect of design and execution, ensuring that the temple reflects both spiritual devotion and imperial grandeur. Anak is acutely aware of the architectural challenge of the construction process alone consuming his mind whole pushing out any thought of logistics, financing, or stability of the Khmer Empire who has commissioned him to build the great monument to Vishnu. Anak strives to build the temple into a personal legacy that will carry his name forward for generations to come. His expertise is crucial in navigating the building of this monumental structure. Anak, when placed before the court sees it as his only responsibility to push an ever-expanding vision for the one thing that is important in his life Angkor Wat.

Borsa Louy (Treasurer of the Empire):

Borsa Louy, the diligent Treasurer of the Khmer Empire, is entrusted with the critical task of managing the empire's vast resources and finances. Born into a family of skilled merchants, Borsa developed a keen sense for numbers and an astute understanding of economic principles from a young age. His rise to the position of treasurer was marked by his ability to balance the empire's needs with fiscal prudence, ensuring that expenditures are carefully monitored, and investments yield substantial returns. Borsa's expertise in managing the empire's wealth has been instrumental in sustaining the grandeur and stability of Suryavarman II's reign.

In the context of Angkor Wat's construction, Borsa Louy faces the delicate challenge of allocating sufficient funds to create a temple worthy of divine reverence without depleting the empire's treasury. He recognizes the importance of appeasing the gods and maintaining the empire's spiritual and cultural prestige through the grand temple. However, he is equally committed to avoiding unnecessary extravagance that could strain the empire's finances. Borsa advocates for a meticulous and efficient use of resources, ensuring that Angkor Wat is splendid enough to honor the gods while preserving the economic stability necessary for the empire's continued prosperity. His cautious yet strategic approach in the royal court aims to achieve a harmonious balance between piety and pragmatism.

Kaun Damri (Keeper of the Elephants of Khmer):

Kaun Damri, the esteemed Keeper of the Elephants of Khmer, holds a pivotal role in the court of King Suryavarman II. Born into a lineage known for their expertise in animal husbandry, Damri has dedicated his life to the care and management of elephants, the empire's most valuable assets in both warfare and construction. Appointed to his position by Medoeknoam, the Commander of the Armies of the Empire, Damri's responsibilities encompass the welfare, training, and strategic deployment of these magnificent beasts. His deep knowledge of elephant behavior and his compassionate approach to their treatment have earned him the respect of both the court and the elephant handlers. Damri is a staunch advocate for animal welfare, tirelessly working to ensure that elephants are treated with the dignity and care they deserve.



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Kaun Damri's advocacy extends to the debate over the use of elephants in construction, particularly in the ambitious project of building Angkor Wat. While recognizing the necessity of using elephants for certain tasks, Damri is keen to minimize their use in construction to preserve their strength and readiness for war. This stance often brings him into conflict with those who prioritize the swift completion of monumental projects over the well-being of the elephants. Damri's position is further complicated by the demands of the court and the expectations of King Suryavarman II, who relies on his expertise to balance these competing interests. Despite these challenges, Damri remains unwavering in his mission to maintain the health and readiness of the empire's elephants, advocating for practices that align with his principles of ethical treatment and strategic preservation. His role highlights the critical importance of elephants in the Khmer Empire and underscores the complex interplay between military needs, cultural achievements, and animal welfare.

Cheangochamleak (Sculptor of the Empire):

Chaengochoamleak, the illustrious Sculptor of the Empire, is renowned for his exceptional artistry and craftsmanship, which have brought the spiritual and cultural essence of the Khmer Empire to life. Hailing from a lineage of master sculptors, Chaengochoamleak's talent was evident from a young age, and his works are celebrated for their intricate detail and profound symbolism. His sculptures, which grace temples, palaces, and public spaces, are revered not only as artistic masterpieces but also as sacred embodiments of the divine. His rise to prominence in the royal court was propelled by his unwavering dedication to elevating Khmer art and culture to unprecedented heights.

For Chaengochoamleak, the construction of Angkor Wat presents a unique opportunity to showcase the empire's artistic prowess through grand sculptures that would serve as the temple's focal points. He passionately believes that these sculptures should be the centerpiece of the empire's investments, reflecting the divine glory and grandeur of the Khmer civilization. While he shares Anak Thmakhsaech's vision of creating a monumental legacy, Chaengochoamleak's focus is on the sculptural elements that will adorn Angkor Wat, ensuring that each piece is imbued with spiritual significance and artistic excellence. In the royal court, he advocates for generous material allocation to produce sculptures that not only complement the architectural marvel but also stand as enduring testaments to the empire's artistic heritage. His vision is to make Angkor Wat a repository of sublime sculptures that will inspire awe and reverence for generations.

Tuoangdrongpai (Representative of Khmer Traders):

Tuoangdrongpai, the astute Representative of Khmer Traders, is a shrewd and pragmatic figure whose life revolves around commerce and the expansion of markets. Hailing from a family of prosperous merchants, Tuoangdrongpai has been deeply involved in trade from a young age, mastering the intricacies of negotiation, market dynamics, and international commerce. His sharp business acumen and unyielding drive have made him a leading voice among the empire's traders, advocating for policies that promote economic growth and market expansion. Though he is a devout follower of Vishnu, Tuoangdrongpai's primary devotion lies with the coin, viewing economic prosperity as the foundation of the empire's strength.



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Tuoangdrongpai supports the construction of Angkor Wat to appease Vishnu and bolster the spiritual legitimacy of the empire. However, his primary concern lies with the empire's economic and territorial expansion, which he believes are crucial for ensuring continued prosperity. He argues that diplomatic efforts and military conquests are vital, as they open new markets and create opportunities for traders to thrive. For Tuoangdrongpai, the success of the Khmer Empire is intrinsically linked to its economic power, and any failure to expand its influence and markets is seen as an irreparable setback. In the royal court, he champions policies that prioritize trade and expansion, emphasizing that a robust and far-reaching commercial network is the ultimate measure of the empire's greatness. His vision is of an empire where economic and territorial growth go hand in hand, securing the future wealth and power of the Khmer civilization.

Dharanindravarman (Vassal of S. II & Leader of Banteay Seri City):

Dharanindravarman, the astute leader of Banteay Seri City, is a staunch advocate for regional autonomy within the Khmer Empire. Coming from a lineage of local rulers, he is deeply committed to the prosperity and well-being of his city. Dharanindravarman is known for his opposition to the increasing centralization of power by the court of King Suryavarman II. He argues that excessive imperial taxation and grandiose projects, such as the construction of Angkor Wat, drain resources that could be better utilized to enhance the local economy and infrastructure of Banteay Seri. Under his leadership, the city has flourished through efficient governance and a focus on trade, agriculture, and community development. Dharanindravarman's vision is to maintain peace and prosperity by minimizing imperial intervention and maximizing the autonomy of local leadership.

Harshavarman (Vassal of S. II & Leader of Vyadhapura City):

Harshavarman, the pragmatic leader of Vyadhapura City, shares a similar outlook with his contemporaries in other major cities. He is a vocal critic of the increasing power and influence of the royal court, believing that local authorities should have greater control over their affairs. Harshavarman is particularly concerned about the financial burden imposed by the empire's ambitious construction projects and heavy taxation. He contends that these practices stifle local economies and hinder the development of essential services in Vyadhapura. Harshavarman's governance focuses on fostering economic growth through trade, efficient resource management, and enhancing the city's defensive capabilities. His primary goal is to ensure that Vyadhapura remains a prosperous and self-sufficient city, less reliant on the central authority of the empire.

Nripatindravarman (Vassal of S. II & Leader of Sri Thep City):

Nripatindravarman, the vigilant leader of Sri Thep City, is dedicated to protecting the interests and autonomy of his city against the expanding reach of the Khmer Empire's central authority. He is a strong proponent of decentralized governance, arguing that local leaders are better suited to address the unique needs and challenges of their communities. Nripatindravarman is critical of the empire's focus on monumental projects like Angkor Wat, which he believes divert resources away from essential local initiatives. He advocates for reducing imperial taxation and redirecting funds towards enhancing local infrastructure, agriculture, and trade in Sri Thep. Nripatindravarman's leadership is characterized by a



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commitment to maintaining peace and stability while promoting the prosperity and independence of his city, ensuring that it remains a vibrant and thriving community within the empire.

Tuoaksaartreichaidan (Tonle Sap Fisherman):

A seasoned fisherman from the shores of the vast Tonle Sap Lake, finds himself unexpectedly summoned to the grand court of Suryavarman II. Known simply as Tuoak among his peers, he is a respected figure in his community, renowned for his deep knowledge of the lake's intricate ecosystem and its vital importance to the livelihoods of countless lakeshore families. The call to the royal court is a significant departure from his daily life of fishing and community leadership, yet Tuoak understands the gravity of this rare opportunity to voice the concerns of the common people directly to the Emperor and his advisors.

Tuoak's primary worry revolves around the potential environmental impact of constructing the monumental Angkor Wat. He fears that altering the hydrology and topography of the region could disrupt the delicate balance of the Tonle Sap Lake, leading to catastrophic consequences for both the environment and the people who depend on it. Tuoak's presence in the court is a poignant reminder of the interconnectedness of grand imperial projects and the everyday lives of the Khmer populace. As he stands, before the king it is Tuoak's mission to leverage this opportunity to voice the fears and anxieties of the people that their lives may be compromised in the pursuit of grandeur.

Jamadevi (Ambassador of Hariphunchai Kingdom):

Jamadevi, the distinguished ambassador to the Khmer Empire from the Hariphunchai Kingdom, is a figure of considerable diplomatic acumen and cultural sophistication. Born into Hariphunchai's royal family, she was educated in the arts of diplomacy, languages, and statecraft, preparing her for a life of service in international relations. As the chief envoy to the Khmer court, Jamadevi plays a crucial role in fostering and maintaining the delicate balance of power and mutual interests between the two kingdoms. Her primary mission is to ensure that the political and economic ties between Hariphunchai and the Khmer Empire remain strong and beneficial, navigating the complexities of both empires' ambitions with skill and tact.

Jamadevi's presence in the Khmer court comes at a time of significant political tension and monumental projects, such as the construction of Angkor Wat. She is tasked with advocating for Hariphunchai's interests, which often involves negotiating trade agreements, securing alliances, and promoting cultural exchange. Despite the grandeur and power of the Khmer court, Jamadevi is not easily intimidated; she brings a wealth of knowledge and a strategic mind to her role, ensuring that Hariphunchai's voice is heard and respected. Her diplomatic efforts are vital in maintaining peace and cooperation between the two realms, reflecting her deep commitment to her homeland and her skillful navigation of the political landscape of the Khmer Empire.

Aza (Ambassador of Srivijayan Empire):

Aza, the astute ambassador from the Srivijayan Empire to the Khmer Empire, is a figure of remarkable diplomatic prowess and strategic insight. Hailing from the influential Srivijayan royal court,



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Aza was meticulously trained in international diplomacy, trade negotiations, and political strategy. His appointment as ambassador underscores the importance of Khmer-Srivijayan relations, particularly in the realms of commerce and regional stability. Aza's primary mission is to safeguard Srivijaya's economic interests, always prioritizing the benefit of his homeland above all else.

Despite his title and the grandeur of the Khmer court, Aza undertakes no projects beyond what directly serves Srivijayan interests. He is tasked with negotiating favorable trade agreements, ensuring the flow of goods and resources between the two powerful empires, and promoting Srivijaya's strategic goals. Aza's diplomatic acumen is evident in his ability to engage with the complex power dynamics of the Khmer court, advocating unwaveringly for Srivijayan interests while maintaining a respectful yet firm stance. His presence in the Khmer court is a constant reminder of the strategic importance of Khmer-Srivijayan relations, as Aza works tirelessly to maintain peace, cooperation, and prosperity, always with a keen eye on the benefits for Srivijaya.

Prakāsadharman (Ambassador of Dai Viet):

Prakasdharman, the shrewd ambassador from Dai Viet to the Khmer Empire, is a Master of Diplomacy and strategic negotiation. Originating from the sophisticated courts of Dai Viet, he received extensive training in statecraft, international relations, and cultural diplomacy. His appointment as ambassador highlights the critical importance of Khmer-Dai Viet relations, especially in maintaining political stability and fostering economic cooperation. Prakasdharman's primary mission is to protect and advance the interests of Dai Viet, ensuring that every action he takes serves the benefit of his homeland.

Despite his esteemed position in the Khmer court, Prakasdharman refrains from engaging in projects that do not directly benefit Dai Viet. His focus remains steadfast on negotiating advantageous trade agreements, securing resources, and promoting Dai Viet's strategic goals. Prakasdharman's diplomatic skill is evident in his ability to navigate the intricate power structures of the Khmer Empire, advocating for Dai Viet with a combination of respect and unwavering resolve. His presence in the Khmer court underscores the importance of maintaining strong and beneficial relations between the two empires, as Prakasdharman diligently works to ensure peace and prosperity, always prioritizing the interests of Dai Viet.

Myint Swe (Ambassador of Pagan):

Myint Swe, the esteemed ambassador from the Pagan Kingdom to the Khmer Empire, is renowned for his diplomatic finesse and strategic acumen. Emerging from the esteemed courts of Pagan, Myint Swe received rigorous training in diplomacy, cultural exchange, and international relations. His appointment as ambassador signifies the deep-rooted ties and strategic importance of Pagan-Khmer relations, particularly in trade and regional stability. Myint Swe's foremost objective is to safeguard and advance the interests of Pagan, ensuring that every diplomatic maneuver serves the prosperity and security of his kingdom.

Despite his prestigious role at the Khmer court, Myint Swe abstains from involving himself in projects that do not directly benefit Pagan. His efforts are primarily focused on negotiating favorable trade agreements, securing essential resources, and promoting Pagan's strategic objectives. Myint Swe's



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diplomatic prowess shines through in his adept handling of the complex dynamics within the Khmer Empire, advocating for Pagan's interests with unwavering dedication and diplomatic finesse. His presence in the Khmer court underscores the enduring importance of maintaining robust and mutually beneficial relations between Pagan and the Khmer Empire, as Myint Swe diligently works to foster peace, cooperation, and prosperity for his homeland.

Sai Nam Peung (Ambassador of Lavo Kingdom):

Sai Nam Peung, the skilled ambassador from the Lavo Kingdom to the Khmer Empire, is celebrated for his diplomatic expertise and strategic insight. Hailing from the prestigious courts of Lavo, Sai Nam Peung received comprehensive training in diplomacy, economic negotiation, and cultural diplomacy. His appointment as ambassador underscores the strategic significance of Lavo-Khmer relations, particularly in trade, cultural exchange, and regional security. Sai Nam Peung's primary mission is to protect and promote the interests of Lavo, ensuring that every diplomatic initiative he undertakes serves the benefit of his kingdom.

Despite his influential position in the Khmer court, Sai Nam Peung refrains from engaging in projects that do not directly advance Lavo's interests. His focus remains steadfast on negotiating advantageous trade agreements, securing vital resources, and advancing Lavo's strategic goals. Sai Nam Peung's diplomatic finesse is evident in his adept navigation of the intricate power dynamics within the Khmer Empire, advocating for Lavo's interests with a blend of respect and steadfast determination. His presence in the Khmer court highlights the critical importance of fostering strong and mutually beneficial relations between Lavo and the Khmer Empire, as Sai Nam Peung works tirelessly to ensure peace, prosperity, and stability for his kingdom.

Goals of the body:

The goal of this committee is to **construct** Angkor Wat while **maintaining the physical, societal, economic, and fiscal stability** of the Empire of Khmer. Note, the construction of Angkor Wat is not to the detriment of any character. Characters are encouraged to use the construction to benefit personal position rather than conduct actions to the detriment of the seeing Angkor rise from the jungle and the gods praised by the majesty of Khmer architecture.

Because the people in this body are members of the court operating under imposed 21st century democratic rules with deference to the Emperor unilateral actions that fall under the preveue of the committee are not permitted. You may direct supporters (backroom) to act with personal resources in the realm of character responsibilities but FIAT powers are not granted, as opposed to the monarchical system present in real life.

This committee will pass directives with a majority vote (51 percent of governments' present members voting in affirmation of the directive). Since all of the actions of this committee require the support of the majority of members, this will prevent the strongest power from dominating the debate and allow smaller members to ensure their input is included in any directive passed.



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Ambassadors to the court are treated as valued guests with full voting privileges. The core ideals of diplomacy dictate expansion of relations and improvement of both independent entities while in dual service of Khmer and country of origin. The breakdown of relations between the Empire of Khmer and represented nation, including the outbreak of war, is a failure on the part of the assigned Ambassador.

Some members may receive information about events happening in their individual nation. These ambassadors can choose to share the information to the committee if they wish. Often, this information will require some individual action on the ambassador's part. Depending on the ambassador's response, these internal issues may increase or decrease. If the problem becomes large enough, it may be brought to the attention of the committee at large or cause a major issue or change in the ambassador's nation.

Special Crisis Mechanics

The Preservation of Vishnu –



The crisis mechanic “The Preservation of Vishnu,” the court of the Khmer Empire must grapple with the divine mandate to construct the temple of Angkor Wat. This mechanic introduces a critical challenge: if the participants fail to start or maintain Angkor Wat’s prompt and continuous construction, they will invoke the wrath of Vishnu and other important deities. Vishnu’s displeasure will manifest in a series of escalating calamities threatening the preservation of the Khmer Empire. These calamities ranging from natural disasters to societal upheaval, designed to mirror the gods’ increasing impatience and anger if the court falters in its mandate. The court must navigate political, economic, and logistical obstacles to maintain progress on the temple to avoid these dire consequences.

As the simulation progresses, the court will receive periodic updates - during crisis breaks - on Angkor Wat’s construction status. If the project falls behind schedule, depending on how dire it is, the crisis will escalate in severity. Initial signs of the gods’ displeasure might include adverse weather



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conditions, such as unseasonal storms or droughts, which will complicate agricultural production and threaten food security; so be on the lookout! If construction delays continue, more severe consequences will follow, including plagues, loss of military prowess, and civil unrest. Vishnu will tailor calamities specifically to upset the natural course and threaten the continued preservation of the Khmer Empire. The preservation of Vishnu is designed to prompt the court into balancing the temple's construction amidst other pressing issues facing the court.

To successfully navigate this mechanic, the court must collaborate and negotiate effectively, balancing resources and political capital to keep the construction on track. The need to appease Vishnu will test your ability to manage the empire's multifaceted demands, from maintaining stable governance to securing labor and materials for Angkor Wat. The looming potential of an upset in the balance should drive home the critical importance of the key religious and cultural monument at the center of this crisis. The court should not become immersed in petty squabbling, but realize they act with a divine mandate. Appease Vishnu or face calamities that threaten the preservation of this great empire!

Popular Support –

In the crisis Let's Not Get Angkor, maintaining public support is crucial for you as the Khmer court as you strive to construct the great temple of Angkor Wat admits divine and logistical challenges. This mechanic emphasizes the importance of keeping the citizenry content and cooperative, recognizing that the people of the empire are pivotal to maintaining stability. The court must address the needs and concerns of various social strata, ensuring that the burdens of construction do not lead to a dramatic drop in societal support of the Emperor. Failure to maintain public support could trigger severe consequences, including riots, labor strikes, or even full-scale revolts, which would hinder the temple's construction and exacerbate the crisis.

To successfully manage this mechanic, the court must engage in proactive governance, balancing taxation, labor demands, and resource allocation with measures that promote public welfare. Maintaining good health among the population, festivals, fair distribution of food, and sustainable resource utilization can help placate the Khmer populace. The court must also be adept at crisis communication, transparently conveying the importance of the temple and the shared sacrifices required to appease Vishnu. The public support mechanic underscores the necessity of a delicate and responsive leadership approach, where the pulse of the populace is continuously monitored and addressed to prevent civil unrest. Through this mechanism "Popular Support" the court will be challenged to recognize and navigate the intricate social contract between rulers and ruled in the historical context of the Khmer Empire.

Also, of note dread is not a mechanic you can use in this crisis. Appealing to a populace's spirituality, quality of life improvements, and pride in community and country are methods that will generate a favorable result. Those who live by the sword die by the sword in this crisis, a court utilizing barbarism and fear of the establishment to keep the populace in line will be rewarded in kind by the denizens trapped under authoritarian rule.

Rising of Angkor –



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The “Rising of Angkor” mechanic introduces a visual and interactive element to the crisis providing delegates with a graphic representation of Angkor Wat’s construction progress during the designated crisis breaks. This dynamic display will serve as both a motivator and a tangible indicator of the collective efforts and decisions of the court. Each stage of the temple’s construction, from the foundation to towering spires, will be depicted, reflecting the real-time advancements made by the court. This visual aid is designed to enhance the engagement by bringing the temple’s scale to life but also underscores the impact of the delegates’ actions on the empire’s divine mission. By seeing the fruits of their labor – or the lack thereof – the court will be reminded of the critical importance of their role in pleasing Vishnu and achieving historical greatness!

Special Mechanics During the Crisis –

The special mechanics will be shown to the delegates as infographics present during the crisis. So, the entire court can readily gauge the progress or lack thereof towards maintaining harmony between the goals of the court and the three special mechanics.

Bibliography*

*All photos that lack a source were taken by and are property of the creator of this document