

The majority of the inhabitants of Indo-China belong to the Mongolian family, and the prevailing religion is Buddhism. On account of the swampy nature of the lowlands and danger from floods and wild animals, the native houses are raised on piles. They are sometimes built of timber, but generally constructed of bamboo poles covered and thatched with palm-leaf matting. The following are the political divisions of the area, and the chief towns :

**French Indo-China** embraces Tongking, Anam, Cochin China, and Cambodia. **Tongking** occupies the basin of the Songkoi, and its chief town—**Hanoi**—is the capital of the whole of French Indo-China. The town is well built, but its harbour is only accessible to small sea-vessels. From it railways have been constructed for some distance along the Valley of the Songkoi, as well as north-eastward towards China and southward along the coastal plain.

**Anam** embraces the east coastal strip and a mountainous hinterland. Unlike the rest of Indo-China, the rain, brought by the north-east trade-wind, falls here mainly in winter, and this is less favourable to agriculture. The coast towns also suffer from the force of this wind in winter, and occasionally from typhoons; so that navigation is at all times dangerous, and the chief town—**Hué**—is but a poor port. **Cochin China** mainly consists of the delta of the Mekong. The capital—**Saigon**—has a good harbour, and is connected with the Mekong by a navigable channel and a railway.

**Siam** is partly composed of the valley of the Menam, and partly of a low and rather arid plateau to the east. The capital—**Bangkok**—stands on the Menam, but, owing to a bar at the mouth of the river, is only accessible to small vessels. A railway has been built from the coast to Bangkok, and for some distance eastward.

**Burma** includes the basins of the Salwin and Irawadi. The capital—**Mandalay**—can be reached from the coast by boat up the Irawadi, or by a railway, which also extends some distance farther north. At Mandalay there is a large walled enclosure containing the old Burmese royal palace, now utilized as a British fort; and on a hill behind the town stands an enormous Buddhist temple with 700 pagodas. The beautiful carving on these palaces and temples demonstrates the artistic genius of the Burmese.

The only important port of Burma is **Rangoon**, which is accessible at high-tide to large ocean vessels. It is situated on an inlet, which is