Some scholars include Vietnam as part of East Asia as it has been considered a subregion of the Asian continent, which can be defined in either physical or cultural terms. Culturally, China, Japan, Korea and Vietnam are considered part of East Asia. The region is characterized by a rich history and a complex set of interactions between the countries.

However, there is also a debate about the definition of East Asia, with some scholars arguing that it should include Central Asia and Inner Asia, dating back to the late 19th century. This is influenced by the conceptual monopoly imposed by China studies. Similarly, Inner Asia (Mongolia, Inner Mongolia, Manchuria, Xinjiang and Tibet) rescue Inner Asia from the conceptual monopoly imposed by China studies. [12] Japanese scholarship on Central/Inner Asia, dating back to the late 19th century, is characterized by a rich history and a complex set of interactions between the countries.

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