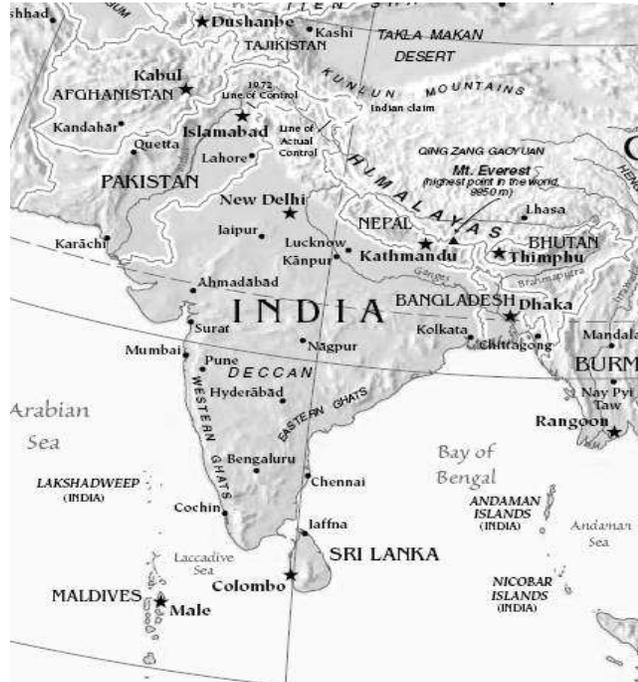


- INDIA
- BANGLADESH
- SRI LANKA
- NEPAL
- BHUTAN
- PAKISTAN
- AFGHANISTAN



Physical Geography:

- South Asia is a subcontinent formed by plate tectonics. The South Asia plate that is *still* moving. The result is that the Himalaya Mountains are continuing to be pushed higher.
- The Himalayas are the world’s highest mountain range. They form a massive barrier along northern Pakistan, India, Nepal and Bhutan.
 - Due to the challenging landform and climate, Himalayan countries such as Nepal and Bhutan have low population densities.
- Rainwater and snowmelt from the Himalayas form the region’s major rivers, the Indus and Ganges.

How do the rivers impact population density? Heavily populated along water sources.

- Monsoon climate. Seasonal winds; warm wet summer, cool dry winter. Seasons NOT defined by temperature patterns, but by precipitation patterns.
- Natural Resources: Coal and iron in India, natural gas in Pakistan and India, precious and semi-precious stones, especially in Sri Lanka, **top resource in the region is arable land**

What is “arable” land? Good farm land; fertile soil

Economy

HDI Data	India	Pakistan	Bangladesh
Per Capita GDP	\$3,700	\$2,800	\$1,700
Life Expectancy	67	66	70
Births per woman	2.58	3.07	2.55
Infant Mortality	46	61	49
Literacy Rate	61%	50%	48%
Years Schooling	10	7	8

- Less developed to developing HDI status
- Still much subsistence agriculture and cottage industries; child labor is an issue
- Growth of service industries such as telecommunications, software, etc.

Why are jobs outsourced from the US to South Asia (two reasons)? They speak English as a result of British colonialism and low labor costs.

Government

- Democracy is the prevalent form of government. *Why? Another impact of British colonialism*
- India is the largest democracy in the world
- Pakistan has alternated between democracy and dictatorships—war in neighboring Afghanistan puts great pressure on the government

Culture

- Prevalent religions: Islam - (Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh)
 - Hinduism - (India, Nepal)
 - Buddhism - (Bhutan, Sri Lanka)
- Religion has major impact on lifestyles. For example, beef is taboo to most Indians because cattle are sacred in Hinduism

- Hindus believe in reincarnation, the caste system, and consider the Ganges River to be sacred.

- Caste System in India: Ancient idea that has stayed. People born into a level of society. Though officially banned, affects jobs, education and social relationships



- “Bollywood” - Movie making and movie going are much more popular there---average Indian goes to 10 times more movies than Americans

Regional Issues

- Population: Region has 1.37 billion people, 1.17 billion of which live in India

-- India is the 2nd largest country by population---has a much higher growth rate than China, so India will eventually be #1.

-- Population density in Bangladesh is about 2,600; 80 for USA; 1,035 for India

- Water Pollution and Disease

-- 38.5 million lack clean water in Pakistan; millions of wells in Bangladesh have arsenic, estimate 20,000 die annually

- Floods and Cyclones

-- Bangladesh: in 1970 a massive flood hit East Pakistan that killed 300,000 people

-- 8 of the 10 worst natural disasters of the 20th century in terms of death toll were Bengali floods

- Conflict

-- India-Pakistan conflict: both nations have nuclear weapons, and they are the only neighboring countries in the world that have them that are not allies. This is one of the most serious, potentially violent situations in the world today.

-- Islamic militants and war in Afghanistan: potential to destabilize the region--terrorism, refugees, drug trade

AFGHANISTAN

- Was a U.S. ally in 1979 when the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan trying to take it over.
- In 1994, the “Taliban” took over Afghanistan
- They used a form of Sharia Law that was very extreme, especially in terms of the limitations placed on women’s rights.
- Openly supported al-Qaeda and Osama bin Laden.
- Weeks after 9/11, the U.S. invaded Afghanistan with two objectives:
 - Find al-Qaeda
 - Remove the Taliban from power
- Unfortunately, the Taliban has resurfaced in Afghanistan and parts of Pakistan in the last few years.
- Have actually convinced Pakistan to allow Sharia Law in certain areas of Pakistan.

- Osama bin Laden was killed in Pakistan on May 2, 2011 by a United States by a team of United States Navy SEALs. The raid on bin Laden's compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan was launched from Afghanistan. After the raid, U.S. forces took bin Laden's body to Afghanistan for identification, then buried it at sea within 24 hours of his death per Islamic tradition.