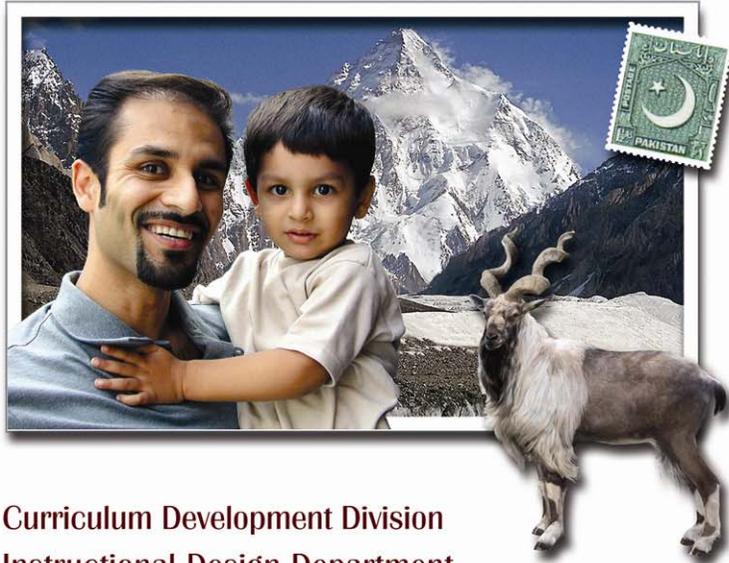


PAKISTAN in Perspective

An Orientation Guide



Curriculum Development Division
Instructional Design Department
August 2007



DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE FOREIGN LANGUAGE CENTER

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PROFILE

Introduction

Pakistan has a long history as a region but only slightly more than 60 years as a country. The country's name itself only precedes independence by a little more than a decade. It is an acronym referencing the many homelands of the region's peoples: Punjab, Afghania (North-West Province), Kashmir, Sindh, Balochistan.¹ In Urdu, this acronym translates into "land of the pure."



© Nick Leonard
Mountains near Passu

Since independence, Pakistan has been in a long struggle to achieve its national and political identity. Periods of military rule and democratically elected governments have alternated. During the country's first quarter century, Pakistan was divided into two regions—East and West—that were geographically separated by most of India. Since 1971, when East Pakistan broke away and ultimately became the country of Bangladesh, Pakistan has been a contiguous state, but ethnic, language, and tribal divisions continue to influence political life. Islamic sectarian violence has also increased over the last few decades.²

Facts and Figures³

Location:

Southern Asia, bordering the Arabian Sea, between India on the east, Iran and Afghanistan on the west, and China in the north

Area:

803, 940 sq km (310,403 sq mi)

Border Countries:

Afghanistan 2,430 km (1,510 mi), China 523 km (325 mi), India 2,912 km (1,809 mi), Iran 909 km (565 mi)

Natural Hazards:

Frequent earthquakes, occasionally severe especially in the north and west; flooding along the Indus after heavy rains (July and August)

Climate:

Mostly hot, dry desert; temperate in the northwest; arctic in the north

¹ Media Monitors Network. Ali, Chaudhary Rahmat. "Now or Never: Are We to Live or Perish Forever?" 28 January 2003. <http://www.mediamonitors.net/nowornever.html>

² BBC News, U.K. Version. "Pakistan's Shia-Sunni Divide." 1 June 2004. http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/3045122.stm

³ Information in this section comes from the following source: Central Intelligence Agency. CIA World Factbook. "Pakistan." 19 June 2007.

Environment—Current Issues:

Water pollution from raw sewage, industrial waste, and agricultural runoff; limited natural fresh water resources; a majority of the population does not have access to potable water; deforestation; soil erosion; desertification

Population:

164,741,924 (July 2007 est.)

Median Age:

20.9 years (2007 est.)

Population Growth Rate:

1.828% (2007 est.)

Life Expectancy at Birth:

63.75 years (2007 est.)

HIV/AIDS—Adult Prevalence Rate:

0.1% (2001 est.)

Major Infectious Diseases:

Degree of risk: High

Food or waterborne diseases: Bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A and E, and typhoid fever

Vectorborne diseases: Dengue fever, malaria, and cutaneous leishmaniasis are high risks depending on location.

Animal contact disease: Rabies

Note: Highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza has been identified among birds in this country or surrounding region; it poses a negligible risk with extremely rare cases possible among U.S. citizens who have close contact with birds (2007)

Nationality:

Noun: Pakistani(s)

Adjective: Pakistani

Sex Ratio:

At birth: 1.05 male(s)/female

Under 15 years: 1.06 male(s)/female

15–64 years: 1.048 male(s)/female

65 years and over: 0.901 male(s)/female

Total population: 1.045 male(s)/female (2007 est.)

Ethnic Groups:

Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashtun (Pathan), Baloch, Muhajir (immigrants from India at the time of partition and their descendants)



© _rh / Flickr.com
Busy street in Muzaffarabad

Religions:

Muslim 97% (Sunni 77%, Shi'a 20%), other (includes Christian and Hindu) 3%

Languages:

Punjabi 48%, Sindhi 12%, Siraiki (a Punjabi variant) 10%, Pashtu 8%, Urdu (official) 8%, Balochi 3%, Hindko 2%, Brahui 1%, English (official; *lingua franca* of Pakistani elite and most government ministries), Burushaski and others 8%



© megabeth / flickr.com
Karachi newsstand

Literacy:

Definition: Persons age 15 and over who can read and write

Total population: 49.9%

Male: 63%

Female: 36% (2005 est.)

Country Name:

Conventional long form: Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Conventional short form: Pakistan

Local long form: Jamhuryat Islami Pakistan

Local short form: Pakistan

Former: West Pakistan

Government Type:

Federal republic

Capital:

Name: Islamabad

Administrative Divisions:

Four provinces, one territory, and one capital territory

Provinces: Balochistan, North-West Frontier Province, Punjab, Sindh

Territory: Federally Administered Tribal Areas

Capital Territory: Islamabad Capital Territory

Note: The Pakistani-administered portion of the disputed Jammu and Kashmir region consists of two administrative entities: Azad Kashmir and Northern Areas

Independence:

14 August 1947 (from United Kingdom)

National Holiday:

Republic Day, 23 March 1956

Constitution:

12 April 1973; suspended 5 July 1977, restored with amendments 30 December 1985; suspended 15 October 1999, restored in stages in 2002; amended 31 December 2003

Legal System:

Based on English common law with provisions to accommodate Pakistan's status as an Islamic state; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction, with reservations



© Luke Stiles
Government buildings, Islamabad

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal; joint electorates and reserved parliamentary seats for women and non-Muslims

Government:

Note: Following a military takeover on 12 October 1999, Chief of Army Staff and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Pervez Musharraf, suspended Pakistan's constitution and assumed the additional title of Chief Executive. On 12 May 2000, Pakistan's Supreme Court unanimously validated the October 1999 coup and granted Musharraf executive and legislative authority for three years from the coup date. On 20 June 2001, Musharraf named himself as president and was sworn in replacing Mohammad Rafiq Tarar. In a referendum held on 30 April 2002, Musharraf's presidency was extended by five more years, and on 1 January 2004, Musharraf won a vote of confidence in the Senate, National Assembly, and four provincial assemblies.

Chief of state: President General Pervez Musharraf (since 20 June 2001)

Head of government: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz (since 28 August 2004)

Cabinet: Cabinet appointed by the prime minister

Elections: The president is elected by an electoral college drawn from the national parliament and provincial assemblies for a five-year term. Note: Musharraf was last sworn in as President in November 2002; the prime minister is selected by the National Assembly (next elections to be held in late 2007)

Election results: Aziz was elected by the National Assembly on 27 August 2004

Legislative Branch:

Bicameral Parliament or Majlis-e-Shoora consists of the Senate (100 seats; members indirectly elected by provincial assemblies and the territories' representatives in the National Assembly to serve six-year terms; half of the Senate's seats turn over every three years) and the National Assembly (342 seats; 272 seats filled by popular vote; 60 seats reserved for women; ten seats reserved for non-Muslims; members serve five-year terms)

Elections: Senate - last held in March 2006 (next to be held in March 2009); National Assembly - last held 10 October 2002 (next to be held in 2007)

Election results: Senate results - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - Pakistan Muslim League (PML) 39, Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) 18, Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) 9, Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) 6, Pakistan Muslim League/Nawaz Sharif group (PML/N) 4, Pakhtoon Khwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) 3, Pakistan People's Party/Sherpao group (PPP/S) 3, Awami National Party (ANP) 2, Baluch National Party/Awami (BNP/A) 1, Baluch National Party/Mengal (BNP/M) 1, Jamhoori Watan Party (JWP) 1, Pakistan Muslim League/Functional group (PML/F) 1, Independents 12; National Assembly results - percent of votes by party - NA; seats by party - Pakistan Muslim League/ Quaid-e-Azam (PML/Q) 126, PPPP 81, MMA 63, PML/N 19, MQM 17, National Alliance (NA) 16, PML/F 5, Pakistan Muslim League/ Junejo group (PML/J) 3, PPP/S 2, BNP/A 1, JWP 1, Pakistan Awami Tehrik (PAT) 1, PkMAP 1, Pakistan Muslim League/Zia group (PML/Z) 1, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) 1, Independents 4



© Dr. Wasif Iqbal
Supreme Court

Judicial Branch:

Supreme Court (justices appointed by the president); Federal Islamic or Shari'a Court

International Organization Participation:

ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF); Asian Development Bank (AsDB); Commonwealth (C) (reinstated 2004); Colombo Plan (CP); Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO); Food & Agricultural Organization (FAO); G-24, G-77, Int'l Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); Int'l Bank for Reconstruction & Development (IBRD); Int'l Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO); Int'l Chamber of Commerce (ICC); Int'l Red Cross & Red Crescent Movement (ICRM); Int'l Development Assoc. (IDA); Islamic Development Bank (IDB); Int'l Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); Int'l Finance Corp. (IFC); Int'l Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRCS); Int'l Hydrographic Organization (IHO); Int'l Labor Organization (ILO); Int'l Monetary Fund (IMF); Int'l Maritime Organization (IMO); Interpol; Int'l Olympic Committee (IOC); Int'l Organization for Migration (IOM); Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU); Int'l Organization for Standardization (ISO); Int'l Telecommunications Union (ITU); Int'l Trade Union Confederation (ITUC); Multilateral Investment Geographic Agency (MIGA); U.N. Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO); U.N. Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH); U.N. Org. Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC); Nonaligned Movement (NAM); Org. of American States (OAS) (observer); Org. of the Islamic Conference (OIC); U.N. Operation in Burundi (ONUB); Org. for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW); Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA); South Asian Assoc. for Regional Cooperation (SAARC); South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP0); Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) (observer); United Nations (U.N.); U.N. Conference on Trade & Development (UNCTAD); U.N. Educational, Scientific, & Cultural Organization (UNESCO); U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); U.N.

Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); U.N. Mission in Liberia (UNMIL); U.N. Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI); U.N. Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG); U.N. World Tourism Organization (UNWTO); World Confederation of Labor (WCL); World Customs Organization (WCO); World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU); World Health Organization (WHO); World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO); World Meteorological Organization (WMO); World Trade Organization (WTO)

GDP—Real Growth Rate:

6% (2006 est.)

GDP—Composition by Sector:

Agriculture: 22%

Industry: 26%

Services: 52% (2006 est.)



© Christophe Laurent
Disaster relief

Labor Force—By Occupation:

Agriculture: 42%

Industry: 20%

Services: 38% (2004 est.)

Telephones—Main Lines in Use:

5,162,798 (2006)

Telephones—Mobile Cellular:

48,289,136 (2006)

Radio Broadcast Stations:

AM 31, FM 68, shortwave NA (2006)

Television Broadcast Stations:

20 (5 state-run channels and 15 privately-owned satellite channels) (2006)

Internet Users:

10.5 million (2005)

Airports:

139 (2006)

Airports—With Paved Runways:

Total: 91

Over 3,047 m (1.89 mi): 14

2,438 to 3,047 m (1.51-1.89 mi): 21

1,524 to 2,437 m (0.95-1.51 mi): 33

914 to 1,523 m (0.57-0.95 mi): 15

Under 914 m (0.57 mi): 8 (2006)

Military Branches:

Army (includes National Guard), Navy (includes Marines and Maritime Security Agency), Pakistan Air Force (Pakistan Fiza'ya) (2007)

Military Service Age and Obligation:

The minimum age is 16 years for voluntary military service, but soldiers cannot be deployed for combat until the age of 18. The Pakistani Air Force and Pakistani Navy have inducted their first female pilots and sailors. (2006)

International Disputes:

India–Kashmir

Various talks and confidence-building measures cautiously have begun to defuse tensions over Kashmir, particularly since the October 2005 earthquake in the region. Nevertheless, Kashmir remains the site of the world's largest and most militarized territorial dispute, with portions under the de facto administration of China (Aksai Chin), India (Jammu and Kashmir), and Pakistan (Azad Kashmir and Northern Areas). A United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) has maintained a small group of peacekeepers since 1949. India does not recognize Pakistan's ceding historic Kashmir lands to China in 1964. India and Pakistan have maintained their 2004 cease fire in Kashmir and initiated discussions on defusing the armed stand-off in the Siachen glacier region. Pakistan protests India's fencing the highly militarized Line of Control and construction of the Baglihar Dam on the Chenab River in Jammu and Kashmir, which is part of the larger dispute on water sharing of the Indus River and its tributaries.



© Jules Gilson
Wagah border guard

India–Elsewhere

To defuse tensions and prepare for discussions on a maritime boundary, India and Pakistan seek technical resolution of the disputed boundary in Sir Creek estuary at the mouth of the Rann of Kutch in the Arabian Sea. Pakistani maps continue to show the Junagadh claim in India's Gujarat State.

Afghanistan

By 2005, Pakistan, with U.N. assistance, repatriated 2.3 million Afghan refugees, leaving slightly more than a million, many of whom remain at their own choosing. Pakistan has proposed and Afghanistan protests construction of a fence and laying of mines along portions of their porous border. Pakistan has sent troops into remote tribal areas to monitor and control the border with Afghanistan and to stem terrorist or other illegal activities.

Illicit Drugs:

Opium poppy cultivation was estimated to be 800 ha (3 sq mi) in 2005, yielding a potential production of 4 metric tons (8000 lb) of pure heroin. Federal and provincial authorities continue to conduct anti-poppy campaigns that force eradication - fines and arrests will take place if the ban on poppy cultivation is not observed. Pakistan is a key

transit point for Afghan drugs, including heroin, opium, morphine, and hashish, bound for Western markets, the Gulf States, and Africa. Financial crimes related to drug trafficking, terrorism, corruption, and smuggling remain problems.

GEOGRAPHY

Pakistan's Neighborhood

Pakistan, a country that is nearly twice the size of California, is strategically located within Asia.⁴ To its east and north lie the world's two most populous countries (India and China), both with rapidly developing economies; to the west are the oil states of Iran and the Middle East. Its southern border lies entirely along the Arabian Sea, the outlet for oil tankers moving to and from the Persian Gulf. Most of Pakistan's western border is with Afghanistan, a country that has been embroiled in civil wars and general instability for over 30 years. During those conflicts western Pakistan has been home to both refugee camps and informal military bases for various combatant groups.



© Tom n Alex Lowe
Iran-Pakistan Border, Mirjaveh

Iran

Pakistan's other neighbor is Iran, which borders the western edge of Balochistan. Although the two countries have generally been on good terms, their relationship was strained during the Afghanistan conflict of the 1990s, when each country supported opposing sides (the Taliban by Pakistan, the Northern Alliance by Iran). Since the fall of the Taliban in 2001, the two countries have moved closer together. Nonetheless, Iran (a predominantly Shi'a nation) and Sunni-majority Pakistan still harbor suspicions about each other. In particular, some in Pakistan suspect Iranian involvement in the unrest taking place in Balochistan.^{5,6}

Iran has recently built, with Indian assistance, a new deep-water port at Chabahar, only a few hundred km down the coast from Pakistan's new port at Gwadar. The two new ports are both located near the strategic Gulf of Oman that leads to the oilfields of the Middle East. They have created a competition to develop inland trade and access routes for energy-related resources flowing to and from the ports to the Central Asian republics and China.⁷ In a more collaborative economic venture, Pakistan and Iran, along with India, are in the late stages of negotiating a pipeline that ultimately will bring natural gas from Iran through Pakistan to India.⁸

⁴ PakistaniDefence.com. "Geo-Strategic Importance." 2001.
<http://www.pakistanidefence.com/Info/GeoStrategic.html>

⁵ Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, U.S. State Department. "Background Note: Pakistan." May 2007. <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3453.htm>

⁶ Asia Times Online. Ramachandran, Sudha. "'Brothers' in Arms." 18 March 2005.
http://www.atimes.com/atimes/South_Asia/GC18Df06.html

⁷ South Asia Program. The Henry L. Stimson Center. Haider, Ziad. "Baluchis, Beijing, and Pakistan's Gwadar Port." Winter/Spring 2005. <http://www.stimson.org/southasia/pdf/GWADAR.pdf>

⁸ The Hindu Online. Varadarajan, Siddarth. "'Peace Pipeline': Iran for Tripartite Summit." 8 February 2007.
<http://www.hindu.com/2007/02/08/stories/2007020821100100.htm>

Afghanistan

Perhaps the world's most publicized border since September 11, 2001 has been the long stretch between Pakistan and Afghanistan. It runs for 2,430 km (1,510 mi) from near the northernmost tip of Pakistan's Northern Areas to the country's westernmost point at Ribat, where Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran converge in a triangular-shaped region. The long border in many places has more reality on maps than it does on the ground. Smugglers, refugees, terrorists, and everyday Pashtun tribespeople have long been able to move freely from one country to the other. The border region's lack of governmental control, its rugged topography, and the close Pashtun tribal ties along both sides of it have all contributed to its situation as one of the world's most porous international boundaries.⁹

The Afghani–Pakistani border is known as the Durand Line, drawn by British diplomat Sir Mortimer Durand during colonial times. It divides the traditional tribal areas of the Pashtuns and Balochs and has long been a source of contention between the two countries. For its part, Afghanistan has never recognized the Durand Line boundary. This controversy has been heightened in recent times as terrorists and Taliban militia members have moved freely within the only nominally governed, Federally Administered Tribal Areas (known as FATA or, simply, “tribal areas”) of Pakistan. The Pakistani army has responded by building fences along 35 km (22 mi) of the Durand Line border, which Afghani troops in turn have tried to remove. The resulting border skirmishes between Afghani and Pakistani forces have threatened the cooperation needed by Afghanistan, Pakistan, and NATO forces to control the Taliban insurgency.¹⁰



© James Mollison
View into Pakistan from Khyber Pass

Pakistan supported the Taliban government in Afghanistan until the post-9/11 period. Even today, Afghani leadership continues to express distrust of Pakistani intentions with regards to Afghanistan.¹¹ Pakistani officials, on the other hand, have accused Afghanistan of allowing India to use Afghani territory to support violent unrest within Balochistan and Wajiristan (the southern portion of Pakistan's tribal areas).¹²

India

Pakistan and India have generally been on bad terms since the day they both became independent countries in 1947. The partitioning of the former British colony of India, which included the present-day countries of Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh, was marked

⁹ Council for Emerging National Security Affairs. Kemp, Robert. “Counterinsurgency in Eastern Afghanistan.” 2006. http://www.censa.net/EI_PD_Compndium/EI_PD_Kemp_Chapter.pdf

¹⁰ The Nation. Mehmood, Asif. “Build Up on Durand Line.” 20 May 2007. <http://www.nation.com.pk/daily/may-2007/20/index2.php>

¹¹ AlertNet.org. Reuters. “Musharraf Urges Karzai to Stop Finger-Pointing.” 22 April 2007. <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/ISL337050.htm>

¹² Carnegie Endowment of International Peace. Grare, Frédéric. “Pakistan-Afghanistan Relations in the Post-9/11 Era.” October 2006. <http://www.carnegieendowment.org/publications/index.cfm?fa=view&id=18740&prog=zgp&proj=zsa>

by massive violence as Hindus in Pakistan areas moved to India and Muslims in Indian areas moved to Pakistan.

The India–Pakistan partition also caused the ongoing deadlock over Jammu and Kashmir. As a princely state, Jammu and Kashmir’s decision on whether to join India or Pakistan was in the hands of the ruling Maharaja. When he delayed making his accession decision in 1947, a series of political and military events unfolded that have been historically debated by both sides ever since.¹³ Ultimately, the Maharaja, a



© Jules Gilson
Wagah border, India - Pakistan

Hindu, acceded to India, despite the fact that the majority of people in Jammu and Kashmir were Muslims. In fast order, India and Pakistan began fighting over Jammu and Kashmir; the less populated western and northern regions eventually came under Pakistani control.

Two subsequent Pakistani–Indian Wars in 1965 and 1971 were followed in 1972 by an agreement formalizing the “Line of Control” in Jammu and Kashmir. The Line of Control is essentially the same as the boundary after the 1947–48 war.¹⁴ Even so, conflicts have continued over the interpretation of this boundary near the Siachen Glacier in western Jammu and Kashmir, resulting in another Pakistani-Indian conflict beginning in 1984. Since then, there have been long periods of stand-off punctuated by occasional battles in this region. Some bases near the glacier are above 5,650 m (18,540 ft), making this the world’s highest war zone.¹⁵

In 1999, the world held its collective breath as India and Pakistan once again battled along the Jammu and Kashmir border. These were the first major hostilities between the two countries since Pakistan joined India as a country with nuclear weapons capability.¹⁶ In 1998, Pakistan carried out its first nuclear weapons tests, followed a month later by Indian underground testing. The 1999 hostilities raised fears that the two long-time enemies might be tempted to use their nuclear arsenals.¹⁷ Similar fears arose again in December 2001 after a terrorist attack on the Indian Parliament in New Delhi. India’s Government claimed the attack was carried out by Lashkar e-Toiba, a terrorist group operating out of Azad Kashmir on the Pakistani side of the Line of Control.^{18 19}

¹³ The Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame. Mahmood, Cynthia. “Kashmir and ‘The War on Terrorism.’” October 2001. <http://kroc.nd.edu/polbriefs/pbrief8.shtml>

¹⁴ The 1971 war began as a conflict between India and Pakistan over the East Pakistan secession revolt that led to the creation of the nation of Bangladesh. However, it eventually spread to a western front between the two countries, especially in Jammu and Kashmir.

¹⁵ TIME Asia. McGirk, Tim and Aravind Adiga. “War at the Top of the World.” 4 May 2005. <http://www.time.com/time/asia/covers/501050711/story.html>

¹⁶ BBC News. “India-Pakistan: Troubled Relations—Kargil Conflict.” 2005. http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/static/in_depth/south_asia/2002/india_pakistan/timeline/1999.stm

¹⁷ BBC News. “India-Pakistan: Troubled Relations—Nuclear Rivalry.” 2005. http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/static/in_depth/south_asia/2002/india_pakistan/timeline/1998.stm

¹⁸ BBC News, UK Version. “Profile: Lashkar-e-Toiba.” 17 March 2006. http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/3181925.stm

Indian and Pakistan relations in the last decade have alternated between tense political and military standoffs and periods of thaw, with ongoing terrorist attacks within Kashmir a major point of conflict. Presently the two countries are in the third year of peace talks known as the Composite Dialogue. Terrorist attacks on trains in Mumbai and near Lahore during 2006 and 2007, respectively, threatened the peace process, but so far they have not had any lasting effects.²⁰

China

Pakistan's relations with the People's Republic of China (PRC) have generally been good throughout the country's history. China has several border disputes with India, including several areas in the Jammu and Kashmir area, but the Pakistani–China border situation has generally been calm. In 1963, the two countries negotiated a border agreement in the northern part of Jammu and Kashmir that gave China control over the Trans-Karakoram tract, a region that India still claims as part of greater Jammu and Kashmir.²¹ K2, the world's second highest point, lies on this portion of the Pakistani–Chinese border.



© Scott Christian
China Pakistan border

Pakistan was one of the first non-Communist countries to recognize the PRC (in 1950), and for many years their strategic relationship was reinforced by their mutual strained relations with India and the Soviet Union. While the external dynamics have changed over the last two decades with the collapse of the Soviet Union and China's rapprochement with India, the two countries have maintained their "all weather relationship."²²

In 1966, the two countries began to build a highway connecting them through Pakistan's Northern Areas, the northern administrative portion of Jammu and Kashmir under Pakistani control. This road, known as the Karakoram Highway, was completed in 1986 and is the highest paved international border crossing in the world at 4,693 m (15,397 ft). Pakistan and China recently announced plans to upgrade and widen this road as part of a program to better connect western China with Pakistan's new deep-sea port at Gwadar, which was built with extensive Chinese aid.^{23, 24} China will also finance a highway link

¹⁹ Office of the Coordinator for Terrorism, U.S. Department of State. "Chapter 8—Foreign Terrorist Organizations." <http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/crt/2005/65275.htm>

²⁰ India News Online. Singh, Harjit. "Peace Process is On Despite Train Fire-Bombing." 5 March 2007. <http://news.indiamart.com/news-analysis/peace-process-is-on--14939.html>

²¹ International Boundary Consultants. *International Boundary Monitor*. "India's Boundary Disputes With China, Nepal, and Pakistan." 15 May 1998. <http://www.boundaries.com/India.htm>

²² Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies. Kumar, Atul. "China, Pakistan Economic Relations." September 2006. <http://www.ipcs.org/IPCS-Special-Report-30.pdf>

²³ The Hindu. Aiyar, Pallavi. "China, Pakistan to Renovate Karakoram Highway." 11 July 2006. <http://www.hindu.com/2006/07/11/stories/2006071107281300.htm>

²⁴ International Herald Tribune. Associated Press. "New Pakistani Deep Sea Port a Boon for Chinese Trade, But Locals See Little Benefit." 12 May 2007. <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/05/13/business/AS-FEA-FIN-Pakistan-Port-of-Promise.php>

from Gwadar to a road connecting to highways leading to Rawalpindi, near where the Karakoram Highway to China begins.²⁵

Area

More so than in most countries, Pakistan's administrative divisions, known as provinces, largely follow the country's geographical and ethnic patterns. Balochistan and the North-West Frontier, which make up the mountainous western and northern parts of the country, are historically the homelands of ethnic Balochis and Pashtuns, respectively. Punjab and Sindh, on the other hand, occupy primarily river plains.

Geographic Regions

Northern Mountains

The northern part of Pakistan, including virtually all of the areas of Jammu and Kashmir controlled by Pakistan, consists of mountainous terrain interspersed by river valleys. The highest mountains lie along the northern border, including the Karakoram Range to the northwest and the Hindu Kush to the northeast. Prominent peaks include Tirich Mir 7,708 m (25,289 ft), the highest peak in the Hindu Kush; K2 8,611 m (28,251 ft), the highest Karakoram peak and the world's second highest mountain; and Nanga Parbat 8,126 m (26,660 ft), the only peak over 8,000 m in the Western Himalayas.



© *.* / flickr.com
Nanga Parbat

In the southern part of this region the mountains decrease in height. Most of the river valleys are found in this area, including the tourist destinations of Swat Valley and the Kaghan Valley. The rivers and streams that run through these valleys all ultimately feed into the Indus River further downstream.

In October 2005, the Kaghan Valley was struck by a violent earthquake of magnitude 7.6. Over 75,000 people were killed in what was ultimately one of the world's deadliest earthquakes of all time. Some Kaghan Valley towns and cities, such as Balakot, were so totally destroyed that officials have decided that the town will not be rebuilt at its old site.²⁶

Submontane Plateaus

Between the northern and western mountains are a series of plateaus surrounded by low hills. The largest of these is the Potwar Plateau, which is separated from the Indus River Plain by the narrow Salt Range that runs east-west north of the Jhelum River. In the northeastern part of the Potwar Plateau are the cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, Pakistan's capital.

²⁵ "Interpreting China's Grand Strategy at Gwadar." 14 February 2006.

http://www.ipcs.org/China_east_asia_articles2.jsp?action=showView&kValue=1952&keyArticle=1009&issue=1009&status=article&mod=a

²⁶ BBC News, UK Version. "In Depth: South Asia Quake." 11 May 2007.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_depth/south_asia/2005/south_asia_quake/default.stm

The plateau region continues westward and northward from the Potwar Plateau to areas on the western side of the Indus River. These plateaus include the Vale (“valley”) of Peshwar, known as the gateway to the famed Khyber Pass, and regions to its south in the North-West Frontier Province.²⁷

Indus River Plain

Most of the population of Punjab and Sindh Provinces live in the Indus River Plain, which is the agricultural heart of Pakistan. The northern portion of the Plain, often referred to as the Punjab Plain, is marked by the confluence of four large tributaries of the Indus River: the Jhelom, Chenab, Ravi, and Sutlej Rivers. (A fifth tributary, the Beas River, merges with the Sutlej in Punjab State in India; the word Punjab comes from Persian and means “five waters.”) The regions between the five rivers are known as *doabs*. Three of the *doabs* (Rechna, Chaj, Bari) are some of the most productive agricultural lands in Pakistan owing to the extensive irrigation system that has been developed in these areas. Several of Pakistan’s largest cities, such as Lahore, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, and Multan, are also located in the three doabs. The westernmost doab, the Sindh Sagar, lies between the Indus and Jhelum Rivers and is mostly desert.²⁸



Indus River near Skardu © Kogo

The southern Indus River Plain, or Sindh Plain, begins just south of where the Indus River is joined by the Panjnad River (which carries the combined water received from the five rivers of the Punjab). The Plain in this region narrows between mountains to the west and deserts to the east. The Indus River in the southern portion is much wider, carries more silt, and is more prone to flooding. The river’s delta region covers a wide portion of the southern coast owing to several channel changes over historical time. It has been suffering from seawater encroachment into inland areas as upriver irrigation diversions have decreased the amount of Indus River water reaching the Arabian Sea. The results have been both biohabitat degradation and loss of farm land within the delta region.²⁹

Western Mountains

South and west of the northern mountains lie numerous lower ranges that border Afghanistan to the west and the Indus River Plain to the east. The northernmost ranges in the Western Mountains include the Safed Koh. The Khyber Pass, used for centuries by traders and invaders as a passage into the Indus River Plain and northern India beyond, is situated in a northeastern spur of this range.³⁰ Further south are the Toba Kakar, the

²⁷ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. “Pakistan: The Submontane Plateau.” 2007. <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-23676/Pakistan>

²⁸ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. “Pakistan: The Indus Plain.” 2007. <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-23677/Pakistan>

²⁹ International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. “The Lower Indus River: Balancing Development and Maintenance of Wetland Ecosystems and Dependent Livelihoods.” 2003. <http://www.iucn.org/themes/wani/flow/cases/Indus.pdf>

³⁰ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. “Khyber Pass.” 2007. <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-9045368/Khyber-Pass>

Sulaiman, and the Kirthar Ranges, which together form a series of mountain walls that have traditionally isolated the arid Balochistan Plateau from the rest of Pakistan.

Balochistan Plateau

Much of Balochistan Province lies within the Balochistan Plateau. This region is extremely arid, particularly in the northwestern areas. The Plateau contains numerous parallel mountain ridges that run southwest–northeast to the south and north–south to the east. Bolan Pass in the Central Brahui Range provides the main access to Quetta, the area’s only large city and the capital of Balochistan. North of Quetta lies Khojak Pass, the only official entry point into Afghanistan along its long border with Balochistan.

The Kharan Basin in the western part of the Balochistan Plateau is primarily desert and extremely inhospitable. What few rivers that do exist here are ephemeral and do not drain outside the Basin. It is in this region that Pakistan has carried out its underground nuclear tests.³¹

Deserts

Much of southern Pakistan is arid, receiving an average of less than 250 mm (9.8 in) of rain each year.³² Only the presence of the Indus River and the numerous canals branching from it has allowed substantial agriculture to take place within the lower Punjab and Sindh Plains.



Courtesy of Wikipedia
Thar desert nomads

Some dry areas, however, have infertile soils and cannot be irrigated. One such area is the Thar Desert, which occupies the western side of Sindh Province and the southeastern portion of Punjab Province.³³ It also extends into adjacent portions of India. (In India, it is often referred to as the Great Indian Desert, and the portion within Punjab Province is known locally as the Cholistan Desert.)

Further north, in the Sind Sagar Doab between the Indus and Jhelum Rivers, lies the Thal Desert. Some of the Thal Desert has been reclaimed through irrigation, but the remainder supports only grazing lands.³⁴ To the west, much of the northwestern portion of the Balochistan Plateau is also considered desert land and is one of the most sparsely populated areas in all of Pakistan.

Makran Coast

Pakistan’s portion of the Makran Coast extends from the Iranian border in the west to near Karachi in the east. This region lies beyond the Monsoon areas and receives very

³¹ Federation of American Scientists. “Wazir Khan Khosa: Kharan Desert.” 6 July 2000. <http://www.fas.org/nuke/guide/pakistan/facility/kharan.htm>

³² Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan. “Pakistan: Mean Average Rainfall.” http://www.mofa.gov.pk/Maps/PAK_Rainfall.jpg

³³ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. “Thar Desert.” 2007. <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-9071941/Thar-Desert>

³⁴ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. “Pakistan: The Desert Areas.” 2007. <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-23680/Pakistan>

little rainfall. A handful of fishing villages with natural ports dot the coastline, but otherwise the region is mostly uninhabited. One of these port villages, Ormara, hosts a recently built Pakistani naval installation.³⁵ Further west the village of Gwadar has recently been the site of the development of a new commercial deep-water port. A paved two-lane road now runs from Karachi to Gwadar, significantly reducing the isolation of the coastal region.³⁶

Indus River Delta and Sindh Coast

From the southeastern outskirts of Karachi to the coastal border with India lies a low-lying coastal region consisting of mud flats, mangrove swamps, and meandering creeks that run through the Indus River Delta and adjoining areas.³⁷ Unlike the Makran Coast, which rises relatively abruptly from the Arabian Sea, the continental shelf along Sindh Province is broad with a very gentle slope.



© Muhammad Ahmed
Beach at Karachi

As freshwater input from the Indus River has decreased due to irrigation projects, the Arabian Sea has continued to encroach on upstream areas from the river mouth, expanding the inland reach of saltwater and causing shoreline erosion along the coast.³⁸

Climate

All of Pakistan lies within the North Temperate Zone, but meteorological and topographical variations provide a diversity of climate types. Much of the country is arid or semi arid. A relatively small region in the north, just south of the Himalaya foothills, exceeds 500 mm (19.7 in) in average precipitation, usually considered the minimum needed for dry farming.³⁹ From this area southward, rainfall drops off significantly, and only regions in the western mountains and in the far southwestern corner of the country receive an average precipitation of 250 mm (9.8 inches) or more.⁴⁰



© N B / flickr.com
Monsoon flooding, Karachi

³⁵ South Asia Analysis Group. Raman, B. "Chinese Activities in Balochistan." 8 June 2001. <http://www.saag.org/papers3/paper259.html>

³⁶ Pakistan Times. Baig, Murtaza. "Balochistan Mega Projects: Musharraf Unveils Development Plans." 17 December 2004. <http://pakistanimes.net/2004/12/17/top.htm>

³⁷ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. "Fishery and Aquaculture Profile—Pakistan." 2007. http://www.fao.org/fi/website/FIRetrieveAction.do?dom=countrysector&xml=FI-CP_PK.xml&lang=en

³⁸ World Deltas Database Framework, Louisiana State University. Hart, George F. and James Coleman. "Indus River Delta, Pakistan, Asia." 6 December 2004. <http://www.geol.lsu.edu/WDD/ASIAN/Indus/indus.htm>

³⁹ Encyclopedia Britannica Online. "Pakistan: Climate." 2007. <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-23682/Pakistan>

⁴⁰ Pakistan Information.com. "Mean Annual Rainfall." <http://www.pakistaninformation.com/pakrainfallmap.html>

Much of Pakistan's rainfall comes during the summer monsoons, which usually occur between July and September. These storms arrive from the southwest, but they are not felt equally throughout the country. In general, the eastern and northern plains in Punjab Province, including the Potwar Plateau, receive the most rain during the monsoon season, while areas to the south are much drier. During the winter months, some of the northern and western regions receive rain from atmospheric depressions that move in from the west.⁴¹

Except for the high mountain areas, much of Pakistan is very warm throughout the late spring through early fall. The monsoon season brings increased cloud cover, even if no rain falls, and thus temperatures are moderated somewhat. However, the higher humidity during this period still leads to uncomfortable weather conditions. For example, Jacobabad in northern Sindh Province has an average daily high temperature in June of 46°C (115°F), which decreases to 43°C (109°F) and 40°C (104°F) in July and August, respectively, when the monsoons arrive. The relative morning humidity in Jacobabad, however, increases from 57% in June to 65% and 71% in July and August, respectively. Such average weather conditions have given the city the reputation of being one of the world's hottest and most uncomfortable places from April through October.⁴²

Further to the north in the Indus River Plain, average temperatures are lower than in southern Pakistan, although daily high temperatures may still average over 40°C (104°F) during the hottest summer months. Only in the high regions of the northern part of Pakistan are temperatures moderate during the entire April through October period.

Rivers and Lakes

Indus River

It would be hard to overstate the importance of the Indus River to Pakistan. Its role in the history and development of modern-day Pakistan can be likened to that of the Nile in Egypt. Except for some areas along the Makran Coast and in the Balochistan Plateau, all rivers and streams in Pakistan flow into the Indus eventually.

One of the world's longest rivers at 2,900 km (1,800 mi), the Indus rises in the high altitudes of the Tibetan Plateau in China. It flows northwest through the Indian- and Pakistani-controlled portions of Jammu and Kashmir, where it is fed by several streams flowing off glaciers, before turning southward as it enters the North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan.



NASA photo
Tarbela Dam

As the Indus finishes its descent from the high northern mountains, it reaches the reservoir at Tarbela Dam, the largest earth-filled dam in the world. The majority of

⁴¹ BBC Weather. "Country Guide: Pakistan."
http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/world/country_guides/results.shtml?tt=TT002680

⁴² BBC Weather. "Country Guide: Pakistan."
http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/world/country_guides/results.shtml?tt=TT002680

Pakistan's hydroelectricity is produced by the generators at Tarbela. Below the dam, the Indus flows through the Potwar Plateau, where it is joined by the eastward-flowing Kabul River. After entering the Punjab Plain, the river is fed by several streams from the Western Mountains before the Panjanid flows into it from the east. The Panjanid carries the combined flow of the Punjab rivers (Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Sutlej, Boas) and causes the river to widen significantly, especially during high-flow times during mid July to mid August.⁴³

The Indus finishes its route to the Arabian Sea as it flows through the Sindh Plain. Because of the high flow and low topography in this region, the river often shifts its course. At the delta region, south of Karachi, the river breaks into numerous distributaries that are crisscrossed by numerous deltaic creeks. Much of the southern coast of Pakistan consists of remnant areas of past configurations of the Indus River Delta. This entire strip is flooded by high tides that extend as many as 32 km (20 mi) inland from the coast.⁴⁴

Jhelum River

The westernmost of the Punjab rivers that feed into the Indus is the Jhelum River. Its headwaters are in the Indian portion of Jammu and Kashmir, and it is the principal river flowing through the Vale of Kashmir. It flows through Muzaffarabad, the largest city of Pakistani Azad Kashmir, before turning south to descend toward the Punjab Plain. For much of this stretch it forms the border between Azad Kashmir and the North-West Frontier Province. North of Jhelum, the largest city along the river, the rivers flow into the Mangla Dam reservoir, the second largest dam in Pakistan.^{45, 46}

Several link canals below Mangla Dam feed Jhelum water into the Chenab River. These canals are part of a massive water redistribution system that transfers water from the Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab Rivers into the eastern Punjab rivers. The latter rivers' flows are heavily depleted because the Indus Waters Treaty allows India to freely use the water of those rivers before they enter Pakistan.⁴⁷ The former rivers, on the other hand, are fully allotted to Pakistan, with the exception of limited domestic and agricultural use and water-project development in the Indian portion of Jammu and Kashmir.



Courtesy of Wikipedia
Jhelum River

⁴³ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. "Indus River." 2007. <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-9110542/Indus-River>

⁴⁴ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. "Indus River." 2007. <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-9110542/Indus-River>

⁴⁵ U.S. Water News Online. "Water Levels in Pakistani Dams Drop to Low Levels." March 2002. <http://www.uswaternews.com/archives/arcglobal/2/watlev3.html>

⁴⁶ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. "Jhelum River." 2007. <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-9043618/Jhelum-River>

⁴⁷ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. "Indus River: Irrigation." 2007. <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-48092/Indus-River>

One ongoing dispute between India and Pakistan is the Wullar Barrage (known in India as the Tulbul Navigation Project), a controversial water project that India began constructing in 1984 on the Indian portion of the Jhelum before suspending work in 1987 when Pakistan claimed that the project violated terms of the Indus Waters Treaty. Since then, ongoing talks have established a dialogue, but have yet to offer any solutions to the standoff.⁴⁸

Chenab River

The Chenab River originates in the Himalayas of Himachal Pradesh State in India. Like the Jhelum and Indus, it flows through the Indian portion of Jammu and Kashmir. It enters Pakistan near the city of Sialkot and from there flows southwest through the Punjab Plains as it links first with the Jhelum River and then the Ravi River. In the southern Punjab Plain the river is joined by the last of the Punjab rivers, the Sutlej, at which point the combined river becomes known as the Panjnad.

As with the Jhelum River, the Chenab has been in the center of an ongoing water-development dispute between India and Pakistan. However, in this case, the status of the project in question (Baglihar Dam in the Indian portion of Jammu and Kashmir) was seemingly settled in February 2007 by a neutral expert who was called in by the World Bank to mediate the dispute, although Pakistan may decide to appeal part of the expert's decision.⁴⁹

Ravi River

The Ravi River, like the Chenab, originates in the Himalayas of Himachal Pradesh. After flowing northwest through the mountains, it turns to the southwest and runs along the border of Himachal Pradesh and the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. It subsequently follows the Indian–Pakistani border for 80 km (50 mi) before running through the northwestern part of Lahore, Pakistan's second most populous city. It flows into the Chenab River north of Multan in central Punjab Province.

The Ravi is the smallest of the Punjab rivers and is also the most polluted. It receives 47% of the total industrial and municipal pollutants discharged into all Pakistani rivers and is completely devoid of dissolved oxygen for a lengthy stretch below Lahore.⁵⁰

Sutlej River

The Sutlej River, longest and easternmost of the five Punjab rivers, enters Pakistan from Punjab State in India. The river begins its flow from a lake in southwest Tibet. After flowing northwest through China, it turns west and cuts through the Himalayas



© Karthik "Kartiz" J / flickr.com
Sutlej River at Himachal

⁴⁸ Times of India. "Indo-Pak Talks on Wullar Barrage Postponed." 17 April 2006.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/1493609.cms>

⁴⁹ International Water Power and Dam Construction. Sahai, I. M. "Baglihar Decision—An End to the Dispute?" 19 March 2007.

<http://www.waterpowermagazine.com/story.asp?sectioncode=166&storyCode=2043009>

⁵⁰ Pakistan Water Gateway. "River Ravi." <http://www.waterinfo.net.pk/pdf/riveravi.PDF>

in Himachal Pradesh. Near the border of Punjab State in India the Sutlej flows into the vast reservoir behind Bhakra Dam, one of the highest concrete gravity dams in the world and labeled the “Temple of Resurgent India” by Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru upon its dedication in 1963.⁵¹

As it nears the Pakistani border, the Sutlej receives the waters of the Beas River, the only one of the five Punjab Rivers that does not flow through Pakistan. The Sutlej subsequently flows along the Pakistani-Indian border for 105 km (65 mi). Several link canals from more eastern Punjab rivers help to restore the Sutlej’s flow during this stretch before its final stretch through the central Punjab Plain. At its confluence with the Chenab River, the combined rivers become the Panjnad River before flowing into the Indus.

Kabul River

The most significant Indus River tributary that flows in from the river’s west bank is the Kabul River, which rises west of the Afghani capital of Kabul and flows into Pakistan through a narrow river valley north of the Khyber Pass. Near Peshawar, the Warsak Dam on the Kabul was the first large dam project built by Pakistan after partition, but today the dam is almost completely silted up. Although its storage capacity is mostly gone, the dam still provides electricity through its hydroelectric generating plant.⁵²

Manchhar Lake

Located in a natural depression west of the Indus River in Sindh Province, Manchhar Lake is naturally fed by small streams from the nearby Kirthar Range. However, it also receives water from the Indus River via canals, and during flood stages it can become one of the largest freshwater bodies in Asia. Manchhar Lake traditionally supported a small fishing community, but decreasing amounts of floodwater from the Indus and nearby mountain streams and increasing amounts of highly saline agricultural runoff have led to a massive kill off of the lake’s fishes.⁵³



© Chaudhry Khawar
Boating on Manchhar Lake

Population and Cities

Pakistan is one of the most heavily populated countries in Asia, trailing only China, India, and Indonesia in its number of people. According to the most recent Pakistani census, a little less than one third of the Pakistani people live in urban areas. This low percentage is nonetheless higher than either India’s or Afghanistan’s, Pakistan’s neighbors to the east and west.

⁵¹ India Together. Sharma, Sudhirendar. “Was the Bhakra Dam Worth It?” 21 May 2005. <http://www.indiatogether.org/2005/may/agr-bhakrabk.htm>

⁵² Pakistan Water Gateway. “Warsak Dam.” <http://waterinfo.net.pk/fswd.htm>

⁵³ Pakistan Water Gateway. Ali, Iqbal. “An Environmental Disaster Called Manchar.” 30 October 2002. <http://www.waterinfo.net.pk/artaed.htm>

City Name	Province (* = Prov. Capital)	Population 1998 (2003 est.) ^{54, 55}
Karachi	Sindh*	9,339,023 (11,100,000)
Lahore	Punjab*	5,143,495 (6,000,000)
Faisalabad	Punjab	2,008,861 (2,400,000)
Rawalpindi	Punjab	1,409,768 (1,700,000)
Multan	Punjab	1,197,348 (1,400,000)
Hyderabad	Sindh	1,166,894 (1,300,000)
Gujranwala	Punjab	1,132,509 (1,400,000)
Peshawar	North-West Frontier	982,816 (1,200,000)
Quetta	Balochistan*	565,137 (N.A.)
Islamabad	Federal Capital Area*	529,180

N.A., Population data not available for 2003.

Karachi

Karachi is Pakistan's most populous city and primary seaport. Following partition, it served as Pakistan's capital for over a decade until the government moved first to Rawalpindi and then to Islamabad. For much of Pakistan's history, Karachi has been Pakistan's only commercial port, and that role has cemented the city's preeminence within the country.

Karachi was a small fishing village until the 18th century. Towards the end of that century, a fort was erected on Manora Island at the Karachi harbor entrance by Lower Sindh *amirs*, and the little fishing village began to slowly evolve into a trading center. In 1839, the British captured Karachi, and ultimately all of Sindh. Shortly thereafter, Karachi became a British military headquarters and the harbor was developed into the principal port for the Indus River region. The city's first railway came in the early 1860s, and the city's importance as a port mushroomed after the Suez Canal was opened in 1869.



Courtesy of Wikipedia
Karachi, 1930's

By 1901, the city had a population of over 100,000, of which 55 percent were Muslim and 41 percent were Hindu.⁵⁶ Following World War I, manufacturing and service industries started up around the city. Sindh was separated from the Bombay Presidency in 1936; at that time Karachi became the capital of Sindh Province.

Following Independence in 1947, the city's population changed enormously. Most of the city's large Hindu population moved to India while the city received a large influx of Muslims from India. These new Karachi residents, referred to as Muhajirs, spoke Urdu

⁵⁴ Population Census Organization, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Statistics. "Population Size and Growth of Major Cities, 1998 Census."

http://www.statpak.gov.pk/depts/pco/statistics/pop_major_cities/pop_major_cities.html

⁵⁵ Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations. "Urban Agglomerations 2003." 2004.

http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/wup2003/2003urban_agglo.htm

⁵⁶ The Story of Karachi. Ansari, Saad W. "Karachi: The 1900's."

<http://www.historickarachi.com/1900's.htm>

rather than Sindhi and quickly became the majority population within the Karachi urban area. Generally better educated than their Sindhi counterparts, many Muhajirs moved into positions of political and economic importance.⁵⁷

During the post-independence years in which Karachi was Pakistan's capital, booming construction and infrastructure growth brought waves of Pashtuns, Punjabis, and Kashmiris into the city as workers. Afghani refugees and illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, India, and Sri Lanka later boosted the city's population and its ethnic diversity.⁵⁸

Today, Sindhis are a distinct minority within Karachi, which is one of the most ethnically diverse cities within Pakistan and prone to fractious relations between its many peoples. Muhajirs have also lost their majority status as the waves of migration into the city have changed the demographic balance. Violence between the city's two largest ethnic groups—Pashtuns and Muhajirs—has plagued Karachi for several decades. In May 2007, for example, 40 people were killed when ousted Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry's visit to Karachi triggered violence between his Pashtun supporters and the mostly Muhajir supporters of Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf.⁵⁹ The city has also seen sectarian violence in the last decade between Sunni and Shi'a Muslim groups.⁶⁰

Karachi's population boom has put tremendous stress on the city's ability to address the needs of its burgeoning population. The city's location in a mostly desert-like region with swamplands to the southeast has made water a particularly difficult resource to adequately supply. Most of the city's water is piped in from the Indus River, but the supply does not match the demand. During drought periods, when some of Karachi's secondary sources temporarily dry up, water-supply conditions can become critical in some sections of the city.⁶¹



© Edge_of_Space / flickr.com
Karachi at night

Lahore

Lahore, Pakistan's second largest city, is located near the Indian border in northern Punjab. Unlike Karachi, Lahore has been a major city of the Indian subcontinent for hundreds of years. For fourteen years (1584–1598 CE) during the reign of Akbar the Great, Lahore served as capital of the Mughal Empire, and the modern city retains many

⁵⁷ FindArticles.com. *The Journal of Third World Studies*. Hilali, A. Z. "The Challenges to Pakistan's Domestic Security." 2002.

⁵⁸ PakistanLink.com. Burki, Shahid Javed. "A Unique Mega City." 4 October 2004. <http://www.pakistanlink.com/Letters/2004/oct04/15/02.html>

⁵⁹ Slate.com. Schmidle, Nicholas. "Dispatch from Karachi: Did Pakistan's President Provoke an Ethnic War Last Weekend?" 17 May 2007. <http://www.slate.com/id/2166473/pagenum/all/>

⁶⁰ BBC News, International Version. "Violence at Karachi Shia Funerals." 1 June 2004. http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/3765047.stm

⁶¹ *Environment and Urbanization*. Ahmed, Noman and Muhammad Suhail. "Alternate Water-Supply Arrangements in Peri-Urban Localities: Awami (People's) Tanks in Orangi Township, Karachi." <http://eau.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/15/2/33.pdf>

renowned architectural remnants of the Mughal era. Foremost among these are the Badshahi Mosque, the world's largest "historical" mosque and the Lahore Fort. The city also displays numerous examples of extensive building projects completed during the British colonial period.⁶²

Modern Lahore is capital of Punjab Province, the most populous of Pakistan's provinces. The traditional region of Punjab was partitioned between India and Pakistan during the partition of 1947. Lahore, the center of Punjabi culture and only 24 km (15 mi) from the new Indian-Pakistani border, was particularly hard hit by the violent disruptions of the pre-independence period. The city's Hindus and Sikhs, who made up approximately one third of Lahore's population prior to independence, migrated to the Indian side as Muslims from Amritsar and other northern Indian cities came to Pakistani Punjab. The ensuing violence left nearly 6,000 homes damaged in Lahore. The city itself was still home to nearly 1,000,000 refugees as late as April 1948, with many housed in makeshift camps.



© M. Asif
Lahore

Despite the terrible tensions and disruptions of the independence period, Lahore was able to avoid many of the ethnic conflicts that still embroil Karachi. Partly this was due to the fact that many of the Lahore muhajirs (migrating pre-partition Indian Muslims) spoke the same language as the existing Lahore population (Punjabi) and in many cases had established kinship networks in the city. In Karachi, on the other hand, there was a greater linguistic and cultural distance between the Urdu-speaking muhajirs from North India and the local Sindhi population. In addition, the competition for housing and resources was more severe in Karachi than it was in Lahore.⁶³

Today Lahore stands as the cultural capital of Pakistan and one of the country's leading economic and financial centers. It is home to the country's most prestigious business and arts colleges, as well as the historic University of the Punjab, one of the most highly regarded general universities in Pakistan.⁶⁴ As would be expected of a city its size, the economy is diversified, ranging from steel and chemical plants to a growing information technology segment.⁶⁵ Cotton textile plants have traditionally been the largest manufacturing employer.⁶⁶

⁶² City Government Lahore. "Lahore Profile: History." 2006. <http://www.lahore.gov.pk/profile/history.htm>

⁶³ Cambridge University Press. *Modern Asian Studies*, Vol. 41 (1). Talbot, Ian. 2007. "A Tale of Two Cities: The Aftermath of Partition for Lahore and Amritsar 1947-1957." http://journals.cambridge.org/download.php?file=%2FASS%2FASS41_01%2FS0026749X05002337a.pdf&code=da2a0268fb584212e4a6c55bf429b91c

⁶⁴ Higher Education Commission Pakistan. "Ranking of Universities." 2006. http://www.hec.gov.pk/new/QualityAssurance/Ranking_lists.htm

⁶⁵ TechNewsWorld. Osama, Athar. "Fighting Image Problem: An IT Industry Rises in Pakistan." 17 May 2005. <http://www.technewsworld.com/story/42934.html>

⁶⁶ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. "Lahore." 2007. <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-9046850/Lahore>

Islamabad/Rawalpindi

Pakistan's capital, Islamabad, is one of the world's youngest capital cities. Like Brazilia in Brazil, Islamabad was built from the ground up in the 1960's to be the country's new capital, replacing Karachi. The site chosen for the new capital was at the base of the Margalla Hills in the northern part of the Potwar Plateau, 14 km (9 mi) north of its larger sister city Rawalpindi. Islamabad is part of a capital territory that has a population of nearly 1,000,000, with over 500,000 living within the city proper.

In its layout and construction, Islamabad is unlike other Pakistani cities. Most of the city is built on a grid system, with wide, tree-lined streets. The original plan for the city called for eight areas dedicated to particular functions: administration, education, housing, industry, commerce, diplomatic missions, green belt, and the Margalla Hills National Park.⁶⁷ Most of the main part of the city is defined by 2 km by 2 km (1.2 mi by 1.2 mi) square sectors that are designated by a letter followed by a number. Between the F and G sectors lies the Blue Area, a commercial strip that runs the length of the city along Jinnah Avenue. It is here where the Centaurus Building is being constructed.⁶⁸ This striking futuristic building, dubbed the "Ski Jump" by locals, will be Islamabad's tallest building when completed in 2010. Another eye-catching Islamabad building is the Faisal Masjid, which is conspicuously situated on a terrace above the main part of the city. Built as a gift from Saudi Arabia to the people of Pakistan, the Faisal Masjid is the one of the world's largest mosques.

Rawalpindi, Islamabad's much older and larger twin, is the headquarters of the Pakistan Army, an apt role given the city's history as the largest military garrison in British India.^{69, 70} Pindi, as it is referred to by locals, is a crowded, bustling city that hosts various factories and industrial plants, including textile mills, a refinery, an iron foundry, and a brewery (Pakistan's only one).^{71, 72} The many bazaars in Rawalpindi's Old City are famous and attract both locals and tourists.⁷³

Faisalabad

⁶⁷ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. "Islamabad." 2007. <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-9042915/Islamabad>

⁶⁸ CIOB International. International Construction Review. "Chinese Contracting Giant to Build 'Ski Jump' in Pakistan." 22 May 2007. <http://www.iconreview.org/en/news/1133>

⁶⁹ India Daily. Chadda, Sudhir. "Pakistan Military—Another Inevitable Coup? It May Not be Good for India and America!" 5 October 2004. <http://www.indiadaily.com/editorial/10-05b-04.asp>

⁷⁰ Pakistaniat.com. All Things Pakistan. Shirazi, S. A. J. "Rawalpindi: Past and Present." 29 April 2007. <http://pakistaniat.com/2007/04/29/pakistan-rawalpindi-history-travel-visit/>

⁷¹ Canoe.ca. Associated Press. Pennington, Matthew. "Pakistan's Only Beer Maker: The Historic Murree Brewery." 10 June 2005. <http://travel.canoe.ca/Travel/Asia/Central/2005/06/10/1081218.html>

⁷² Encyclopædia Britannica Online. "Rawalpindi." 2007. <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-9062803/Rawalpindi>

⁷³ *Pakistan*, 3rd edition (updated). "Islamabad, Rawalpindi, and the Murree Hills." 2007. London: Insight Guides.

Founded in 1890 as Lyallpur (named after Sir James Lyall, the British Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab), the modern city was renamed in 1977 after the late Saudi King Faisal. The city came into existence during a period when newly installed perennial irrigation canals transformed the economy of the Punjab Plain. As agricultural production came to the *doabs*, the previously arid scrub lands between the Punjab rivers, the British colonial government established and dispensed land grants to the new agricultural areas. They then administratively organized them into colonies. These new Canal Colonies, as they were called, triggered a wave of immigration from northern Punjab to the lower Punjab Plain. Lyallpur was created to be the headquarters of the Lower Chenab Colony, the largest of the canal colonies. It emerged as an agricultural market center that soon dwarfed the older market towns lying along the Chenab River.



Courtesy of World66
British clock, Faisalabad

Following Pakistani independence in 1947, Lyallpur began to develop a strong industrial base. The textile industry led the way, and the city quickly became Pakistan's textile center.⁷⁴ Other industries include hosiery, sugar mills, pharmaceuticals, and textile and agricultural machinery. The accumulation of industries and the lack of waste treatment facilities have together created a major pollution problem for the city.⁷⁵

Despite Faisalabad's emergence as an industrial center, it also continues to serve its initial role as a market and support center for the surrounding agricultural areas. Agricultural research is one aspect of this role. In 1961, the University of Agriculture was established in the city, upgrading the former Punjab Agricultural College and Research Institute. The University has since become Pakistan's largest and top-ranked agricultural school.^{76, 77}

Peshawar

Peshawar is the largest Pakistani city that is not located in either Punjab or Sindh Province. The city is the capital of North-West Frontier Province and has long held the historical role as the gateway to the Khyber Pass and Central Asia beyond. Its location made it one of the key trading centers along the Silk Road, and it was the center of Gandharan (modern-day northwest Pakistan) civilization for several hundred years during the early part of the first millennium CE.⁷⁸ The current name of the city is ascribed to



© Mary Loosemore
Old houses, Peshawar

⁷⁴ University of Management and Technology. *Textile Bulletin*, Vol. 1 (11). ul Islam, Faheem. "Insights into the Dynamics of Clustering in Traditional Industries in Developing Countries: Faisalabad Cotton Textile Cluster in Pakistan." March 2007. <http://www.umat.edu.pk/textile/vol01issue11/page02.htm>

⁷⁵ Asian Urban Information Center of Kobe. Ahmad, Ishfaq. "City Report of Faisalabad." 2006. <http://www.auick.org/database/training/2006-1/CR/WS2006-1CR-Faisalabad.pdf>

⁷⁶ Higher Education Commission Pakistan. "Ranking of Universities." 2006. http://www.hec.gov.pk/new/QualityAssurance/Ranking_lists.htm

⁷⁷ TelMedPak.com. "University of Agriculture Faisalabad." 2000. <http://www.telmedpak.com/agricultures.asp?a=Education&b=faisalabad>

^{78, 78} *Pakistan*, 3rd edition (updated). "Peshawar and the Khyber Pass." 2007. London: Insight Guides

the Moghul Emperor Akbar the Great and means “the place at the frontier.”

Peshawar lies in a valley and is surrounded by agricultural fields in which sugar cane, wheat, vegetables, maize, sugar beets, and fodder are grown. The local economy is dominated by services and the construction industry. Industrial and manufacturing operations tend to be relatively small. Key product areas include pharmaceuticals, matches, marble tiles, furniture, arms and ammunition, and various types of leather and woven handicrafts.

Since the late 1970s the city has been enmeshed in the ongoing civil wars and insurgencies in nearby Afghanistan, and refugees and combatants from the conflicts have streamed into the city. Best estimates for the year 2005 are that nearly 20 percent of the population of Peshawar District (which includes Peshawar, a few smaller cities, and surrounding rural areas) are from Afghanistan.⁷⁹ The city has long been one of the centers of Pashtun culture, and the recent influxes of mostly Pashtun Afghanis have further increased the percentage of Pashtuns living in the city.⁸⁰

As the city’s population has rapidly grown, the infrastructure of the city has struggled to keep apace. The city suffers from a significant housing shortage, and health facilities have been heavily stressed by the large number of Afghan refugees. The road system has also not been able to keep up with the increased amount of traffic.⁸¹ Air, water, and noise pollution have also become major concerns.⁸²

Multan

As the principal city of the southern Punjab Plain, Multan serves as a commercial and industrial center for the region. The city lies near the Chenab River and was the location for the first of the Canal Colonies that were developed beginning in 1886. The city is one of the hottest locations in all of Pakistan, as is reinforced by the following often-quoted Persian couplet:

Chahár chiz hast tuhjafat-i-Multán
Gard, guda, garma, wa goristán

In four rare things Multan abounds
Dust, heat, beggars, and burial grounds.



© Steve Evans
Multan

Few cities in South Asia have as long and as storied a history as does Multan. Alexander the Great was wounded in battle here in 324 BCE. Over 2,000 years later, during 1848–

⁷⁹ Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. “Afghans in Peshawar: Migration, Settlements and Social Networks.” January 2006. <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home/openssl.pdf?tbl=SUBSITES&page=SUBSITES&id=43e754da2>

⁸⁰ Pashto.org. “Pashtun.” 2007. <http://www.pashto.org/content/view/19/63/>

⁸¹ City Alliances. “City Development Strategy: Peshawar.” 2005. [http://www.citiesalliance.org/cdsdb.nsf/Attachments/Pakistan+profile/\\$File/PCD+Profile.pdf](http://www.citiesalliance.org/cdsdb.nsf/Attachments/Pakistan+profile/$File/PCD+Profile.pdf)

⁸² Daily Times. “Pollution Reaches Alarming Level Throughout Peshawar.” 16 October 2006. http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2006%5C10%5C16%5Cstory_16-10-2006_pg7_15

49, the city was a site of battles between the local Sikh ruler and the British Army. In between these two events, Multan has seemingly been centrally involved in every chapter of the history of the Indus River Valley. During the 13th century the city became a center of Sufism, and today the tombs of Sufi masters from this time provide some excellent examples of pre-Moghul architecture.⁸³

Modern Multan is still very much tied to the surrounding rural regions, with 80 percent of the city's population earning their income either directly or indirectly through agriculture.⁸⁴ Cotton and livestock are key elements of this agricultural economy, as are mangoes, which are an important export crop for Pakistan. The city is also well known for its blue pottery, camel-skin work, and other cottage industry products.⁸⁵

Environmental Concerns

In a country in which 92% of the land is arid or semi arid, it is not surprising that one of the biggest environmental concerns of Pakistan is water quality.⁸⁶ One of the world's most massive irrigation systems has been built to increase Pakistan's agricultural capacity, but inadequate drainage systems have led to water logging and increases in soil salinity.^{87, 88}

Industrial water pollution is a major concern as well. The Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency reports that only 1% of the country's wastewater is treated before discharging into rivers. A national study of the water supply of 21 cities around the country found that in 17 of the cities, over 50% of the water samples were judged unfit for human consumption.⁸⁹ The health effects of such polluted water supplies are jarring. It is estimated that 60% of all infant mortalities in Pakistan result from water pollution.⁹⁰ Addressing the water-quality problem has become a national priority, and there are plans to build 6,500 water-purification plants over the next few years.⁹¹



© Umair Mohsin
Factory water use

⁸³ *Pakistan*, 3rd edition (updated). "South Punjab." 2007. London: Insight Guides

⁸⁴ Department of Agriculture, City District Government Multan. Haider, Muhammad Yafar Zab. "EDO Agriculture Message." 2006-07. <http://www.multan.gov.pk/Agriculture/default.asp>

⁸⁵ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. "Multan." 2007. <http://www.britannica.com/ebc/article-9054236>

⁸⁶ Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency. *Status of Environment Report 2005* (Draft). "Chapter 1. Water—The Essential Resource." 2005. <http://www.environment.gov.pk/pub-pdf/StateER2005/Part3-Chp%201.pdf>

⁸⁷ Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency. *Status of Environment Report 2005* (Draft). "Chapter 1. Water—The Essential Resource." 2005. <http://www.environment.gov.pk/pub-pdf/StateER2005/Part3-Chp%201.pdf>

⁸⁸ The World Bank. Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority. "Sindh—On-Farm Water Management Project." January 2004.

http://www.wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2003/09/30/000094946_03091204002060/Rendered/INDEX/multi0page.txt

⁸⁹ Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources. "National Water Quality Monitoring Programme." 2002. http://www.pcrwr.gov.pk/water_quality.htm

⁹⁰ IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre. "Pakistan: Water Pollution Named as Biggest Killer." 20 April 2005. <http://www.irc.nl/page/17834>

As Pakistan's population continues to grow, particularly in urban areas, air pollution has become a major problem as well. The country's 2005–06 economic report noted that dust and smoke particles in the air of Pakistani cities have been measured at levels twice the world average and five times the average for developed nations. Automobiles are major contributors to these air-quality problems. The number of vehicles on Pakistani roads has increased 500% over the last 20 years, and many of these cars and trucks use low-quality, high-emission fuels. The government has reacted by encouraging the use of vehicles fueled by compressed natural gas, which is less polluting.⁹²

Natural Hazards

Earthquakes

On 8 October 2005 the region around the city of Muzaffarabad in Azad Kashmir was the epicenter of one of the most destructive earthquakes of the 20th century. Entire villages were destroyed in the nearby mountain valleys of the region. The U.S. Geological Survey has estimated the death toll to be 86,000.⁹³

Pakistan's position along the plate boundary between Asia and the South Asian subcontinent makes earthquakes a persistent hazard, even in areas far from the towering Himalayas. For example, Quetta, the largest city in Balochistan, was destroyed in 1935 by a magnitude 7.8 earthquake.⁹⁴ Ten years later, an even stronger magnitude 8.1 earthquake shook the Makran Coast. The earthquake and subsequent tsunami caused significant damage and loss of life both near the epicenter and in Karachi, 443 km (275 mi) away.⁹⁵



© La Caja Blanca / flickr.com
Earthquake damage, Balakot

Floods

Seasonal floods are regular occurrences along the major rivers of Pakistan, particularly during the summer monsoon season.⁹⁶ As a result, protective embankments and spurs have been built to protect river cities and nearby infrastructure. Almost all of these flood-

⁹¹ BBC News, International Version. Khan, Aamer Ahmed. "Pakistan 'Faces Pollution Crisis.'" 5 June 2006. http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/5048308.stm

⁹² BBC News, International Version. Khan, Aamer Ahmed. "Pakistan 'Faces Pollution Crisis.'" 5 June 2006. http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/5048308.stm

⁹³ United States Geological Survey. "Most Destructive Known Earthquakes on Record in the World." http://earthquake.usgs.gov/regional/world/most_destructive.php

⁹⁴ Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, University of Colorado. Bilham, Roger. "28 November 1945 Makran Mw 8.1 Earthquake."

<http://cires.colorado.edu/~bilham/Makran1945/MakranTsunami.html>

⁹⁵ India Meteorological Department. *Scientific Notes*, Vol. 10, No. 125. Pendse, C. G. "The Mekran Earthquake of the 28th November 1945." 7 October 1946.

<http://cires.colorado.edu/~bilham/Makran1945/Pendse1946.pdf>

⁹⁶ 8th Annual River Symposium and Environmental Flows Conference. Rehman, H. and A. Kabal. "Indus Basin River System—Flooding and Flood Mitigation." 2005.

<http://www.riversymposium.com/index.php?element=38>

prevention projects are located in the Indus River Plain in Punjab and Sindh Provinces. Flood management policies have also encouraged appropriate development within historic flood plains. Nonetheless, as recently as 1992, flooding caused the deaths of more than 1,000 people and affected more than 13,000 villages.⁹⁷

Drought

Pakistan is particularly vulnerable to drought conditions. Arid regions, such as Balochistan and the desert regions of the Indus River Plain, have always faced limited water resources.⁹⁸ However, even in areas fed by the rivers flowing down from the mountains, the large amount of this water devoted to agriculture can produce serious water supply issues for a growing population that is increasingly urbanized.⁹⁹ Shrinking water storage capacity in aging dams that continue to silt up has also reduced Pakistan's ability to augment domestic water supplies during dry years.¹⁰⁰

⁹⁷ Pakistan Water Gateway. "Floods in Pakistan." <http://www.waterinfo.net.pk/pdf/fs2fp.pdf>

⁹⁸ "Living with Droughts." <http://drought.iucnp.org/drought32.htm>

⁹⁹ The Frontier Post. Hayat, Savera. "Water Scarcity in Pakistan." 7 August 2000. <http://drought.iucnp.org/fparticle.htm>

¹⁰⁰ The News, International (Jang Group). Munir, Shafqat. "Conserving Water for Sustainable Human Development." 7 July 2002. <http://drought.iucnp.org/drought116.htm>

History

Early History

The Indus Valley Civilization

The region today known as Pakistan has a history that stretches back to some of the world's earliest known cultures. The earliest found ruins are at a site in the Kacchi Desert of eastern Balochistan known as Mehrgarh. Several thousand years of settlement history can be traced here, going back as far as the eighth century BCE.¹⁰¹

Beginning sometime before 2,500 BCE, a number of city-states emerged on the Indus River Plain. This Indus Valley Civilization (also known as the Harappan Civilization, after the first ruins site to be discovered) had its own writing system, a diversified economic system, and communal structures such as public baths. The most famous ruins of this era are at Mohenjo daro, near the Indus River in Sindh Province. Stone seals discovered at Mohenjo daro display a pictographic script, but efforts to translate the seals have so far been fruitless.¹⁰²



© Chaudhry Khawar
Mohenjo-Daro

The end of the Indus Valley Civilization has traditionally been ascribed to the invasion of Aryan tribes from Central Asia, although archaeological evidence of demolished cities is scant. In the ancient Hindu text, *Rigveda*, references to defeats of non-Aryans at a site linked to Harappa provide some supporting evidence for this assumption.¹⁰³ However, numerous other theories posit that the decline of Indus Valley cities resulted from reasons other than external invasion.¹⁰⁴

Crossroads of Empires

The mountain passes through Afghanistan and northern Pakistan into the Indus River Plain have long been used by both traders and invaders. The list of invading armies through the region is a long one. Many groups came and were gone shortly thereafter. Others, however, stayed and formed empires that inevitably fell to a later wave of invaders that came through the mountain passes.

In 330 BCE, the armies of Alexander the Great entered the northern Indus River Plain in the region known as Gandhara. His armies swept through the Indus Valley but quickly retreated westward. As they did, an imperial power from the east moved into the Indus

¹⁰¹ National Fund for Cultural Heritage. Dani, Ahmad Hasan. "History Through the Centuries." 2004. http://www.heritage.gov.pk/html_Pages/history1.html

¹⁰² Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Country Study: Pakistan*. Baxter, Craig. "Early Civilizations." April 1994. [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/cstdy:@field\(DOCID+pk0014\)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/cstdy:@field(DOCID+pk0014))

¹⁰³ *Pakistan*, 3rd Update Ed. "Early History." 2007. London: Insight Guides.

¹⁰⁴ Jawaharlal Nehru University. Thapar, Romila. "The Aryan Question Revisited." 11 April 1999. <http://members.tripod.com/ascjnu/aryan.html>

Valley: the Mauryan Empire. The Mauryan era saw an increasing Buddhist influence in the Indus region, and the city of Taxila, near modern-day Islamabad, became a center of Buddhist learning.¹⁰⁵

A succession of invaders from Central Asia followed the decline and eventual retreat of the Mauryans back to the Ganges region. Bactrians, Scythians, Parthians, and Kushans successively came, conquered, and were dislodged. The Kushans had the most success, ruling from the middle first century CE to the mid third century CE. They established their capital at Peshawar, and during their period of power Buddhist culture reached its zenith in the Indus region.¹⁰⁶

Most of the Kushan Empire eventually fell to the Persian Sassanians to the west and the Guptas to the east, although smaller Kushan dynasties continued to rule in some areas.¹⁰⁷ During the fifth century CE, White Hun (Hepthalites) swept into modern-day Pakistan and northern India from the north. The White Huns left no written records, but they are thought to have been assimilated into the local populations after being defeated by the Turks in the sixth century CE.¹⁰⁸



Courtesy of Wikipedia
Head of Kushan Man, Gandhara

In the southern Indus River Plain, Parthians and Sassanians ruled for much of the early first millennium. At the end of the fifth century CE, the local Rai Dynasty came to power, to be succeeded by the Hindu Brahman dynasty in the mid seventh century.¹⁰⁹ The Brahman reign was to be relatively short, however, as the entire region was soon to be changed forever by the armies of a religious movement emerging from the Middle Eastern deserts.

Islamic Empires

The Early Islamic Empires

Unlike the earlier invaders of the Indus River Plain who entered the region from the north, the first Islamic incursion came from the south. In 712 CE Muhammad Bin Qasim, an Arab general of the Omayyad Caliphate, conquered the ancient Arabian Sea port of Daibul and continued to advance his army northwards up the Indus. The southern Indus region, primarily Buddhist at the time, was ruled by an unpopular Brahman governor. This greatly increased the ease with which the region was conquered.¹¹⁰ Qasim's forces

¹⁰⁵ OneWorldPakistan.com. 2005–2006. "Taxilla." http://www.oneworldpakistan.com/trips_taxilla.php

¹⁰⁶ Pakhtun.com. *Oxford History of India*. "The Kushan." 2002. <http://www.pakhtun.com/Kushan.htm>
http://www.geocities.com/pak_history/kushan.html

¹⁰⁷ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Country Study: Pakistan*. Baxter, Craig. "Early Civilizations." April 1994. [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/cstdy:@field\(DOCID+pk0014\)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/cstdy:@field(DOCID+pk0014))

¹⁰⁸ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. "Hepthalite." 2007. <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-9040081/Hepthalite>

¹⁰⁹ University of Sindh. Shaikh Ayaz International Conference on Language and Literature. "Sindh: An Introduction." 10 January 2007. http://usindh.edu.pk/shaikh_ayaz_conf_07/sindh.html

¹¹⁰ Columbia University Press. *Muslim Civilization in India*. Ikram, S. M. "I. The Impact of the Arabs." http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealac/pritchett/00islamlinks/ikram/part1_01.html

ultimately established control of the Indus River Plain as far north as Multan, in southern Punjab. A few decades later the Omayyad Caliphate was overthrown by the Abbasid Caliphate, based in Baghdad, that took control of the southern Indus territories.

Under Omayyad and early Abbasid rule, intellectual contacts between the Arabs and Sindhis became established. Islamic mystics, known as Sufi masters, helped spread the Muslim religion. They have remained to this day a significant cultural component of Sindhi literature and religion.¹¹¹

As the Abbasid Caliphate gradually declined, a new force entered into the Indus region from the Turkish principality of Ghazni, located in modern-day Afghanistan. In 998 CE, Mahmud of Ghazni succeeded his father after a brief power struggle and quickly began to expand the Ghazni Empire. He extended control as far as Lahore in Punjab, which eventually became the administrative and cultural center of the Ghaznavid Empire.



Courtesy of Wikipedia
Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni

By the late twelfth century, however, yet another dynasty had replaced the Ghaznavids. Over a period of two decades, Muhammad of Ghor moved eastward through the Ghaznavid Empire. By 1187 CE he had conquered the Ghaznavid capital of Lahore. His successor established the Sultanate of Delhi, which grew rapidly and eventually included all of northern India and the Indus River Plain.¹¹² The Delhi Sultanate ruled more or less continuously for several hundred years, an era during which many people in the Punjab region converted to Islam.¹¹³ A brief invasion by Mongolian armies led by Timur (Tamerlane) in 1398 hastened a period of decline for the Sultanate, although it did revive somewhat during the Lodhi Dynasty of the late 15th century.¹¹⁴ Nonetheless, the end of the Sultanate was soon to come, to be replaced by the greatest of the Muslim dynasties.

The Mughal Period

Babur, an ethnic Mongol and descendant of Timur, saw his empire in present-day Uzbekistan conquered at the turn of the 16th century. Regrouping, he moved southwestward, first into modern-day Afghanistan and eventually into Punjab and then the Ganges Plain. In 1526 Babur's armies, despite being vastly outnumbered, defeated the last Lodhi sultan in the Battle of Panipat. Superior weaponry and tactics were largely

¹¹¹ Columbia University Press. *Muslim Civilization in India.* Ikram, S. M. "I. The Impact of the Arabs." http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealac/pritchett/00islamlinks/ikram/part1_01.html

¹¹² Columbia University Press. *Atlas and Survey of South Asian History.* Schmidt, Karl J. "Map 17.1. The Sultanate Under Qutbuddin and Iltutmish." 1999. <http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealac/pritchett/00maplinks/medieval/schmidtset/schmidtset.html>

¹¹³ MSN Encarta. "India. D. Muslim and Mongol Invaders." 2007. http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761557562_12/India.html

¹¹⁴ MSN Encarta. "India. D. Muslim and Mongol Invaders." 2007. http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761557562_12/India.html

responsible for his victory.¹¹⁵ Shortly thereafter, Babur took control of a large portion of the former Delhi Sultanate. On many previous occasions, similar incursions into the Indian subcontinent were followed a few years later by the return of the invading armies to Central Asia. Babur, however, stayed, and became the founder of the Mughal Empire.¹¹⁶

Babur died only a few years after the Panibat battle, and his son Humayun proved unable to consolidate control over the newly conquered regions. Under his grandson Akbar, however, the Mughal Empire began to flourish. During Akbar's reign, the *mansabdari* administrative system was introduced. Under this military and civilian meritocracy system, *mansabdars* were graded on their ability to enlist troops and provide loyal service. Cash payments and personal fiefs were the rewards, but none of the land rewards were allowed to become part of inherited estates. In this way, loyalty was rewarded but the ability to generate familial power bases was lessened.¹¹⁷

The Mughal period is remembered, among other things, for its storied architectural achievements. The most famous of these—the Taj Mahal, located in Agra in India—was built during the reign of Shah Jahan, Akbar's grandson. Within modern-day Pakistan, Lahore received the most architectural attention. The Lahore Fort, Shalimar Gardens, and Badshahi Mosque were all built during the early Mughal Empire.



© Ali Imran
Badshahi Mosque, Lahore

The reign of Aurangzeb, Shah Jahan's successor, witnessed the beginning of the slow decline of the Mughal Empire. Overextended militarily and financially, Aurangzeb introduced several taxes, including the unpopular *jizya* (Hindu tax). The system began to break down, leading to a landed aristocracy who had the ability to collect rents.¹¹⁸ As local rebellions broke out, a small island nation in Europe began to focus attention on the Indian subcontinent.

Colonial Era

The British Enter the Indus River Plain

During the 18th century, the Mughal Empire fragmented into independent principalities while England and France competed for trading posts in coastal areas. Military assistance to support and expand the trading ventures became crucial as hostilities in Europe

¹¹⁵ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. "Babur: First Victory in India." 2007.

<http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-525/Babur>

¹¹⁶ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Country Study: Pakistan*. Baxter, Craig. "The Mughal Period." April 1994. [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field\(DOCID+pk0016\)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field(DOCID+pk0016))

¹¹⁷ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Country Study: Pakistan*. Baxter, Craig. "The Mughal Period." April 1994. [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field\(DOCID+pk0016\)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field(DOCID+pk0016))

¹¹⁸ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Country Study: Pakistan*. Baxter, Craig. "The Mughal Period." April 1994. [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field\(DOCID+pk0016\)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field(DOCID+pk0016))

traveled to the far-flung trading enclaves around the world.¹¹⁹ The British fought three wars with the French on Indian soil in the mid 1700s, emerging as the preeminent European power on the subcontinent.

Within the area of modern-day Pakistan, British influence came relatively late. During the first part of the 19th century, both Sindh and Pakistan were still independently ruled. In Sindh the Baloch-ruled Talpur Dynasty held sway. In Punjab the Sikhs under Ranjit Singh controlled an area extending from Peshawar to Kashmir.¹²⁰

Neither region escaped British attention, however. A treaty signed in 1832 recognized Sindhi integrity and banned British transport of armed vessels or military stores on the Indus. Seven years later the British ignored the ban during the First Afghan War. Armed conflict between the Sindhi rulers and the British quickly followed. In 1843 the British annexed all of Sindh after their victory at the Battle of Miani.¹²¹ About the annexation, the British commander, Charles Napier, said “We have no right to seize Sind, yet we shall do so, and a very advantageous, useful and humane piece of rascality it will be.”¹²² The Upper Sindh region of Khairpur avoided the conquest through treaty, becoming one of the many “Princely States.”



Courtesy of Wikipedia
Charles Napier

In Punjab, the Kingdom began to unravel after the death of Ranjit Singh in 1839. Most of his successors were either killed or incompetent. (The one exception unfortunately died after only one year in power.)¹²³ The British, situated to the west, watched the chaotic events in Punjab unfold and readied for war. Ultimately, two Anglo-Sikh wars occurred in the 1840s that left Punjab under British control.¹²⁴ After the first of these wars, the British ceded Kashmir to Raja Gulab Singh of Jammu for a concessionary sum of money. Thus began a Hindu dynasty in a mostly Muslim land, sowing the seeds of a conflict that continues to this day.¹²⁵

Colonial Rule

The Indus River Plain regions entered into the British fold as the first major wave of rebellion spread though India. The India Mutiny of 1857 saw Indian soldiers stage

¹¹⁹ MSN Encarta. “Seven Years’ War. II. European Phase. IV. Indian Theatre.” 2007.

http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761575656/Seven_Years%E2%80%99_War.html

¹²⁰ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Country Study: Pakistan*. Baxter, Craig. “Company Rule.” April 1994. [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field\(DOCID+pk0017\)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field(DOCID+pk0017))

¹²¹ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. Spear, T. G. Percival. “India: History: The Completion of Dominion and Expansion.” 2007. <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-47023/India>

¹²² The Victorian Web. “General Charles Napier and the Conquest of Sind.” 19 April 2002.

<http://www.victorianweb.org/history/empire/napier.html>

¹²³ V&A Museums. “The Death of Mahraja Sanjit Singh.”

<http://www.vam.ac.uk/collections/asia/sikhism/art/death/index.html>

¹²⁴ V&A Museums. “Sikh Wars & Annexation of the Punjab.”

<http://www.vam.ac.uk/collections/asia/sikhism/art/wars/index.html>

¹²⁵ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. “Dogra Dynasty.” 2007. <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-9030799/Dogra-Dynasty>

uprisings in various cities of northern India. Eventually the revolt was put down by the British with the assistance of troops from Punjab. The end of the mutiny marked the beginning of direct British rule in India and the end of the reign of the last Mughal emperor.¹²⁶

The tribal areas of the Pashtuns and Balochis were located in the western frontiers of the Indian Empire. The British considered these areas vital because they contained mountain passes into Afghanistan, which Britain considered a buffer region against Russian advances into Central Asia. The British ultimately negotiated agreements that transformed much of present-day Balochistan into Princely States, leaving Britain with control of the areas containing the southern mountain passes into Afghanistan.¹²⁷

In the Pashtun regions to the north, the British waged ongoing battles with the tribes. After the Second Afghan War in 1878–79, the British realized that maintaining a forward position all the way to Kabul in Afghanistan was impractical. After continued skirmishes with the Pashtuns, a treaty in 1893 defined the boundary between Afghan and British claims (the Durand Line), which remains today as the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. Under the treaty, the Pashtun regions were divided by the new boundary. The British thereafter very loosely “ruled” their side of the tribal areas as the North-West Frontier Province.^{128,129}



Courtesy of Wikipedia
Sepoy mutiny

The Punjab region became the granary of northern India under the British. Irrigation systems lengthened growing seasons and expanded the amount of farmland, creating canal colonies in once semi-arid regions of central and southern Punjab. Punjab also became a major recruitment area for the Indian forces of the British military.¹³⁰

After the British annexation in 1843, Sindh became part of the Bombay Presidency. As in Punjab, new irrigation canals increased the agricultural output of the region. The port city of Karachi grew rapidly as food exports from Punjab and Sindh increased. By 1914, the city had become the largest grain-handling port of the British Empire.¹³¹

¹²⁶ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Country Study: Pakistan*. Baxter, Craig. “The British Raj.” April 1994. [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/cstdy:@field\(DOCID+pk0018\)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/cstdy:@field(DOCID+pk0018))

¹²⁷ *Pakistan*, 3rd Update Ed. “Balochistan: Robert Sandeman.” 2007. London: Insight Guides. [book]

¹²⁸ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. “Durand Line.” 2007. <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-9031550/Durand-Line>

¹²⁹ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Country Study: Pakistan*. Baxter, Craig. “The Forward Policy.” April 1994. [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field\(DOCID+pk0019\)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field(DOCID+pk0019))

¹³⁰ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Country Study: Pakistan*. Baxter, Craig. “Company Rule.” April 1994. [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field\(DOCID+pk0017\)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field(DOCID+pk0017))

¹³¹ Encyclopædia Britannica Online “Karachi: History.” 2007. <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-61942/Karachi>

The Beginnings of the Hindu–Muslim Split

The British held the Muslim aristocracy in suspicion after the Indian Mutiny of 1857.¹³² While the British-educated Hindu middle class thrived, the Muslim upper classes, who for many centuries had ruled India, increasingly found themselves culturally and politically isolated within the British Raj. As Indian nationalism began to surface as a popular cause, many Muslim leaders viewed the nationalist groups—most notably, the Indian Nationalist Congress—as representatives of Hindu interests.¹³³

At the beginning of the 20th century, the British implemented administrative and political changes that divided Hindus and Muslims within India. After the All-India Muslim League was founded in 1906, the British subsequently enacted legislation that allowed Muslims separate electorates for the Indian Legislative Council. In 1905, the province of Bengal was split by the British into a Hindu-dominated western half and a Muslim-dominated eastern half. This partition of Bengal was adamantly opposed by the Congress and was finally rescinded four years later.¹³⁴



Courtesy of Wikipedia
Muslim League Working Committee, Lahore session

In 1916 the Congress and the Muslim League signed the Lucknow Pact, in which the Congress accepted the separate Muslim electorates and the Muslim League agreed to support the Congress's drive to get the British out of India. One of the key architects of this pact was the lawyer Muhammad Ali Jinnah, a member of both the Muslim League and the Congress, who was often referred to as the “ambassador of Hindu–Muslim unity.”¹³⁵ During the 1920s, as the home-rule movement in India became increasingly dominated by the nonviolence boycotts advocated by Mohandas Gandhi, Jinnah, now Muslim League President, opposed Gandhi's Hindu-based approach, which he felt was unconstitutional. The Nehru Report of 1928 announced that Congress put aside their Lucknow Pact commitment to Muslim electorates. Frustrated, Jinnah resigned his Muslim League Presidency and moved to England for five years to resume his law practice.^{136,137}

¹³² Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Country Study: Pakistan*. Baxter, Craig. “The Seeds of Muslim Nationalism.” April 1994. [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field\(DOCID+pk0020\)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field(DOCID+pk0020))

¹³³ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Country Study: Pakistan*. Baxter, Craig. “The Seeds of Muslim Nationalism.” April 1994. [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field\(DOCID+pk0020\)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field(DOCID+pk0020))

¹³⁴ Department of English, Emory University. Keen, Shirin. “The Partition of India.” 1998. <http://www.english.emory.edu/Bahri/Part.html>

¹³⁵ CNN.com. “Jinnah: Pakistan's Founding Father.” 1997. <http://www.cnn.com/WORLD/9708/India97/pakistan/nation.builder/index.html>

¹³⁶ The Story of Pakistan. “Nehru Report [1928].” 1 June 2003. <http://www.storyofpakistan.com/articletext.asp?artid=A036>

¹³⁷ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. Husain, Mahmud. “Mohammad Ali Jinnah: Entry Into Politics.” 2007. <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-3707/Mohammed-Ali-Jinnah>

Independence and Partition

In 1934 Jinnah returned to India to once again head the Muslim League, but he was no longer the ambassador of Hindu–Muslim unity. He emphasized the Two Nations Theory, first elucidated by the Muslim poet and philosopher Muhammad Iqbal in 1930.¹³⁸ In 1940 Jinnah submitted the Lahore Resolution, formulating the Muslim League’s stance on independence from British rule. It called for the eastern and northwestern Muslim majority areas in India to “be grouped to constitute independent States in which the constituent units should be autonomous and sovereign.”¹³⁹

After the Lahore Resolution, relations between the Congress and the Muslim League became increasingly strained, and positions hardened. During World War II, the Muslim League cooperated with the British war effort, unlike the Congress, and thereby gained British sympathy for their Pakistan position. In the 1946 elections following the War, the Muslim League gained 90 percent of the Muslim seats in the Indian Parliament. This ensured that they would have to be party to whatever agreements were reached concerning Indian independence.

A last-ditch British plan for an independent India proposed a central government controlling functions such as defense, foreign policy, and currency, while Muslim- and Hindu-majority provinces otherwise maintained autonomy. The plan was rejected by the Congress. When Jinnah’s proposal for equal power sharing between the Congress and Muslim League in an interim Indian government was later rejected by the British Viceroy, the Muslim League decided to boycott the new government. Shortly afterward, in August 1946, Jinnah called for “Direct Action,” triggering violent communal riots in Bengal and Bihar in eastern India.¹⁴⁰



Courtesy of Wikipedia
Muhajirs

As events rapidly spiraled out of control, the British hastily fashioned plans to implement the independence of a partitioned India. Bengal and Punjab were to be split into Hindu and Muslim areas, and the princely states were to align with the country chosen by their rulers.¹⁴¹ On August 14, 1947, India and Pakistan became independent nations. Three days later, the partition boundary was announced, triggering one of the largest and most violent mass population migrations in history.^{142, 143}

¹³⁸ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Country Study: Pakistan*. Baxter, Craig. “The Two Nations Theory.” April 1994. [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field\(DOCID+pk0022\)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field(DOCID+pk0022))

¹³⁹ The Story of Pakistan. “Lahore Resolution [1940].” 1 June 2003. <http://www.storyofpakistan.com/articletext.asp?artid=A043&Pg=4>

¹⁴⁰ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Country Study: Pakistan*. Baxter, Craig. “Toward Partition.” April 1994. [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/cstdy:@field\(DOCID+pk0023\)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/cstdy:@field(DOCID+pk0023))

¹⁴¹ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Country Study: Pakistan*. Baxter, Craig. “Toward Partition.” April 1994. [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/cstdy:@field\(DOCID+pk0023\)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/cstdy:@field(DOCID+pk0023))

¹⁴² Australian Network. “Pakistan: History.” 2006. <http://australiannetwork.com/news/countries/PAKISTAN.htm>

¹⁴³ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Country Study: Pakistan*. Baxter, Craig. “Independent Pakistan.” April 1994. [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field\(DOCID+pk0024\)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field(DOCID+pk0024))

The Nation of Pakistan

Post-Independence

Pakistan began its existence facing many issues. Was the country to be an Islamic nation under *Shari'a* law, or a secular state with a Muslim majority? How would a country divided into two non-contiguous parts separated by 1,600 km (1,000 mi) of a hostile neighboring country govern itself?¹⁴⁴ What would be the national language when the east spoke Bengali and the west primarily consisted of Punjabi and Sindhi speakers? How could Sindh and other regions assimilate the new Pakistanis (*muhajirs*) who streamed into the country after partition?

Beyond these fundamental questions were territorial concerns. The status of Balochistan and the North-West Frontier were still unresolved at independence. Hostile relations with Afghanistan increased the urgency to settle the relationships of the tribal border areas and Pakistan. Military action was used to bring some of the Balochi state of Kalat into accession to Pakistan. In the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP), the Pashtun leader Abdul Ghaffar Khan was a Congress member who fought against partition. He urged his followers in the NWFP not to vote on the plebiscite to join Pakistan, but despite a large boycott the plebiscite ultimately passed.¹⁴⁵ Khan would later spend many years in Pakistani prisons for his support of the Pashtun independence movement.¹⁴⁶



Courtesy of Wikipedia
Quaid-i-Azam shrine

The foremost territorial issue, however, was Kashmir. When the Hindu maharajah of Kashmir, who initially did not accede to either country, saw Pashtun tribesmen nearing his capital of Srinagar, he quickly acceded to India. The details of that accession are still debated and used by both sides to justify their position. The immediate result was a war between India and Pakistan only two months after the two countries had gained independence.¹⁴⁷ A ceasefire line was eventually agreed to, but no long-term solution to the Kashmir issue has yet to be found.

Muhammad Jinnah, now known as the Quaid-i-Azam (Great Leader) by his followers, became Pakistan's first Governor General upon independence, but a little more than a year later he died of tuberculosis. He advocated equal rights for all citizens of Pakistan, regardless of their religion. Jinnah's statements suggest that he had favored following the secular state path for Pakistan, but Pakistan eventually moved in a different direction.¹⁴⁸

¹⁴⁴ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Country Study: Pakistan*. Baxter, Craig. "Independent Pakistan." April 1994. [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field\(DOCID+pk0024\)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field(DOCID+pk0024))

¹⁴⁵ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Country Study: Pakistan*. Baxter, Craig. "Independent Pakistan." April 1994. [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field\(DOCID+pk0024\)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field(DOCID+pk0024))

¹⁴⁶ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. "Abdul Ghaffar Khan." 2007. <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-9036653/Abdul-Ghaffar-Khan>

¹⁴⁷ *Pakistan*, 3rd Update Ed. "Modern History." 2007. London: Insight Guides.

¹⁴⁸ CNN.com. "Jinnah: Pakistan's Founding Father." 1997.

<http://www.cnn.com/WORLD/9708/India97/pakistan/nation.builder/index.html>

A Country Divided

During the first 25 years of Pakistan's history, many of the issues at independence continued to fester. The national language chosen was Urdu, a primary language only for the *muhajirs*, and this choice particularly upset the Bengali population of East Pakistan. Kashmir continued to be a flashpoint between India and Pakistan, and the two countries once again went to war over the region in August 1965. Ethnic tensions in the Sindh cities heightened as the *muhajirs* became the dominant group in Karachi and Hyderabad.

In 1956, Pakistan completed drafting its constitution and became an Islamic Republic. In the years between independence and the completion of the constitution, the country had seen continued protests in East Pakistan over the language issue. In addition, East Pakistan perceived economic favoritism towards the western part of the country, where the capital of Karachi was located.¹⁴⁹ These issues translated into a political power battle between the Muslim League, the dominant party of West Pakistan, and the East Pakistan-based United Front Party.¹⁵⁰

In 1958, the Pakistani military carried out the first of a string of coups that have subsequently characterized much of the first 60 years of Pakistan's history. The new leader, Mohammed Ayub Khan, abolished the constitution and put the country under martial law for over three years until a new constitution with strong presidential powers was put into place in 1962.^{151, 152}



Courtesy of Wikipedia
Muhammed Ayub Khan

The early years under Khan saw strong economic growth, particularly in the manufacturing sector.¹⁵³ The 1965 war with India over Kashmir, however, weakened Khan's political base. Within Pakistan, there was a wide perception that he had capitulated to India in negotiating the ceasefire agreement.¹⁵⁴ In addition, many East Pakistanis continued to bridle at what they perceived to be insufficient Bengali representation and unbalanced distribution of tax revenues between East and West. As disorder increased and the army was forced to quell uprisings, Khan's position became increasingly untenable.¹⁵⁵ In 1969, martial law was

¹⁴⁹ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. "Bangladesh: The Boundaries of East Pakistan." 2007. <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-33419/Bangladesh>

¹⁵⁰ *Pakistan*, 3rd Update Ed. "Modern History." 2007. London: Insight Guides.

¹⁵¹ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. Tinker, Hugh Russell. "Pakistan: History: Military Government." 2007. <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-23667/Pakistan>

¹⁵² Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Country Study: Pakistan*. Baxter, Craig. "The New Constitution." April 1994. [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field\(DOCID+pk0030\)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field(DOCID+pk0030))

¹⁵³ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. Tinker, Hugh Russell. "Pakistan: History: Military Government." 2007. <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-23667/Pakistan>

¹⁵⁴ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Country Study: Pakistan*. Baxter, Craig. "Ayub Khan's Foreign Policy and the 1965 War With India." April 1994. [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field\(DOCID+pk0031\)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field(DOCID+pk0031))

¹⁵⁵ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Country Study: Pakistan*. Baxter, Craig. "Ayub Khan's Foreign Policy and the 1965 War With India." April 1994. [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field\(DOCID+pk0031\)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field(DOCID+pk0031))

once again declared. Khan handed over power to his Commander-in-Chief, Agha Mohammad Yahya Khan, who scheduled elections for the following year.

The Bangladesh Independence War

The December 1970 elections began the final chapter in the continuing political battle between East and West Pakistan. The Awami League, strong advocates of a six-point program for significant financial and political autonomy between the two Pakistans, virtually swept all seats in East Pakistan. The Awami leader, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, now felt that his party had the mandate to form the new national government. On this point he was opposed by West Pakistan political leader Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, whose party controlled the majority of the legislative seats from the western half of the country. When negotiations led to an impasse, President Khan, on 1 March 1971, delayed the convening of the new National Assembly. Strikes and protests broke out across West Pakistan, inexorably leading to open revolt. By the end of the month, Rahman was under arrest and Pakistani army forces were flowing into East Pakistan to crush the rebellion. Pakistan was now involved in a civil war.¹⁵⁶



Courtesy of Wikipedia
Sheik Mujahir Rahman1950

The ensuing conflict eventually drew in India, where millions of East Pakistani Hindus had fled during the civil war.¹⁵⁷ In early December 1971, full-scale warfare broke out between the two countries. In addition to the fighting in East Pakistan, the two countries battled in Punjab and Kashmir.¹⁵⁸ For Pakistan, the war was to be a major disaster for their military. By mid December 1971, the Pakistani forces had surrendered to the combined Indian and rebel forces. In the wake of the Pakistani defeat, East Pakistan became the world's newest country: Bangladesh.

Bhutto and ul-Haq

Bhutto became the new President and Chief Martial Law Administrator of the now contiguous country, and Yahya Khan resigned only days after the 1971 war. Under Bhutto, Pakistan began the slow process of rebuilding after the devastating defeat. The military was purged, with Muhammad Zia ul-Haq becoming the new Chief of Staff for the army. (One of the army's first tasks was to suppress a nationalist insurgency in Balochistan.) Educational and health care reforms were instituted, major industries and banks were nationalized, and a new constitution was enacted.¹⁵⁹ In 1973 Bhutto resigned the presidency to become Prime Minister, the position of primary governmental power under the new constitution.

¹⁵⁶ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Country Study: Pakistan*. Baxter, Craig. "Yahya Khan and Bangladesh." April 1994. [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field\(DOCID+pk0032\)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field(DOCID+pk0032))

¹⁵⁷ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. "Bangladesh: The Boundaries of East Pakistan." 2007. <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-33419/Bangladesh>

¹⁵⁸ OnWar.com. Armed Conflict Events Database. "Bangladesh War of Independence 1971." 16 December 2000. <http://www.onwar.com/aced/nation/bat/bangladesh/fbangladesh1971.htm>

¹⁵⁹ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Country Study: Pakistan*. Baxter, Craig. "Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and a New Constitutional System." April 1994. [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/cstdy:@field\(DOCID+pk0033\)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/cstdy:@field(DOCID+pk0033))

Elections were scheduled in 1977, and a strong opposition alliance known as the PNA (Pakistan National Alliance) ran a vigorous campaign against Bhutto's PPP (Pakistan People's Party). When the election results were announced and showed an overwhelming victory for the PPP, street protests broke out. Bhutto ordered the army in to quell the demonstrations and had the PNA leadership arrested.¹⁶⁰ Once again the political landscape in Pakistan had come to a boil.

On 5 July 1977 the military stepped in. Bhutto was arrested, martial law was declared, and Zia became President and Chief Martial Law Administrator. Plans were initially announced to hold an election within 90 days, but the election was cancelled when it appeared likely that Bhutto would win. Instead, Bhutto was put on trial for conspiracy to murder a rival politician. After his conviction on the charge, there was world outcry for clemency, but Zia did not back down.¹⁶¹ Bhutto was hanged on 6 April 1979.



Courtesy of Wikipedia
General Zia ul-Haq

Zia pursued an Islamization policy in which Pakistan increasingly aligned itself with the rest of the Muslim world and invoked many Islamic laws and punishments.¹⁶² Within Pakistan provinces, the Zia regime faced numerous challenges. Balochistan nationalism was quelled to a high degree through economic development in the region, but ethnic tensions in the cities of Sindh turned violent and were more difficult to control.¹⁶³ After the Soviet Union entered Afghanistan in December 1979, Pakistan's border regions in the North-West Frontier became bases for Afghani *mujahideen* fighting against the Soviets.

Recent History

Return to Democracy

Zia ended martial law in 1985, but before doing so, an amendment to the Pakistan Constitution was passed that was to have enormous effect on the Pakistan political landscape during the 1990s. The Eighth Amendment allowed Pakistan's President, a mostly figurehead position as defined in the original 1973 constitution, to reserve the power to dismiss the Prime Minister and National Assembly and call for a new election.¹⁶⁴

In August 1988 a plane carrying Zia, the U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, and top Pakistani military officials crashed, killing all on board. The mysterious circumstances of the crash

¹⁶⁰ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. Tinker, Hugh Russell. "Pakistan: History: Bhutto's Regime." 2007. <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-23669/Pakistan>

¹⁶¹ U.S. State Department. "Background Note: Pakistan." May 2007. <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3453.htm>

¹⁶² Encyclopædia Britannica Online. Tinker, Hugh Russell. "Pakistan: History: Zia ul-Haq's Regime." 2007. <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-23670/Pakistan>

¹⁶³ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Country Study: Pakistan*. "Zia ul-Haq and Military Domination." April 1994. [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field\(DOCID+pk0034\)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query2/r?frd/cstdy:@field(DOCID+pk0034))

¹⁶⁴ The Story of Pakistan. "Historic 8th Amendment is Passed [1985]." 1 June 2003. <http://www.storyofpakistan.com/articletext.asp?artid=A078>

have yet to be unraveled. An election scheduled for November went on as planned, and the PPP, now led by Bhutto's daughter Benazir Bhutto, won the most seats. After successfully negotiating a fragile political majority, Bhutto became the first Muslim woman head of state.¹⁶⁵

Bhutto's term lasted only 20 months before Pakistan's President, Gulam Ishaq Khan, used the Eighth Amendment to dismiss her on charges of corruption and call for a new election. The election, held two months later, swept in the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) and their leader Nawaz Sharif, a Punjabi industrialist. The IJI and Sharif were successful in instituting reforms that boosted Pakistan's economy, although critics argued that the fast pace of reforms negatively impacted the most vulnerable segments in Pakistani society.¹⁶⁶ The Sharif government also passed legislation expanding *Shari'a* law.



© Faqeer
Benazir Bhutto

Pakistan's government continued a decade of political ping-pong as Sharif and Khan stepped down in 1993 after a constitutional confrontation, followed by another election, and the return of the PPP and Benazir Bhutto. Bhutto's second tenure as Prime Minister was longer than her first, but economic decline, continued ethnic unrest in Sindh, and further charges of corruption eventually weakened her political position.¹⁶⁷ The new Pakistani President, Farooq Leghari, dismissed Bhutto in 1996. In the ensuing elections early the next year, Sharif's new party, the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz), won an overwhelming majority. Soon after Sharif returned to power, an amendment was passed to repeal the Eighth Amendment that had been utilized so often over the preceding decade.¹⁶⁸

Back to Military Control

In 1998, Pervez Musharraf was appointed Army Chief of Staff by Sharif. This followed the forced resignation of Musharraf's predecessor after he publicly called for military representation in Pakistan's National Security Council.¹⁶⁹ Some observers at the time were quick to note that Musharraf's *muhajir* background made him an outsider in the primarily Punjabi power circles of Pakistan and thus less of a threat to Sharif.^{170,171}

¹⁶⁵ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. Tinker, Hugh Russell. "Pakistan: History: The Administration of Benazir Bhutto." 2007. <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-23671/Pakistan>

¹⁶⁶ *Pakistan: A Global Studies Handbook*. Mohiuddin, Yashmeen Niaz. "Political Development Since 1947: First Nawaz Sharif Government (1990-1993)." 2007. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, Inc.

¹⁶⁷ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. Tinker, Hugh Russell. "Pakistan: History: The Administration of Benazir Bhutto." 2007. <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-23671/Pakistan>

¹⁶⁸ *Pakistan: A Global Studies Handbook*. Mohiuddin, Yashmeen Niaz. "Political Development Since 1947: Second Nawaz Sharif Government (1997-1999)." 2007. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, Inc.

¹⁶⁹ *Pakistan: A Global Studies Handbook*. Mohiuddin, Yashmeen Niaz. "Political Development Since 1947: Second Nawaz Sharif Government (1997-1999)." 2007. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, Inc.

¹⁷⁰ BBC News, UK Version. "Profile: General Pervez Musharraf." 24 September 2001. http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/472997.stm

¹⁷¹ *Pakistan: A Global Studies Handbook*. Mohiuddin, Yashmeen Niaz. "Political Development Since 1947: Second Nawaz Sharif Government (1997-1999)." 2007. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, Inc.

Whatever Sharif's motivations for the appointment, he almost certainly did not foresee that Musharraf would replace him less than two years later. Musharraf would come to power after Sharif tried to fire and arrest him, and instead triggered a military revolt that led to Sharif's ouster and Pakistan's return to martial law.

One reason that Sharif saw Musharraf as a threat was the general unhappiness within the Pakistani military when Sharif backed down from the brink of another military conflict with India over Kashmir in early 1999.^{172,173} This was the first military crisis between the two long-time rivals since Pakistan carried out its initial nuclear weapons test in 1998. U.S. and world pressure was quickly brought to bear on Sharif to pull Pakistani-backed infiltrators out of India's side of the Line of Control.¹⁷⁴ In addition to his loss of military support, Sharif increasingly was seen as vulnerable because of the country's faltering economy, unhappiness over his use of press restrictions, and legal maneuvers to stifle political opposition.^{175,176}



US Government photo
General Pervez Musharraf

After assuming power as Chief Executive, a 1999 ruling by the Pakistani Supreme Court validated the coup and gave Musharraf three years of executive and legislative authority starting from the coup date. He named himself President in 2001, and a referendum in April 2002, marked by charges of voter fraud, extended Musharraf's presidency for another five years.¹⁷⁷ Subsequent National Assembly elections were held later in the year, giving Musharraf's political party a plurality. Following the elections, Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali was elected Prime Minister by the Assembly, the first Baloch to hold that position.¹⁷⁸ Jamali resigned in 2004 and was replaced by Shaukat Aziz, former Finance Minister.¹⁷⁹ Musharraf continues to remain as President and Army Chief of Staff.

Recent Events

A turning point in the Musharraf administration came in the wake of the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States. Pakistan, up until then a supporter of the ruling Taliban in Afghanistan, reversed policy under U.S. and international pressure and joined the coalition to remove the Taliban from power. The country also made a commitment to

¹⁷² *Pakistan*, 3rd Update Ed. "Modern History." 2007. London: Insight Guides.

¹⁷³ BBC News, UK Version. "Profile: General Pervez Musharraf." 24 September 2001.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/472997.stm

¹⁷⁴ Jammu-Kashmir.com. The Washington Post. Lancaster, John. "Kashmir Crisis Was Defused on the Brink of War." 26 July 1999. <http://jammu-kashmir.com/archives/archives1999/99july26.html>

¹⁷⁵ BBC News. "Pakistan's Economic Nightmare." 14 October 1999.
<http://newsvote.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/473661.st>

¹⁷⁶ U.S. State Department. "Background Note: Pakistan." May 2007.
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3453.htm>

¹⁷⁷ Human Rights Watch. "Pakistan: Entire Election Process 'Deeply Flawed.'" 9 October 2002.
<http://www.hrw.org/press/2002/10/pakistan-bck1009.htm>

¹⁷⁸ BBC News, International Version. "Profile: Zafarullah Jamali." 26 June 2004.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/2498275.stm

¹⁷⁹ BBC News, International Version. "Profile: Shaukat Aziz." 19 August 2004.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/3941185.stm

eliminate terrorist camps operating on Pakistani soil.¹⁸⁰ U.S military and economic assistance to Pakistan has subsequently increased dramatically, helping the country to increase its gross domestic product to 6.6 percent in 2005–06.¹⁸¹

National Assembly elections will be held in November 2007. In the run-up to the election, Musharraf suspended Chief Justice Ifthekar Choudhary on charges of abuse of power in obtaining a job for his son.¹⁸²

Musharraf’s move sparked protests within Pakistan’s legal community that quickly spread into a broader political protest against Musharraf, ultimately leading to violence in the streets of Karachi. What the downstream effects of this episode will be on the Pakistani elections and Musharraf’s hold on power remains to be seen.¹⁸³



© Pierre Gazzola
Border with Afghanistan at Wes

¹⁸⁰ U.S. State Department. “Background Note: Pakistan.” May 2007.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3453.htm>

¹⁸¹ U.S. State Department. “Background Note: Pakistan.” May 2007.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3453.htm>

¹⁸² NDTV.com. Jehangir, Munizae. “Pak: SC Order on CJ Setback for Musharraf.” 7 May 2007.

<http://www.ndtv.com/convergence/ndtv/story.aspx?id=NEWEN20070011226>

¹⁸³ Financial Time.com. Bokhari, Farhan and Jo Johnson. “Musharraf’s Poll Strategy in Ruins.” 13 May 2007. <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/3c2d95ce-0171-11dc-8b8c-000b5df10621.html>

ECONOMY

Introduction

Since independence, Pakistan's economy has gone through alternating periods of slow growth and fast growth. Large-scale manufacturing has been a major component of the government's growth strategy during this period, with much of this sector focused on consumer goods such as textiles, garments, and processed foods.¹⁸⁴

"Resilience" is a word often used to characterize Pakistan's economy.^{185, 186} The economy has continued to grow despite numerous shocks to its economic and political system. These range from military coups and ethnic violence to economic sanctions and catastrophic natural disasters. Since late 2001, when many countries lifted economic sanctions and developmental aid began flowing into the country, Pakistan's economy has grown considerably.¹⁸⁷



© Mary Loosemore
Money changer, Peshawar

However, despite a generally above-average increase in per capita income and gross national product over the last 60 years, Pakistan is still one of the world's poorest nations. In the most recent Human Development Index published by the United Nations, Pakistan ranked 134th out of 177 countries.¹⁸⁸ High illiteracy rates (especially among women), poor health infrastructure, and rapid population growth are some of the factors that have stifled Pakistan in achieving further progress against poverty.¹⁸⁹

Industry

Pakistan's industrial sector, including manufacturing, mining, construction, and electricity and gas, generates about 25% of Pakistan's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Further, industry employs 11% of the work force.^{190,191} Manufacturing is the largest

¹⁸⁴ *Pakistan: A Global Studies Handbook*. Mohiuddin, Yasmeeen Niaz. "Chapter Two: The Economy of Pakistan [p. 136]." 2007. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, Inc.

¹⁸⁵ BBC News, "IMF Praises Pakistan's Resilience." 20 August 2002.
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/2205896.stm>

¹⁸⁶ Associated Press of Pakistan. "Pak Economic Resilience Gets Translated Into High Growth Rate." 23 April 2007. http://www.app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7872&Itemid=2

¹⁸⁷ U.S. Department of State. "Background Note: Pakistan—Economy." May 2005.
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3453.htm>

¹⁸⁸ United Nations Development Programme. *Human Development Report*. "Country Fact Sheets: Pakistan." 2006. http://hdr.undp.org/hdr2006/statistics/countries/country_fact_sheets/cty_fs_PAK.html

¹⁸⁹ Council on Foreign Relations. Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Coleman, Isobel. "Gender Disparities, Economic Growth and Islamization in Pakistan." July 2004.
http://www.cfr.org/publication/7217/gender_disparities_economic_growth_and_islamization_in_pakistan.html

¹⁹⁰ *Pakistan: A Global Studies Handbook*. Mohiuddin, Yasmeeen Niaz. "Chapter Two: The Economy of Pakistan." 2007. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, Inc. [book]

¹⁹¹ U.S. Department of State. "Background Note: Pakistan—Economy: Industry." May 2005.
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3453.htm>

portion of this sector and has consistently shown a faster growth rate than the economy as a whole. Large-scale manufacturing accounts for over two-thirds of manufacturing value added, but employs only a small percentage of all manufacturing workers.^{192,193} Most manufacturing workers are involved in small-scale manufacturing enterprises that typically pay less and have working conditions inferior to the large-scale enterprises.¹⁹⁴ These small-scale enterprises produce items such as carpets, knives, leather goods, sporting goods, garments, and furniture.¹⁹⁵

Large-scale manufacturing in Pakistan is dominated by consumer goods, most notably cotton textiles. Paper, processed sugar, and tobacco are also important goods produced.¹⁹⁶ Intermediate and capital goods, such as fertilizers, cement, chemicals, steel, and automobiles, have been increasing their percentages of overall manufacturing. However, given that the intermediate and capital industries are less labor intensive, the result of this manufacturing shift away from consumer goods has been a relatively flat employment rate in the large-scale industrial sector.¹⁹⁷



© Usman Ahmed
Industrial growth

Karachi has traditionally been the center of large-scale manufacturing in Pakistan. An example is the country's largest industrial complex, the Pakistan Steel Mills located southeast of the city. The development of this facility was linked to the creation of nearby Port Qasim in the 1970s and 1980s.^{198,199} In recent decades, Lahore and adjacent areas of Punjab Province have become competitors to Karachi in terms of industrial output.^{200,201}

Agriculture

Despite an increasing industrial and services sector, agriculture continues to be the largest segment of Pakistan's economy. Overall, agriculture contributes about 24% of Pakistan's

¹⁹² Accountancy Business News. Business Recorder. "Highlights of Economic Survey of Pakistan 2006-07." 9 June 2007. <http://www.accountancy.com.pk/newsgen.asp?newsid=1761>

¹⁹³ International Development Economic Associates. Ghosh, Jayati. "Pleasure and Pain in Pakistan." 19 April 2004. http://www.ideaswebsite.org/news/apr2004/news19_Pleasure_Pain_Pakistan.htm

¹⁹⁴ *Pakistan: A Global Studies Handbook*. Mohiuddin, Yasmeen Niaz. "Chapter Two: The Economy of Pakistan [p. 135]." 2007. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, Inc.

¹⁹⁵ *Pakistan: A Global Studies Handbook*. Mohiuddin, Yasmeen Niaz. "Chapter Two: The Economy of Pakistan [p. 135]." 2007. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, Inc.

¹⁹⁶ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. "Pakistan: The Economy: Industry." 2007. <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-23699/Pakistan>

¹⁹⁷ *Pakistan: A Global Studies Handbook*. Mohiuddin, Yasmeen Niaz. "Chapter Two: The Economy of Pakistan [p. 137-38]." 2007. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, Inc.

¹⁹⁸ Pakistan Steel. "Pakistan Steel." 2004. <http://www.paksteel.com.pk/pks/intro.htm>

¹⁹⁹ Customs Port Mohammad Bin Qasim. "Brief History/Introduction of Port Qasim." September 2004. <http://www.cbr.gov.pk/PortQasim/about.htm>

²⁰⁰ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. "Pakistan: The Economy: Industry." 2007. <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-23699/Pakistan>

²⁰¹ APO International Symposium on Management of Industrial Estates. Muhammad, Tahir. "14. Pakistan (2) [p. 172]." 21 September 2000. http://www.apo-tokyo.org/gp/e_publi/penang_symp/Penang_Symp_P167-178.pdf

GDP and employs about 50% of the country's work force.²⁰² Agricultural products also contribute directly or indirectly to over 75% of Pakistan's exports.²⁰³

The primary agricultural regions are in the provinces of Sindh and Punjab in the heavily irrigated Indus River Plain. Nonirrigated rain-fed regions (*barani*) are located primarily in northernmost Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province and constitute about one-fourth of cultivated land in Pakistan. These areas rely on summer rains to grow winter-sown crops.²⁰⁴



© Zaheer Sattar
Wheat field, Punjab

The largest crops by acreage are wheat, cotton, rice, gram (chickpeas), maize, and sugarcane.²⁰⁵ Cotton is the most important cash crop, as it is used as the raw material for Pakistan's vital textile and garment industries. Acreage has also been increasingly devoted to fruits, particularly citrus, mangoes, and apples.²⁰⁶ Both citrus and mangoes have become significant export crops. Pakistan is the world's top exporter by tonnage in the mandarins/clementines/tangerines class of citrus.²⁰⁷ Pakistan's primary export in this class is the *kinnow*, also spelled "*kinno*," a type of mandarin, which (as is the case with mangoes) is primarily shipped to Middle East markets.²⁰⁸

Banking

The national currency of Pakistan is the Pakistan rupee (abbreviated PKR). In early July 2007 the rupee- to-U.S. dollar (USD) exchange rate was 60.31, compared with 57.3 in 2003 and 59.515 in 2005.^{209, 210} Remittances from Pakistani workers abroad help to bolster the value of the rupee, lowering the exchange rate. However, an increasing level of imports into Pakistan tends to devalue the rupee's value versus the dollar and raise the exchange rate.²¹¹

²⁰² Federal Bureau of Statistics, Government of Pakistan. "Agricultural Statistics."

http://www.statpak.gov.pk/depts/fbs/statistics/agriculture_statistics/agriculture_statistics.html

²⁰³ *Pakistan: A Global Studies Handbook*. Mohiuddin, Yasmeen Niaz. "Chapter Two: The Economy of Pakistan [p. 125]." 2007. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, Inc.

²⁰⁴ *Pakistan: A Global Studies Handbook*. Mohiuddin, Yasmeen Niaz. "Chapter Two: The Economy of Pakistan [p. 127]." 2007. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, Inc.

²⁰⁵ Ministry of Food, Agriculture & Livestock, Government of Pakistan. "Summary of Area, Production and Yield of Agricultural Commodities." May 2006. http://www.pakistan.gov.pk/divisions/food-division/media/asp_05-06_summary.pdf

²⁰⁶ Ministry of Food, Agriculture & Livestock, Government of Pakistan. "Area Under Fruit—Pakistan." May 2006. http://www.pakistan.gov.pk/divisions/food-division/media/fv_05-06_tbl1.pdf

²⁰⁷ Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations. "Exports: Country by Commodity (Sorted by Value): Tang.Mand.Clement.Satsma.: Selected Year: 2004." <http://www.fao.org/es/ess/toptrade/trade.asp>

²⁰⁸ Pakistan Agricultural Research Organization. Sharif, M. and Burhan Ahmad. "Marketing of Fruits Under WTO Regime." 29 October 2005. http://www.parc.gov.pk/articles/fruits_wto.html

²⁰⁹ GreenwichMeanTime.com. OANDA.com "Pakistan Currency Calculator." 5 July 2007.

<http://www.greenwichmeantime.com/time-zone/asia/pakistan/currency.htm>

²¹⁰ U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. *The World Factbook*. "Pakistan." 19 June 2007.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/pk.html>

²¹¹ Daily Times. "Currency Market Review: Rupee Gains Value." 2 April 2006.

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2006%5C04%5C02%5Cstory_2-4-2006_pg5_16

Pakistan's banking system has undergone some significant changes over the last decade and a half. From 1974 to the early 1990s, Pakistan's banking sector was dominated by five banks, all of which were nationalized.²¹² During Nawar Sharif's first term as Prime Minister, two of the banks were privatized as part of a general movement to dismantle some of the nationalized industries.²¹³ In addition, numerous new private commercial banks were licensed until a moratorium on new bank licensing was imposed in 1995. The moratorium was necessary because of concerns over the financial soundness of some of these new banks.²¹⁴ Two more of the national banks were privatized in the early 2000s, leaving the National Bank of Pakistan (with a market share of 20%) as the only public sector bank.²¹⁵



Courtesy of Wikipedia
Karachi Financial District

The State Bank of Pakistan is in charge of managing currency, the public debt, and exchange controls. It has also been involved in the process of developing a procedural and regulatory framework for integrating Islamic banking practices into the national financial system.²¹⁶ To this end, banks now offer numerous financial instruments and partnerships in lieu of interest-bearing loans. Such instruments are legally required for commercial banking transactions that do not involve foreign currencies.²¹⁷

Trade

Pakistan has been running a sizable trade deficit in recent years. In 2003–04 the trade imbalance was PKR 166 billion (roughly USD 2.75 billion), but by 2005–06 the deficit had ballooned to PKR 719 billion (USD 12 billion).²¹⁸ The principal culprit for the spiraling deficit has been the rising price of oil imports, which has hit developing countries like Pakistan particularly hard.²¹⁹ The trade gap has been offset primarily by means of privatization of national companies, foreign direct investment, and the

²¹² Financial Sector Assessment Program, International Monetary Fund. "Pakistan: Technical Note: Condition of the Banking System [p. 1]." October 2004.

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2005/cr05157.pdf>

²¹³ United Nations Online Network in Public Administration and Finance. *The Journal of the Institute of Bankers in Pakistan*. Hanif, Muhammad Nadeem. "Restructuring of Financial Sector in Pakistan [pp 5-6]." January 2003. <http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/APCITY/UNPAN026320.pdf>

²¹⁴ Financial Sector Assessment Program, International Monetary Fund. "Pakistan: Technical Note: Condition of the Banking System." October 2004.

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2005/cr05157.pdf>

²¹⁵ Financial Sector Assessment Program, International Monetary Fund. "Pakistan: Technical Note: Condition of the Banking System [p. 1]." October 2004.

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2005/cr05157.pdf>

²¹⁶ Financial Sector Assessment Program, International Monetary Fund. "Pakistan: Technical Note: Condition of the Banking System [p. 11]." October 2004.

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2005/cr05157.pdf>

²¹⁷ State Bank of Pakistan. Annual Report FY 2002. "Islamization of Financial System in Pakistan."

<http://www.sbp.org.pk/reports/annual/arFY02/chap10.pdf>

²¹⁸ Federal Bureau of Statistics, Government of Pakistan. "Table 14.1. Value of Foreign Trade." 2007.

http://www.statpak.gov.pk/depts/fbs/statistics/external_trade/14.1.pdf

²¹⁹ DAWN.com. Iqbal, Shahid. "Trade Deficit Hits \$12.1 Billion. 23 July 2006.

<http://www.dawn.com/2006/07/23/ebr3.htm>

increasing amount of remittances from Pakistanis working abroad. Economic analysts are concerned that if the trade deficit continues its current trend, Pakistan will eventually be forced to borrow to bridge the trade deficit. Such borrowing would steer more of the government's budget into debt financing and away from developmental areas.²²⁰

Exports

Textiles and garments, including bedwear, knitwear, cotton fabrics, and cotton yarn and thread, dominate Pakistan's list of primary exports. World Trade Organization statistics for 2005 reveal that over two-thirds of Pakistan's commodity exports were in the categories of textiles and clothing.²²¹ Leather goods, woolen carpets and rugs, rice, and sporting goods are also significant export goods. Even so, their export values, with the exception of rice, have increased only modestly over the last five years.²²² Roughly 25% (by rupee value) of all Pakistani exports go to the United States, more than the combined total of the next four biggest export customers (United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Afghanistan, Germany).²²³



© Chaudhry Khawar
Football industry, Saikot

Imports

Petroleum and petroleum products are Pakistan's largest import commodities. Machinery and transport equipment, a broad class of items, also make up a high percentage of Pakistan's imports.²²⁴ Within this class, telecommunications equipment and parts, machinery for the country's textile and leather factories, and automobiles are the highest value import commodities.²²⁵ Fertilizers, iron and steel, and vegetable fats and oils are also significant import items.²²⁶ Saudi Arabia, Pakistan's largest supplier of oil, is also Pakistan's largest import partner, with China, United Arab Emirates, United States, and Japan rounding out the top five.²²⁷

Investment

Foreign direct investment in Pakistan has been increasing dramatically in recent years after several years of decline



Courtesy of Wikipedia
Islamabad business offices

²²⁰ DAWN.com. Iqbal, Shahid. "Trade Deficit Hits \$12.1 Billion. 23 Jul 2006." <http://www.dawn.com/2006/07/23/ibr3.htm>

²²¹ World Trade Organization. "Time Series: Merchandise Trade by Commodity." <http://stat.wto.org/StatisticalProgram/WSDViewData.aspx?Language=en>

²²² Federal Bureau of Statistics, Government of Pakistan. "Table 14.2. Exports by Major Countries." 2007. http://www.statpak.gov.pk/depts/fbs/statistics/external_trade/14.2.pdf

²²³ Federal Bureau of Statistics, Government of Pakistan. "Table 14.6. Cumulative Exports by Major Countries." 2007. http://www.statpak.gov.pk/depts/fbs/statistics/external_trade/14.6.pdf

²²⁴ Federal Bureau of Statistics, Government of Pakistan. "Table 14.3. Imports for Commodity/Groups." 2007. http://www.statpak.gov.pk/depts/fbs/statistics/external_trade/14.3.pdf

²²⁵ International Trade Centre. "Imports: 2001-2005. Reporter: Pakistan." 2007. <http://www.intracen.org/tradstat/sitc3-3d/ir586.htm>

²²⁶ International Trade Centre. "Imports: 2001-2005. Reporter: Pakistan." 2007. <http://www.intracen.org/tradstat/sitc3-3d/ir586.htm>

²²⁷ Federal Bureau of Statistics, Government of Pakistan. "Table 14.7. Cumulative Imports by Major Countries." 2007. http://www.statpak.gov.pk/depts/fbs/statistics/external_trade/14.7.pdf

during the late 1990s.^{228, 229} In addition to an improved investment climate, much of the foreign investment in Pakistan has been spurred by ongoing privatization of government-owned businesses and industries. Pakistani law requires that 90% of these privatization proceeds go towards debt retirement.²³⁰ The result of this policy is that Pakistan has been able to reduce its debt service (the percentage of its export and remittance revenues that go toward debt repayment) from 25% in 2000 to 10% in 2005.²³¹

One problem that the government has had to deal with in attracting foreign investment is what some government officials have called “the CNN effect.”²³² By this, they mean that globally publicized terrorist actions by groups operating within the country have left an impression among some Westerners that Pakistan is an unstable and potentially unsafe environment to conduct business. The less publicized sectarian and ethnic violence in cities such as Karachi could also create such a negative impression.

While Pakistan clearly does have serious security concerns, government officials and business councils have been quick to note the progress that has been made in containing violent groups. They have also noted progress on the successful experiences that foreign companies have had with their investments in Pakistan.^{233, 234} Research carried out by the Asian Development Bank found that most terrorist attacks carried out in Pakistan were against military or government targets, and that business losses due to such attacks were minimal.²³⁵ Nonetheless, risks do exist, especially in areas such as Balochistan, where a nationalist insurgency continues to simmer. China, which is involved in the construction of several large-scale infrastructure projects in Balochistan, has seen several of its workers and engineers killed by terrorists in recent years.²³⁶

Energy and Mineral Resources

Energy

Pakistan has extensive energy resources, including reserves of natural gas, oil, and coal, as well as rivers



© nausheen i. / flickr.com
Gas station, Karachi

²²⁸ Daily Times. “Poverty Reduction Strategy Termed Successful.” 13 May 2007. http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2007/05/13/story_13-5

²²⁹ World Bank Group. “Pakistan Data Profile.” April 2007.

<http://devdata.worldbank.org/external/CPProfile.asp?PTYPE=CP&CCO>
²³⁰ Financial Times, Ltd. *FDI Magazine*. “Unstoppable Train.” 25 April 2007. http://www.fdimagazine.com/news/fullstory.php/aid/1987/Unstoppable_train.html

²³¹ World Bank Group. “Pakistan Data Profile.” April 2007.

<http://devdata.worldbank.org/external/CPProfile.asp?PTYPE=CP&CCODE=PAK>

²³² Financial Times, Ltd. *FDI Magazine*. “Unstoppable Train.” 25 April 2007.

http://www.fdimagazine.com/news/fullstory.php/aid/1987/Unstoppable_train.html

²³³ U.S.-Pakistan Business Council. President of Pakistan. “President Seeks U.S. Investment in Progressing Pakistan.” 15 September 2005. http://www.uspakistan.org/Investment_Updates_96_PAK_GOV.html

²³⁴ Embassy of the United States, Islamabad, Pakistan, U.S. Department of State. “U.S.-Pakistan Business Council Delegates Meet With Key Government Officials in Pakistan.” 27 April 2006.

<http://islamabad.usembassy.gov/pakistan/h06042701.html>

²³⁵ IRMI.com. Wagner, Daniel. “The Impact of Terrorism of Foreign Direct Investment.” February 2006.

http://www.uspakistan.org/Investment_Updates_96_PAK_GOV.html

²³⁶ BBC News, International Version. “China Workers Killed in Pakistan.” 15 February 2006.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/4716820.stm

with significant hydroelectric potential.²³⁷ Natural gas is the energy resource that has most extensively been exploited to date. Currently it generates about 50% of Pakistan's energy needs, but shortages are still anticipated in the future.²³⁸ To help address this problem, a natural gas pipeline connecting Iran's abundant supplies to both Pakistan and India is currently under negotiation. The ongoing insurgency in Balochistan has been a concern in these discussions, as Pakistan's portion of the pipeline will run through the province. In recent years nationalist insurgents in Balochistan have targeted pipelines and other energy facilities in their ongoing attacks against the central government.^{239, 240}

Privatization of Pakistan's three state-owned oil companies is a key component of the government's privatization program.²⁴¹ Oil production in Pakistan has been flat for over a decade, while demand has increased dramatically. As oil imports have increased, widening the trade deficit, the government has encouraged private oil firms to bolster their production capacity. To this end, licensing rounds for onshore and offshore tracts have recently been completed, with new exploration wells to be drilled over the next few years. Pakistan's refining capacity is also being increased with the construction of a new refinery at Port Qasim, to be supplied with crude oil from Qatar.²⁴²

Pakistan's proven coal reserves are mostly located in the Thar Desert of Sindh Province. The Thar deposits are immense, the largest in the world.²⁴³ Since the discovery of these deposits in 1992, however, coal production in Pakistan has not significantly increased, and the country still must import to meet its modest coal demands.²⁴⁴ The high cost to construct and operate integrated coal-mining and power-generation facilities in the arid Thar region has complicated efforts to attract investors to develop the coal resources.²⁴⁵ In May 2007, a Chinese firm pulled out of an ambitious project to mine coal and operate a coal-based power plant in the Thar region when the Pakistan government and the Chinese company could not come to agreement on the project's tariff rate.²⁴⁶

²³⁷ U.S. Department of State. "Background Note: Pakistan—Economy." May 2005.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3453.htm>

²³⁸ Energy Information Administration, U.S. Government. "Energy Profile of Pakistan." December 2006.

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/Pakistan/Background.html>

²³⁹ The Jamestown Foundation. *Global Terrorism Analysis*. McGregor, Andrew. "Pakistan Launches New Offensive in Balochistan." 27 June 2006.

<http://jamestown.org/terrorism/news/article.php?articleid=2370044>

²⁴⁰ Institute for the Analysis of Global Security. Luft, Gal. "Iran-Pakistan-India Pipeline: The Baloch Wildcard." 12 January 2005. <http://www.iags.org/n0115042.htm>

²⁴¹ Energy Information Administration, U.S. Government. "Energy Profile of Pakistan." December 2006.

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/Pakistan/Background.html>

²⁴² Energy Information Administration, U.S. Government. "Energy Profile of Pakistan." December 2006.

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/Pakistan/Background.html>

²⁴³ Pak Tribune. Kiani, Khaleeq. "Black Faces, Black Deeds and Black Deposits." 22 September 2006.

<http://www.paktribune.com/news/index.shtml?155007>

²⁴⁴ Energy Information Administration, U.S. Government. "Energy Profile of Pakistan." December 2006.

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/Pakistan/Background.html>

²⁴⁵ Pak Tribune. Kiani, Khaleeq. "Black Faces, Black Deeds and Black Deposits." 22 September 2006.

<http://www.paktribune.com/news/index.shtml?155007>

²⁴⁶ Asia Times Online. Fazl-e-Haider, Syed. "China Quits \$1.5Bn Pakistan Coal Project."

http://www.atimes.com/atimes/South_Asia/IE18Df04.html

Mineral Resources

Pakistan's most extensively mined non-fuel resources are generally construction and industrial materials, such as limestone, gypsum, aragonite/marble, and clays.²⁴⁷

Chromite and iron ore are the most extensively mined metallic minerals. Balochistan, in particular, is the site of several major reserves of valuable minerals, including the recent discovery of what has been described as one of the world's seven largest copper reserves.²⁴⁸ Many Balochis

perceive that the national government to this point has excluded Balochistan from its fair share of the proceeds from its extensive mineral and natural gas deposits. This perception has become an underlying element of the ongoing unrest in the province.^{249, 250}



US Government photo
Chromite

Standard of Living

Pakistan has made strides since the beginning years of the current decade in raising its per capita income and improving other measures of quality of life.²⁵¹ The per capita gross national income in current U.S. dollars has gone from USD 480 in 2000 to USD 690 in 2005, a nearly 45% increase in five years. Life expectancy has increased by nearly two years during that time, while primary school enrollment has increased from 71% to 87%.²⁵² The adult literacy rate as of 2006 stood just under 50%, a low value even by the standards of low-income countries but nonetheless an improvement over the value of 35.4% in 1990.²⁵³ (The most recent governmental estimates place the literacy rate even higher, at 54%.)²⁵⁴ Most health indices, such as infant and child mortality rates and immunization rates, have also shown improvement during the 2000–2005 time period.^{255, 256}

²⁴⁷ Geological Survey of Pakistan. "Metallic & Nonmetallic Mineral Resources of Pakistan."

<http://www.gsp.gov.pk/resources/metallic.html>

²⁴⁸ DAWN.com. Kiani, Khaleeq. "\$1.25 Copper, Gold Deposits Discovered." 14 April 2006.

<http://www.dawn.com/2006/04/14/top8.htm>

²⁴⁹ IRINNews.org. U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. "Pakistan: More Fighting in Balochistan, but No Aid in Eight Months." 31 August 2006.

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportid=60515>

²⁵⁰ The Jamestown Foundation. *Global Terrorism Analysis*. McGregor, Andrew. "Pakistan Launches New Offensive in Balochistan." 27 June 2006.

<http://jamestown.org/terrorism/news/article.php?articleid=2370044>

²⁵¹ The World Bank. "Pakistan Country Overview 2006." September 2006.

<http://www.worldbank.org.pk/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/SOUTHASIAEXT/PAKISTANEXTN/0,,contentMDK:20131431~menuPK:293057~pagePK:1497618~piPK:217854~theSitePK:293052,00.html>

²⁵² The World Bank Group. "Pakistan Data Profile."

<http://devdata.worldbank.org/external/CPProfile.asp?PTYPE=CP&CCODE=PAK>

²⁵³ UNESCO. "Table 2. Adult Literacy (Age 15 and Over)."

http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/file_download.php/58e279e861b2f89a3ae2ba0f64e0ab49Table2.xls

²⁵⁴ Associated Press of Pakistan. "Literacy Rate Increases to 54 Per Cent." 17 June 2007.

http://www.app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=11049&Itemid=2

²⁵⁵ The World Bank Group. "Pakistan Data Profile."

<http://devdata.worldbank.org/external/CPProfile.asp?PTYPE=CP&CCODE=PAK>

²⁵⁶ Federal Bureau of Statistics, Government of Pakistan. "Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement Survey (2004-05)." June 2005. http://www.statpak.gov.pk/depts/fbs/statistics/pslm2004-05/pslms_2004-05.pdf

Despite the overall improvement in standard of living measures, Pakistan still faces several challenges. Gender gaps in school enrollment and literacy are still pronounced, particularly in rural regions. The literacy rate, while improving, is still one of the lowest in all of Asia. Poverty rates vary widely by region, with the highest rate in rural North-West Frontier Province and the lowest in urban Sindh.²⁵⁷ Only one-third of all births are attended by skilled health professionals.²⁵⁸

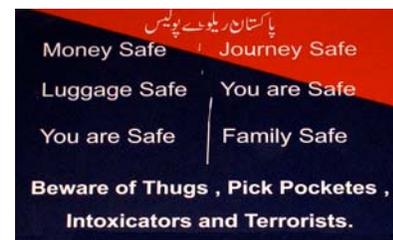


© N B / flickr.com
Karachi child

The 1990s and early 2000s in Pakistan were marked by a wide-ranging Social Action Program (SAP). This program marshaled government funds and international loans to address long-neglected needs in areas such as education, health, and social assistance. The latter part of SAP coincided with a significant economic downturn in the country's economy, and the early gains on social indicators such as poverty were quickly erased.²⁵⁹ Since then, as the economy has rebounded, there has once again been improvement in the social indicators. However, even generally positive reports on Pakistan's social development are quick to note that Pakistan's social progress has not kept up with its economic growth.²⁶⁰

Tourism

Pakistan has considerable tourism potential, with many archaeological and historical attractions and the high mountains of the Himalayas and Karakoram Mountains topping the list of sites to see. However, the industry has suffered a double whammy in recent years between the effects of 9/11, which led to a war in neighboring Afghanistan, and the devastating earthquake in the Kaghan Valley in 2005. The 9/11 attacks against the U.S. also created terrorism fears associated with Pakistan.



© Mary Loosemore
Public safety notice, Peshawar

The aftereffects of 9/11 are striking. For example, in 2001, over 46,000 foreign visitors visited Pakistani heritage sites and another 40,000 went to one of Pakistan's archaeological museums. Those attendance figures dropped to less than 12,000 visitors for each set of attractions in 2002.^{261, 262} In the northern areas, tourism support for

²⁵⁷ The World Bank. "Pakistan Country Overview 2006." September 2006.

<http://www.worldbank.org.pk/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/SOUTHASIAEXT/PAKISTANEXTN/0,,contentMDK:20131431~menuPK:293057~pagePK:1497618~piPK:217854~theSitePK:293052,00.html>

²⁵⁸ The World Bank. "Pakistan Country Overview 2006." September 2006.

<http://www.worldbank.org.pk/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/SOUTHASIAEXT/PAKISTANEXTN/0,,contentMDK:20131431~menuPK:293057~pagePK:1497618~piPK:217854~theSitePK:293052,00.html>

²⁵⁹ Asian Development Bank. "Country Strategy and Development 2002-2006. I. Development Agenda. C. Current Development" July 2002. <http://www.adb.org/Documents/CSPs/PAK/2002/csp0103.asp>

²⁶⁰ The World Bank. "Pakistan Country Overview 2006." September 2006.

<http://www.worldbank.org.pk/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/SOUTHASIAEXT/PAKISTANEXTN/0,,contentMDK:20131431~menuPK:293057~pagePK:1497618~piPK:217854~theSitePK:293052,00.html>

²⁶¹ Federal Bureau of Statistics, Government of Pakistan. "Table 19.11. Visitors at Archaeological Museums in Pakistan." 2006.

http://www.statpak.gov.pk/depts/fbs/publications/yearbook2006/social_and_culture/19.11.pdf

trekkers and mountaineers in the high peaks of the Himalayas had once been a main component of the local economy. However, after 9/11 the total number of trekkers and mountaineers in these areas dropped from 1,872 in 2001 to 311 in 2002.²⁶³

Despite the dramatic drop in tourism since late 2001, which has only partially rebounded in the intervening years, the Pakistan Government still sees tourism as a stabilizing factor for the country. The government would like to increase its share of this business, the world's second-fastest-growing industry. The year 2007 has seen a push for tourist travel through the staging of special events throughout the country in a Destination Pakistan campaign.²⁶⁴ Whether or not these events and the parallel publicity are able to overcome news stories about political violence in Karachi and the July 2007 storming of a radical mosque in Islamabad remains to be seen.

Transportation

Pakistan's transportation sector contributes over 10% to the country's GDP and employs more than 6% of the workforce.²⁶⁵ Despite ongoing privatization initiatives throughout Pakistan's major industrial and service sectors, government agencies and businesses continue to dominate the transportation sector.²⁶⁶



Courtesy of Wikipedia
Karachi roundabout

Pakistan's rail system, Pakistan Railways, is one of the largest of these government-run enterprises. It handles both passenger and freight traffic. Freight rates are less competitive than road transport, in part because freight services partially subsidize passenger services. The result is that a very high percentage of freight within Pakistan is carried on the nation's motorways. The government does recognize the competitive challenges that Pakistan Railways faces and has begun the process of transforming it into a corporation.²⁶⁷

Pakistan's roadways face challenges of their own. An aging truck fleet, poor road conditions for over half of the network, and a poor safety record combine to increase

²⁶² Federal Bureau of Statistics, Government of Pakistan. "Table 19.12. Visitors at Heritage Sites in Pakistan." 2006.

http://www.statpak.gov.pk/depts/fbs/publications/yearbook2006/social_and_culture/19.12.pdf

²⁶³ International Mountaineering and Climbing Association. Mortenson, Greg. "Tourism Fallout and Earthquakes in Pakistan." 1 December 2002. <http://www.uiaa.ch/article.aspx?c=231&a=151>

²⁶⁴ Christian Science Monitor. Montero, David. "Pakistan Looks to Tourism to Fight Terrorism." 5 April 2007. <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0405/p07s02-wosc.html>

²⁶⁵ The World Bank. "Pakistan Transport Sector."

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/SOUTHASIAEXT/EXTSARREGTOPTRANSPORT/0,,contentMDK:20699058~menuPK:869060~pagePK:34004173~piPK:34003707~theSitePK:579598,00.html>

²⁶⁶ The World Bank. "Pakistan Transport Sector."

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/SOUTHASIAEXT/EXTSARREGTOPTRANSPORT/0,,contentMDK:20699058~menuPK:869060~pagePK:34004173~piPK:34003707~theSitePK:579598,00.html>

²⁶⁷ Associated Press of Pakistan. "PM Approves Plan to Upgrade Pakistan Railways." 15 June 2007. http://www.app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=10923&Itemid=2

travel times. Average speeds for trucks carrying container traffic in Pakistan are about half of those for trucks in Europe. The government is working to improve the road system through a National Highway Improvement Programme (NHIP) that is being funded by the World Bank. Money for the NHIP is earmarked for both improvements on the current highways and reconstruction of parts of the national highway system damaged in the October 2005 earthquake.²⁶⁸ At the same time, the Asian Development Bank is supplying funding to improve the Pakistani highway system's ability to serve as a regional network connecting to other Asian countries.

Domestic and international air cargo primarily goes through Karachi's Jinnah International Airport, although Islamabad and Lahore also handle significant amounts of cargo. The main airline is the government-run Pakistan International Airlines, which handles about 70% of domestic air passengers and almost all domestic freight.²⁶⁹

Business Outlook

Pakistan's economy has shown impressive growth in the last few years, although there are some causes for concern among the generally positive economic indicators. Pakistan's dependence on oil imports has stressed the country's current account balance. However, privatization proceeds, grants, and foreign-based investments have so far been able to offset the trade deficit.²⁷⁰ Pakistan's relatively low investment in human capital development in areas such as education also raises questions about whether the strong economic growth will be able to maintain in the long term. Physical infrastructure, such as roads, pipelines, and railways, will also require additional funding.



Another ongoing issue is that much of Pakistan's industrial exports are still tied to a single product group: textiles and garments. Pakistan faces tremendous competitive pressure from China, Bangladesh, India and other countries in maintaining its share of textile exports. The textiles industry is also very sensitive to any drops in cotton production. In addition, a large percentage of the textile exports are with only a few countries in Europe and North America. This makes the export trade vulnerable to downswings in trading activity with these partners.²⁷¹

Pakistan continues to look for ways to diversify its economy. One business area with potential is the outsourcing of software and information technology/business services, which has been creating numerous jobs in neighboring India. Pakistan shares with India a

²⁶⁸ Daily Times. Imran, Ayub. "WB Offers \$300m for Highways' Improvement." 23 December 2005. http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2005%5C12%5C23%5Cstory_23-12-2005_pg5_7

²⁶⁹ The World Bank. "Pakistan Transport Sector." <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/SOUTHASIAEXT/EXTSARREGTOPTRANSPORT/0,,contentMDK:20699058~menuPK:869060~pagePK:34004173~piPK:34003707~theSitePK:579598,00.html>

²⁷⁰ Asian Development Bank. *Asian Development Outlook 2007*. "South Asia: Pakistan." March 2007. <http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/ADO/2007/PAK.asp>

²⁷¹ Asian Development Bank. *Asian Development Outlook 2007*. "South Asia: Pakistan." March 2007. <http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/ADO/2007/PAK.asp>

British colonial history and has a relatively high number of English speakers. However, several significant hurdles, including a shortage of technical graduates, high bandwidth costs, and security concerns by some Western companies, must be overcome.²⁷² To date, lower tech outsourcing, such as call centers and business process offices, has been growing the fastest.²⁷³

International Organizations

Pakistan is a member of virtually all international business and trade organizations. It also belongs to several regional economic organizations, such as the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). The ECO comprises 10 members from Central and Western Asia and is involved in efforts to develop economic and infrastructural linkages between the member countries.²⁷⁴

Pakistan is also supported by economic aid supplied by several international financial institutions, most notably the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the International Monetary Fund. Aid from these organizations has often come with stipulations that Pakistan adjust its national economic policies to improve its long-term prospects for growth and poverty reduction. Bilateral aid between Pakistan and Western countries—most notably, the U.S.—has further provided support for Pakistani economic development.²⁷⁵



© lakerae / flickr.com
Earthquake aid

²⁷² Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, Stanford University. DAWN. Mangi, Naweena A. "Pakistan Not Yet on the Outsourcing Map." 21 September 2005.

http://aparc.stanford.edu/news/pakistan_not_yet_on_the_outsourcing_map_20050921/

²⁷³ BusinessWeek. Mangi, Naweena A. "Pakistan: Better Late Than Never in Outsourcing." 9 May 2005.

http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/05_19/b3932079.htm

²⁷⁴ Associated Press of Pakistan. "Govt. Focusing on Strong Transport Linkages with Neighbours: Naheed." 16 January 2007.

http://www.app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2130&Itemid=2

²⁷⁵ U.S. Department of State. "Background Note: Pakistan—Economy." May 2005.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3453.htm>

Society

Introduction

Pakistan is an agricultural country with many customs that have changed little over the centuries. The culture is rich with handicrafts dating back thousands of years, art and literature from various sources, and culinary traditions brought from the Moguls, Turks, and Iranians.



© Umair Mohsin
Truck calligrapher

The people of Pakistan are known for their diverse traditions and the courtesy they extend to guests in their country. However, a travel advisory issued by the United States Department of State continues to warn against any tourist travel due to possible terrorist elements.²⁷⁶ As a result, Pakistan's opportunity to share the historical and vast riches of its culture has diminished. This chapter brings you a little closer to the Pakistani people and their way of life.

Ethnic Groups and Languages

The five major ethnic groups of present-day Pakistan are Punjabis (roughly 60 percent), Sindhis (12 percent), Pashtuns (8 percent), Muhajirs (8 percent), and Balochis (4 percent). A mixture of other ethnic groups constitutes about 8 percent of the population.^{277,278} Before 1971, when East Pakistan broke away and became the independent nation of Bangladesh, Pakistan's largest ethnic group was Bengali.

The Muhajirs migrated to Pakistan from India at the time of partition (1947), and most of them settled in urban Sindh. Sindhis and Punjabis live in Sindh and Punjab provinces, respectively, along the valley of the Indus River. The Pashtuns (Pathans) live in the mountains of North-West Frontier Province. Some of the Pashtuns, along with the Balochis, live in Balochistan Province on the Balochistan Plateau.²⁷⁹

*Punjabis*²⁸⁰

Punjab is part of Pakistan's agricultural heartland, and Punjabis are known as both farmers and warriors. They constitute approximately 60 percent of Pakistan's army. Punjabis are landed elite that have long dominated both the military and civil bureaucracies. Their hold on power and monopoly of high-level government positions generates resentment among other ethnic groups that are underrepresented.

²⁷⁶ United States Department of State. "Travel Warning, Pakistan." 16 July 2007.

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_930.html

²⁷⁷ *Pakistan: A Global Studies Handbook*. Mohiuddin, Yasmeen Niaz. "Chapter Four: Pakistani Institutions and Contemporary Culture [p. 236]." 2007. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, Inc.

²⁷⁸ Percentages cited for ethnic groups are rough estimates.

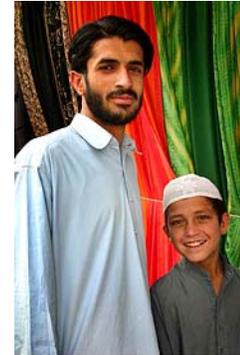
²⁷⁹ *Pakistan: A Global Studies Handbook*. Mohiuddin, Yasmeen Niaz. "Chapter Four: Pakistani Institutions and Contemporary Culture [p. 237]." 2007. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, Inc.

²⁸⁰ *Pakistan: A Global Studies Handbook*. Mohiuddin, Yasmeen Niaz. "Chapter Four: Pakistani Institutions and Contemporary Culture [pp. 238-9]." 2007. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, Inc.

Based on Sanskrit, the Punjabi language reflects a rich oral tradition expressed in songs, folktales, and poems. The most well known is the love story of Heer Ranjha, written by Waris Shah, an 18th century Punjabi poet.

*Sindhis*²⁸¹

The name “Sindh” derives from a Sanskrit word for the Indus River and is also the source for words like “India” and “Hindu.” The Sindhi people have deep roots in Sindh Province where their pattern of life is based on a strong feudal structure. Large landowners own most of the farms on which Sindhis work as tenant farmers, and the landowners reap most of the benefit from the arrangement. Even in elections, Sindhi villagers cannot overrule the rules and mandates of the landowners.



© Steve Evans
Father and son, Karachi

When India divided into Hindu India and Muslim Pakistan in 1947, Sindh became an “ethnic battlefield” and “one of the most violent places in Pakistan.” The Muhajirs who replaced the departing Hindus gained power in Sindh at the expense of the indigenous Sindhis, and this has generated ongoing ethnic tension. In the 1970s the Bhutto government took steps to decrease the number of Muhajirs in the Civil Service and increase the participation of Sindhis. However, this did not solve the problem of the unequal power structure.

*Muhajirs*²⁸²

After partition in 1947, the millions of Hindus and Sikhs who fled to India were replaced by around 7 million Muhajirs from India. Although they represent only 8 percent of Pakistan’s population, they form 50 percent of the population of two cities in Sindh Province, Karachi and Hyderabad. Further, they displaced many of the native Sindhis from prominent positions. The Muhajirs had lived mainly in cities in India and a large number possessed professional skills and high levels of education when they migrated to Pakistan. They became entrepreneurs in their new land, coming to hold a disproportionate share of jobs in government, finance, and business.

After they experienced repeated ethnic violence in Pakistan and hostility directed against them, many joined the MQM (Muhajir Quami National Movement). In the 1980s and early 1990s, this “grassroots party” won 13 out of 15 seats for Karachi in the 1988 National Assembly elections. The party has since split into branches, and one of the splinter groups in particular has been accused of terrorizing the Sindhi population as well as others in Sindh Province.

²⁸¹ *Pakistan: A Global Studies Handbook*. Mohiuddin, Yasmeen Niaz. “Chapter Four: Pakistani Institutions and Contemporary Culture [pp. 239-40].” 2007. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, Inc.

²⁸² *Pakistan: A Global Studies Handbook*. Mohiuddin, Yasmeen Niaz. “Chapter Four: Pakistani Institutions and Contemporary Culture [pp. 240-41].” 2007. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, Inc.

*Pashtuns*²⁸³

The Pashtuns, also called Pathans, constitute the largest autonomous tribal group in the world. They are believed by many to have descended from European soldiers in Alexander the Great's army. They have never been assimilated by conquerors and were able to defeat the British who tried to defeat them.

They are known for having a complex male-centered code of conduct which involves honor, revenge, hospitality, and formal abasement. Their code of honor demands that women in the North-West Frontier Province where the Pashtuns live are usually restricted to private family compounds. On the few occasions when Pashtun women leave their homes, they wear a *burqa* which covers them completely except for a small opening at the eyes. The fourth part of the Pashtun code, formal abasement, requires that those who lose a fight show submission, and those who win show mercy.

*Balochis*²⁸⁴

Pakistan's second largest tribal group, the Balochis live on a barren landscape that extends beyond Pakistan into Iran and Afghanistan. This tribe claims an ancient Semitic lineage and most speak Balochi, although a few speak Brahui, an ancient Dravidian language. They engage in pastoral nomadism and agriculture. To farm, they must use irrigation because their lands are so dry. They irrigate their fields by using water from oases or through channels that bring water from rivers.



© Manuel Rojo
Girls, Karakorum

Their society is organized into a "feudal militaristic" order in which the word of the tribe's leader is law. Known for resisting intrusions into their way of life, they are among Pakistan's poorest and least developed people.

Languages

Although more than 20 languages are spoken in Pakistan, the most common are Urdu, Pashtu, Sindhi, Western and Eastern Punjabi, and Balochi. Pashtu, Sindhi, Punjabi, and Balochi are classified as Indo-European (Aryan) languages and use the same Arabic-Persian script.²⁸⁵

English is also spoken in Pakistan by many people, including the elite, who switch back and forth in midsentence between English and their regional language. It is used in university classrooms, private schools, government and legal documents, and army manuals.

²⁸³ *Pakistan: A Global Studies Handbook*. Mohiuddin, Yasmeen Niaz. "Chapter Four: Pakistani Institutions and Contemporary Culture [pp. 241-5]." 2007. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, Inc.

²⁸⁴ *Pakistan: A Global Studies Handbook*. Mohiuddin, Yasmeen Niaz. "Chapter Four: Pakistani Institutions and Contemporary Culture [pp. 245-6]." 2007. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, Inc.

²⁸⁵ *Pakistan: A Global Studies Handbook*. Mohiuddin, Yasmeen Niaz. "Chapter Four: Pakistani Institutions and Contemporary Culture [p. 236]." 2007. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, Inc.

Pashtu as a Language

Pashtu is a language with roots in eastern Iran. It is written in the Arabic alphabet which reads from right to left, and the letters are cursive. Pashtu has the extra four letters that Dari (of western Iran) uses for sounds not found in Arabic. Transliterating Pashtu to English is difficult because the vowels are spelled in English the way they sound, resulting in a variety of spellings.²⁸⁶

Sindhi as a Language

Of all the regional languages in Pakistan, Sindhi is the most developed. It has about 17 million speakers in southeast Pakistan and 2.8 million in India. The Sindhi language appeared as a written language around the 8th century CE.²⁸⁷ It is considered to have evolved from Sanskrit and is somewhat related to Urdu, with some vocabulary drawn from Persian, Arabic, and some Dravidian languages. In Pakistan, it is often written in Arabic script and uses additional letters for sounds not made in Arabic. Hyderabad is the largest Sindh speaking city in Pakistan.²⁸⁸



© Umair Mohsin
Calligraphy with reed pen

Long before the arrival of the Arabs who brought Islam to the region, the Sindhi language had a written script. This contributed to the growth of a rich Sindhi literature, later enriched by contributions from other cultures. The Sindhi language was a strong element of Sindhi identity. Consequently, it was seen as a blow to their unity as a people when the Sindhi language was de-emphasized following partition in 1947, when Urdu was made the national language of Pakistan. Knowledge of Urdu became mandatory, yet knowledge of Sindhi was no longer required. Sindhis denounced this policy which they claimed made their language and culture peripheral not only in the new state, but also in Sindh Province.²⁸⁹

Urdu as a Language

Urdu is also an Indo-Aryan language and is spoken by approximately 104 million people.²⁹⁰ It is Pakistan's national language and, being similar to Hindi, is the mother tongue of the Muhajirs who came from India. Over 75 percent of Pakistanis and 95% of those who live in cities in Pakistan understand it.²⁹¹ The word *urdu* comes from the Turkish word *ordu*, which means "camp" or "army." Muslim soldiers of Persian, Arab, and Turkish descent used Urdu as a unifying means of communication during their

²⁸⁶ Air Force of Special Investigations. "Language and Literacy." 2006.

<http://www.osi.andrews.af.mil/library/deploymentstress/otherlinks/afghanistan/people/thelanguage.asp>

²⁸⁷ Omniglot. "Sindhi." c1998-2007. <http://www.omniglot.com/writing/sindhi.htm>

²⁸⁸ Flight Line. "Sindhi Around the World." c1996-2007. <http://www.flightline.co.uk/learn-to-speak/Sindhi/>

²⁸⁹ *Kashmir & Sindh: Nation-Building, Ethnicity and Regional Politics in South Asia*. Das, Suranjan. 2001. London: Anthem Press.

²⁹⁰ This figure includes those who speak Urdu as a second language.

²⁹¹ *Pakistan: A Global Studies Handbook*. Mohiuddin, Yasmeeen Niaz. "Chapter Four: Pakistani Institutions and Contemporary Culture [p. 237]." 2007. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, Inc.

conquest of ancient India. Urdu is 70 percent Farsi and the remainder is a combination of Arabic and Turkish.²⁹²

Religion

About 97 percent of Pakistanis are Muslim. Sunni Muslims make up 77 percent of that population and Shia Islam is an additional 20 percent. Christians, Hindus, and other religions make up the remainder of the population.²⁹³

Islam

Islam is the second largest religion in the world with over one billion followers. The word “Islam” is from *aslama*, which means “to submit.” It reflects the central belief of submitting to the will of God, or Allah. Islam is a monotheistic religion, accepting only one god, rejecting polytheism as well as the Christian idea of the Trinity. Islam recognizes the validity of the Old and New Testaments, regarding Abraham (Ibrahim) and Jesus (Isa) as prophets. The single most important belief of Islam is that there is only one Allah (God), and that Allah is the Creator of the perfect universe.²⁹⁴

The Quran is the sacred text that the Islamic faithful, or Muslims, follow. They believe it is a record of Allah’s revelations made through the Angel Gabriel to Mohammad, the founder of Islam. Essential to its unifying importance, the Quran cannot be translated into a language other than Arabic, its original language. Such a translation cannot be authorized.²⁹⁵



© Jim / flickr.com
Man praying

A Muslim has five main duties to perform, known as the five pillars of Islam. They are 1) bearing witness to the unity of God and Mohammad as His messenger, 2) observing the prescribed prayer at five set times each day, 3) paying *zakat* for the poor, similar to tithing, 4) keeping the daily fast from sunrise to sunset during the month of Ramadan, and 5) performing the pilgrimage to Mecca. A Muslim is encouraged to lead a healthy life that exemplifies the qualities of kindness, chastity, honesty, mercy, courage, patience, and politeness. As “the literal meaning of Islam is peace; surrender of one’s will i.e. losing oneself for the sake of God and surrendering one’s own pleasure for the pleasure of God,”²⁹⁶ a Muslim is expected to surrender his or her personal happiness for the gratification of God.

Sunni and Shi’a Islam

After Muhammad died and his followers had to decide who would be his successors down the line, a split developed as to how that decision should be made. In the



© Shabbir Siraj
Colorful rural Mosque

²⁹² The Urdu Language. Undated. “The Introduction.” <http://www.theurdu.com/>

²⁹³ U.S. Library of Congress. Pakistan, a Country Study. “Religion.” 1994. <http://countrystudies.us/pakistan/38.htm>

²⁹⁴ Religion Facts. “Muslim Beliefs about God.” <http://www.religionfacts.com/islam/beliefs/god.htm>

²⁹⁵ U.S. Library of Congress. Pakistan, a Country Study. “Religion.” 1994. <http://countrystudies.us/pakistan/38.htm>

²⁹⁶ Pakawatan.com “Islam, Introduction.” c2005-06. <http://www.pakwatan.com/islam.php>

Sunni view, religious leadership was based on merit that could be earned and was available to all. The Sunnis favored electing leaders based on righteousness and leadership ability. Alternately, the Shi'a preferred naming leaders descended from Muhammad's lineage. The Shi'a recognized that until the Prophet was there to guide them, human beings could not find salvation. They concluded that to live in unity with the truth of Islam, people need the help of divinely favored individuals, those of the Prophet's lineage.

The Sunni sect eventually divided into four major sects, or schools. In Pakistan, the Hanafi school is the predominant of the four schools.²⁹⁷

Islamists

The term "Islamist," not to be confused with "Islamic," refers to a practitioner of political Islam, who seeks to end the secular state and replace it with religious control. It has evolved from the term "Islamic fundamentalism," or using Islamic ideas in the political realm by creating a theocratic Islamic state in which Shari'a or Islamic law is the law of the land. In conflicts driven by religion, such as those in Pakistan, various Islamist groups are often opposed to each other as well as to Western ideas. The Islamist cause was strengthened in Pakistan when Shari'a courts were established under Zia and also in the early 1990s under Prime Minister Sharif.²⁹⁸

Traditions

Holidays

Holidays in Pakistan are Eid al-Azha around the first of January, Muharram around the last of January, Pakistan Day on 23 March, and Mawlid an-Nabi around the first of April. They also include Independence Day on 14 August, Eid al-Fitr around the middle of October, and the birthday of Quaid-e-Azam on 25 December.²⁹⁹

*Celebrations*³⁰⁰

Eid al-Fitr is a religious festival that celebrates the end of Ramadan fasting on Shawaal, the 10th month of the Islamic calendar. Sometimes called the "Small Eid," it is one of Pakistan's major festivals. In this celebration, Pakistani Muslims visit each other's homes, exchange gifts, give charity to the poor, and visit the gravesites of their deceased relatives.³⁰¹ Children dress in brightly colored *shalwar kamis* (wide trousers) and their hands are decorated with a henna dye called *mehndi*. Families gather for a special meal. Businesses close and employees often receive bonuses in honor of the holiday.³⁰²

²⁹⁷ U.S. Library of Congress. Pakistan, a Country Study. "Religion." 1994. <http://countrystudies.us/pakistan/38.htm>

²⁹⁸ Federal Research Division. Library of Congress. *Pakistan: A Country Study*. Ed. by Peter R. Blood. 1994. Washington DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

²⁹⁹ Embassy of the United States, Islamabad, Pakistan. "About the Embassy, 2007 Holiday List." <http://islamabad.usembassy.gov/pakistan/holidays.html>

³⁰⁰ Many celebrations listed are taken from the following source: South Travels. "Pakistan Events 2006." <http://www.southtravels.com/asia/pakistan/pakistanevents.html>

³⁰¹ Religion Facts. "Eid Al-Fitr." 10 January 2005. <http://www.religionfacts.com/islam/holidays/fitr.htm>

³⁰² *Pakistan in Pictures*. Taus-Bolstad, Stacy. 2003. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications.

Eid al-Azha, the second of the country's major Islamic festivals, is celebrated in the 12th Islamic month, around two months after Eid al-Fitr. This three-day festival commemorates Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience to Allah. Families sacrifice sheep, goats, camels, or cows. They divide the meat among themselves and share it with the needy, including servants, beggars, and those in orphanages.³⁰³



© Scott Christian
Eid goat

Muharram, a religious observance, takes place during the first month of the Islamic calendar. On this day, Pakistani Muslims mourn the death of Imam Husain, Muhammad's grandson. Most people wear black and attend special religious services. The tenth day of mourning is called *ashura*, when people march through the streets expressing their grief.

Mawlid an-Nabi is the birth anniversary of the Prophet Hazrat Mohammad. It is held in the third Islamic month, or Rabi al-Awwal. People gather to praise the prophet through reading poetry and singing.

Pakistan Day on 23 March commemorates the Lahore Resolution of 1940. Independence Day is held on 14 August with rallies and parades throughout the country. Pakistan gained its independence (its birth as a nation) in 1947.

Regional festivals are also common in Pakistan. The Basant Festival is held in early February. It celebrates the end of winter and the beginning of spring. Because of the nice weather in Lahore, kites of various sizes and colors are flown there.

The *awami mela* (People's Festival) is held in Punjab in March. People gather to enjoy livestock exhibitions, sporting events, and performances by artists and singers.³⁰⁴

The Sibi Festival is held in Balochistan in the last week of February and includes traditional sports, handicrafts, folk music, and dancing.

The Festival of Lamps, or Mela Chiraghan, is held in March at the Shalimar Gardens in Lahore. Thousands of lamps are lit to honor Saint Shah Hussain.

Lok Mela is a folk festival held in Islamabad in October. It is celebrated with original handicrafts, folk dancing, songs, and unique food.

The Birth Anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam, Pakistan's founder, is celebrated on 25 December.

³⁰³ Religion Facts. "Eid Al-Adha: Festival of the Sacrifice." 02 February 2005.
<http://www.religionfacts.com/islam/holidays/adha.htm>

³⁰⁴ *Pakistan in Pictures*. Taus-Bolstad, Stacy. 2003. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications Company.

Ramadan

A very special event in Pakistan, the month of Ramadan honors the time when Allah (God) revealed the Quran to Muhammad. During Ramadan, Muslim adults are obligated to seek spiritual purification by fasting, abstaining from food and drink from dawn to sunset. Only the infirm, soldiers on duty, and the young are exempted. When families hear the call for prayer at sunset, they gather for *iftar*, the evening meal. Before dawn the following day they eat a meal called *sehri* before resuming their daily fast.³⁰⁵

This long, tiring period of fasting alters the usual rhythm of life in Pakistan. It causes interruptions in normal patterns of business and social life in general. Working hours are reduced during Ramadan to allow more time for prayer. There may be restrictions on smoking, and some restaurants will close during the day.

Non-Muslims are not expected to observe Ramadan. However, they earn respect by being sensitive to those who are fasting. Non-Muslims should try to avoid eating or smoking in public during the fast.

Social Customs^{306, 307}

Pakistan is a hierarchal society in which custom dictates that people be respected for their age and status. The elderly are treated with great deference. They are always served first at a social function and they are always introduced first.



© Scott Christian
Woman shopping

Pakistan has deep familial traditions in which extended families form the basis of social structure and identity for all members of society. Extended families include one's immediate family, all relatives, tribe members, friends, and neighbors. It is customary in Pakistan that loyalty to family comes before loyalty to any other group or to business affiliations. Within this private family structure, women are sheltered and seen as carriers of the faith and the family honor. Although customs concerning women are stricter in rural areas than more modernized urban areas, Pakistani women in general are protected from having an overt presence in society outside of the home. It is never appropriate for any man to ask a Pakistani man about his wife or to inquire about women in the family. Neither is it appropriate for a man to take a woman's picture or give her a gift, unless one is invited into her home and brings a gift for the hostess.

Other social prohibitions exist and should be known to visitors. The head is considered the highest part of the body, and a visitor should never touch a Pakistani's head. Equally, a visitor should never touch people with his/her feet, step over people, or use the feet to point at a person or object. When giving a gift or handing objects to another person, it

³⁰⁵ *Pakistan: A Global Studies Handbook*. 2007. Mohiuddin, Yasmeeen Niaz. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC CLIO.

³⁰⁶ Kwintessential.com. "Pakistan-Language, Religion, Culture, Customs, and Etiquette." 2006. <http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/resources/global-etiquette/pakistan.html>

³⁰⁷ Punjab.gov. "Facts for Travelers." 1999. <http://tdcp.punjab.gov.pk/TDCP/dosandDonts.htm>

should always be done with the right hand, never the left. Finally, it should be noted that alcohol is never an appropriate gift.

Social etiquette also requires that people curb their emotions in public. It is considered bad breeding in Pakistan to lose one's temper or show anger, and it is simply forbidden to show public displays of affection with the opposite sex.

Customs concerning appearance are important. In general, cleanliness and conservative dress are the norm. Although western dress is acceptable in the large cities, clothing should not fit tightly and the body should be well covered. When entering a mosque or at religious functions, failing to observe conventions is considered an insult against religion. It is customary for all visitors entering religious environments to dress formally, covering their arms, legs, and heads.

Engagements and Weddings^{308, 309}

Marriage in Pakistan is considered the bonding of two families, and most marriages are arranged. In some regions, marriage partners are chosen before the children are even born, or when they are babies. Several formal steps lead through an engagement period and up to the marriage ceremony. Most of the customs that surround engagement and marriage are traditions of the Indian subcontinent. At an Islamic wedding, the one part that is specifically Muslim is *nikka*, the actual legalizing of the marriage.



A dowry is usually expected from the parents of the bride. In western areas of Pakistan and among certain tribes, families follow the Persian system in which the young man has to provide money for his bride. Often, the parties paying dowry take out loans to cover the cost, which can be considerable.

Preceding engagement between a young man and woman, the young man lets his parents know he is interested in a certain woman. The parents contact the young woman's parents, who invite the young man and his family to a gathering. Everyone meets, and the parents decide whether this will be a good match for their son. If they believe it is, the father will issue a proposal to the young woman's father. If it is accepted, a small ceremony takes place to celebrate the newly engaged couple and an auspicious date is chosen for the wedding. Sometimes a religious person is chosen to help determine the best date.

During the engagement period the families prepare for the marriage, and the bride-to-be attends rituals designed to ensure her good health and wellbeing. Her mother buys and prepares her wedding dress and orders clothes for the bridegroom as well. She prepares a dowry that consists of clothing and dresses, jewelry, and household items. At celebrations before the wedding is held at the house of the bride-to-be, guests and friends sing

³⁰⁸ *Culture Shock! Pakistan*. Mittman, Karin, and Ihsan, Zafar. 2004. London: Kuperard.

³⁰⁹ Faosote.org. "Anatomy of a Pakistani Wedding." 2003. <http://www.fasote.org/travels/pak/shadi.html>

together as musicians play. The bridegroom can neither visit nor see his bride until the day of the wedding.

One day before the wedding, the *mehndi* celebration takes place and begins the actual wedding ceremony. The word *mehndi* is Urdu for the Arabic “henna,” and at this ceremony, the hands of the bride-to-be are lavishly painted with henna, a temporary red dye. An artist designs images such as candles, flowers, or beautiful patterns as an expression of joy and happiness. Much singing and dancing accompanies the ritual.

The wedding ceremony, a lavish feast, is attended by family and friends, often numbering in the hundreds. A holy person gives religious sanction and two male witnesses representing each party sign the marriage agreement. A marriage contract, *nikka-nama*, sets out the terms of the contract including divorce rights and financial commitments. After this, the bride’s sisters and friends bring her into the reception hall where she is united with her husband.

Cuisine

Many kinds of bread, or *roti*, made of unleavened wheat are a substantial part of Pakistani cuisine. The common bread, *chapatti*, is shaped from wheat dough into a thin disc which is baked on a hot dry iron pan. Another slightly thicker bread cooked in oil is called *parata*. A type of bread or cake called *nan* is cooked in a clay vessel called a *tandoor*, prepared by a *tandoori* or a *roti* baker.



© Chaudhry Khawar
Roasting chickens

Pakistani cuisine consists of foods that are abundant and cheap. The milk in which both the curds and butterfat have been removed is called *lassi*. Lentils are the more common vegetable with meat, eggs, and fruits being consumed by wealthier Pakistanis. Clarified butter is called *ghee*. It is typical in affluent households.

Pakistani cooks make heavy uses of spices, herbs, and flavorings to benefit an otherwise bland dish. Spices such as chili powder, turmeric, garlic, paprika, pepper, cumin, ginger, cinnamon, and saffron are used liberally in Pakistani cooking.

The Moghul Empire greatly influenced Pakistani food. A Pakistani style of cooking, known as Moghlai, is common in Lahore in the Punjabi Province. Chicken Tandoori, which is chicken roasted at a very low temperature, and *shahi tukra*, a dessert of sliced bread, milk, and saffron, are two dishes that came to Pakistan from the Moghul Empire.

Every region in Pakistan has its own unique cuisine. In Sindh Province, meats and sweet foods dominate. One popular dish, *nihari*, is made of stew meat that has been cooked over a slow fire overnight. It can be mixed with lentils, whole grain wheat, and barley with ginger and onions. Shish kabobs are bits of lamb, chicken, or goat that have been skewered and roasted over an open flame. They are then dipped in a yogurt sauce with spices. A dessert made with rice and milk, *kheer* is topped with pistachio or almond slivers. Desserts known as *Rrasgullahs* and *barfis* are made with a milk base (*khoya*)

boiled down to the consistency of cream cheese. They are often topped with sugary syrup called *sheera*.

In Baluchistan Province, *sajji* is a whole leg of lamb roasted over an open fire. Green papaya is used to tenderize the meat. A pit is dug in the ground and the entire lamb is skewered and placed in the pit. The meat is surrounded on all four sides by fire and slowly roasted. A dish brought over from Afghanistan, *kabuli pulao* is a rice and meat dish cooked with raisins.

In Punjab, *waddi* is a popular buffalo kidney stew dish. This is cooked in fried *masala*, a mixture of spices. A popular breakfast in Lahore, *halva poori* is deep-fried bread served with *aloo ki bhaji*, a dish of diced potatoes and *cholas* (chickpeas). Another popular dish is *tavay ki machli*, a fresh water fish cooked on a cast iron griddle.

In North-West Frontier Province, *chapli kebab* is quite popular. It is a flat round kebab made with minced meat, eggs, and onions fried on a griddle and served with *naan*, or crisp bread. A popular dessert is *peshawari kulfi* which is rose water and pistachios mixed with *falooda*, thin, lightly cooked vermicelli.³¹⁰

In the Hunza region of northwest Pakistan, at the heart of the Karakoram Mountains in the western Himalayas, cooking is an art due to the high elevation. Salt is heavily used to help preserve the food that could spoil quickly in this isolated region. Wheat is the main staple here and *phitti*, wild yeast bread, is a common breakfast food. Aged butter known as *maltash* is scalded before it is churned. The salty hard cheese used in soups is called *kurutz*. Fruit such as apricots are dried, and nuts are cultivated for food and oil. The spices that grow indigenously are tumuro, coriander, and tumeric. A popular drink is *diltar*, or a yogurt drink. The locals prepare this drink by putting the milk in a goat skin and rolling it on the ground until butter forms.



© Mary Loosemore
Spice Seller

The people of Hunza and their unique style of food were isolated until the opening of the Karakoram Highway in 1978. Now, the Hunza style of cooking is known throughout Pakistan and rivals all Pakistani dishes.³¹¹

³¹⁰ The South Asian. Ahmed, Tehmina. "Pakistan – the Street Food Capital of the World." http://www.the-south-asian.com/Pakistan_street_food.htm

³¹¹ Saudi Aramco World. Flowerday, Julie and Mareile Paley. "Cooking in Hunza." May 2006. <http://www.saudiaramcoworld.com/issue/200603/cooking.in.hunza.htm>

The Arts

*Music*³¹²

Music has long been a large part of Pakistani culture. It can be divided into music played or listened to for pleasure, and music for religious or spiritual purposes. Sometimes they overlap. Within each branch, there are various styles of instruments and singing.

Qawwali

A *qawwali* is a male chorus of twelve singers who play instruments and sing mystical songs of the Sufi poets. With their rhythmic chanting phrases accompanied by drums and hand clapping, these songs bring a Sufi message of universal love and unity. The musicians perform in rows of six, and in the second row a *tabla* player uses a bass drum plastered with whole meal dough to make the sound louder and more resonant. This type of music is from the Muslim Sufi and Hindu Bhakti and is performed at Sufi shrines in the Punjab region.



© Jamal Traveller
Qawwali singers

Ghazals

Taken from both Arabic and Persian poetry, *ghazals* are songs about love. Considered semi-classical music, these songs are accompanied by both percussion and stringed instruments; they were originally sung in Farsi. Singers today perform them mainly in Urdu, but can also sing them in other Pakistani languages. Pakistani women are the primary singers of this style of music.

Musical Instruments

One of the popular musical instruments played in Pakistan is the *sitar*, a stringed instrument made of wood and gourd. It is used for popular music as well as religious and traditional music. When a sitar player masters this instrument, he or she receives the Central Asian title of *khan*, or “lord.” Masters who achieve this status typically are from schools of classical music whose members are from the same family lineage.

Wind and percussion instruments are usually played at weddings. In the harvest season, drumming rhythms accompany the workers in the field, and women sing mill-grinding songs to accompany this kind of work.

Other Pakistani musical instruments include the *rabaab*, a kind of lute played in Kashmir and northern Pakistan, the *tabla*, very popular hand drums, and *dhol*, a double headed drum. The *dhol* is constructed out of the trunk of a mango tree and covered at both ends with goatskin. It is used between villages as a message drum and is also played at gatherings to accompany dancing. The harmonium is a keyboard instrument originally from France but used in Pakistan for 150 years. Last, the *shahnai* is a wind instrument that uses a double reed. It is popular at weddings and outdoor festivals.

³¹² The Kennedy Center, Gift of the Indus: The Arts and Culture of Pakistan. “Music.” 1999. <http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/pakistan/arts-of-pakistan/music.htm>

Theater ³¹³

Pakistani theater was not always supported by the government. As a result, the theaters did not always receive the funding that they needed. Pakistani theater in its early years was limited to dramas, usually Shakespearean, performed in colleges. This tradition was later adapted into original works. Also, the oral poetry of the Moghul courts inspired a new kind of performance that was adapted and continued in new forms.

Story Telling

Story telling to music, or *dastan-goh*, is an ancient art, now becoming “endangered” in Pakistan. One center of this art form was in North-West Frontier Province, specifically in Peshawar where it was known as *qissakhwāni bāzār*, or the “bazaar of storytellers.” People would come to the central market place to listen to story tellers from varied cultural backgrounds tell their tales. Although professional story tellers have largely disappeared,³¹⁴ this tradition in modified form made its way into the theaters and continues in the major cities of Pakistan. Actors similar to clowns, *bhaands* improvise without a script and try to outwit each other with puns and comedy. So popular has this type of art become that Pakistan runs videos of this on cable television stations.

Puppetry

At festivals and traveling shows all around Pakistan, string, hand, and rod puppetry are very popular with audiences. The oldest type is *putli*, or string puppetry performed by wandering minstrels, often a husband-wife team, on a makeshift stage. The husband is the puppeteer who not only manipulates the puppet, but also uses a reed instrument to create various sounds such as bird chirping. His wife may accompany him on a *dholak*, a barrel shaped had drum originating in Northern India.



© Scott Christian
Puppet show

Film and Television

As Pakistan grew up during the age of television in the 1950s, Pakistani TV became a good avenue for many aspiring writers, directors, and actors. In the 1980s, most performers turned to electronic media to pursue their art.

One kind of Lahore-based Pakistani movie has been dubbed “Lollywood,” a play on the term “Bollywood” which is a label for some Hindi language films made in India. These Indian films are considered “escapist entertainment,” revolving around a plot that combines singing, dancing, and melodrama. Typical plots include evil villains, star-crossed lovers, reversals of fate, and happy endings. Such films are popular throughout South Asia. In contrast, other Pakistani films are usually in Urdu language and develop themes of honor or sports. Lahore is the center of filmmaking in Pakistan.

³¹³ The Kennedy Center, Gift of the Indus: The Arts and Culture of Pakistan. “Theater.” 1999. <http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/pakistan/arts-of-pakistan/theater.htm>

³¹⁴ As late as 1977, only a handful of professional story tellers could be found in Peshawar.

Protest Theater

Protest Theater emerged during the 1980s. It was a vehicle for the Pakistanis to examine contemporary issues and stimulate social change. This type of theater would take place wherever the actors could find a stage and an audience, such as villages, city streets, and schools. Now, these theater groups perform in cities such as Karachi and Lahore. Famous playwrights include Ashfad Ahmad, who used satire and humor to bring up social issues that developed out of partition. He died in 2004. Shahid Nadeem, another contemporary playwright, has addressed modern social issues in his work. Protest theater groups include Lok Rehas from Lahore and Tehrik-e-Niswan from Karachi.



© Syed Abulhasan Rizvi
Musical fingers

Folklore

Folklore in Pakistan is a mixture of beliefs, facts, and fiction and has been told over the generations so much that the Pakistanis claim that it has become difficult to tell the fact from the fiction.³¹⁵ The stories often revolve around themes of unconditional love with dynamic female characters willing to fight societal norms for the love of their mate.³¹⁶

Symbolism is a large part of Pakistani folklore. It is seen in characters such as *faqirs*, or holy persons, who can destroy or restore life and turn blood into water. Other symbols that figure into Pakistani folk tales are ogres, heroes, and sleeping beauties. These characters find themselves in incredible situations that they must overcome, such as a quest in search of fortune or responding to warning dreams. The story then attempts to explain the situation and provide a favorable outcome. Pakistani children's folktales originally derived from India and have gained so much popularity that books about them have been published and television shows have portrayed them.³¹⁷

*The Bitan of the Hunza Region*³¹⁸

Hunza is a region of northwestern Pakistan where the Hindu Kush, Karakoram, and Himalayan ranges form a network of high peaks and deep valleys. It borders Afghanistan and the Xinjiang area of China. The Hunza people who have lived here in isolation for centuries have developed a spiritual world view populated by powerful mountain spirits known as *pari*. The earthly spokesmen for the *pari* is the *bitan*, whose role is to propitiate and deliver messages from the gods.

³¹⁵ Pakistaniat.com. "Folk Tales of Pakistan: Sohni Mahiwal." Qalandar, Mast. <http://pakistaniat.com/2007/01/08/pakistan-sohni-mahiwal-folk-tales-culture/>

³¹⁶ Suite 101. "Unconditional Love." Irshad, Sanober. 10 February 2004. http://www.suite101.com/article.cfm/pakistan_culture/106193/1

³¹⁷ University of Pennsylvania. "Tales of the Punjab: A Survey of the Incidents in Modern Indian Folk Tales." Temple, R.C. 1894. <http://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/steel/punjab/punjab-survey.html>

³¹⁸ Ohio State University, Columbus. "Shamans and Mountain Spirits in Hunza." Sidky, M.H. 1994. <http://www.nanzan-u.ac.jp/SHUBUNKEN/publications/afs/pdf/a993.pdf>

Many folk tales have been brought down from this region into the low lands. People talk about the *bitan* who, to communicate with *pari*, inhales juniper smoke, drinks blood from the head of a dead goat, and enters into a trance-like state to impart his supernatural messages. The *pari* is said to be the personification of natural forces. Folklore has it that the *pari* of the high, isolated mountain valleys were jealous of human encroachment in the form of the shepherders in the rural areas. So they would protect their domain from these shepherders and wreak vengeance upon them. Many believe that the *pari* who inhabited the snowy peaks would strike these shepherders with avalanches, tumbling rocks, or other natural forces to protect their land.



© Dr. Volker Thewalt
Rakaposhi

As the *bitan* could communicate with the *pari*, the *bitan* were able to use their supernatural powers to protect the village. Not only was the *bitan* expected to protect the village from the *pari*, he was also expected to protect it from *shiatsu*, and evil, shape-shifting spirits. Methods to protect the community included music, dancing, goat sacrificing, and the sprinkling of burnt juniper leaves over charcoal. The *bitan*'s entranced dancing is supposed to encourage the *pari* to leave the village alone.

Dance

*Folk Dance*³¹⁹

Folk dancing was performed for many reasons often connected to the life cycle. They include celebration of weddings, the birth of a child, harvest and seasonal festivals, religious rituals, and community sharing. They are meant to be performed in groups, using simple repeated steps. Each region of Pakistan has its own form of folk dance.

In Punjab, the *bhangra* began by celebrating the spring harvest and is now part of the festivities at marriage ceremonies. It is performed by male dancers who form a circle around a drummer. Then as the drummer beats the drum faster, the dancers dance to the center of the circle and leap into the air. Also in Punjab, the *luddi* originally celebrated victory in battle; it is now danced to celebrate winning a sports event.

In Sindh and southern Punjab, *jhumar* is a dance that means “swaying side to side.” Similar to the *bhangra*, it is danced in a circle with a drummer in the middle. The dancers clap and sing in synchronized movement twirling the body with the rhythm of the beat. They then break into different patterns and reform the circle after the crescendo is reached.

In Balochistan, men clap their hands and move rhythmically to the sound of the *dholkar*. This dance is performed for the sake of enjoying dancing and not necessarily to an audience. Sometimes the women participate by clapping their hands and moving their bodies slightly.

³¹⁹ The Kennedy Center, Gift of the Indus: The Arts and Culture of Pakistan. “Dance.” 1999. <http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/pakistan/arts-of-pakistan/dance.htm>

In southern Pakistan along the coast of the Arabian Sea a dance called the *leva* is performed by both men and women. The dancers sway back and forth in a rhythm.

Religious Dance ³²⁰

The *dhammaal* is a devotional dance with high steps and hands raised above the heads in a movement symbolic of the unity of Creation. This dance is accompanied by a double-headed drum that is carved from a tree trunk and has goat skin stretched across the top of the drum heads. Men and women dance the *dhammaal* during religious festivals.



Another religious dance is not performed publicly but instead has been integrated into a religious school. A variant of the Turkish Sufis famous Whirling Dervishes dance is called *raqs o sama* (“dance and audition”). It has been incorporated as part of a ritual into the Chishtia school of Sufis in Pakistan.

Visual Arts ³²¹

Pakistani artists have an old tradition of visual arts that include paintings, architecture, textiles, decorative arts, and sculptures. Their art has been influenced by Islam’s preference for geometric shapes, and many of their paintings are abstract with urban landscapes and country scenes. The art of calligraphy is inspired by the Quran and a great love of arabesque, the flowing repetition of multiplying and interlaced patterns, representing infinity. The Mughals brought miniature art, or small, detailed art work, into Pakistan.

Pakistan is famous for its decorative arts as seen in carpets, weaving, pottery, and metalwork. Knotted woolen carpets with artistic Islamic designs are very popular, and both Karachi and Lahore are important centers for the production of carpets. Pottery and ceramics date back to 2500 BCE, and it is potters who were responsible for the elaborate tiles that decorate the mosques. Sindh and Baloch are known for mirror embroidery, small mirrors sewn into fabric to create a glittery effect.

Truck Art

Art has become so ingrained into the Pakistani culture that artists have taken to painting trucks, buses, tankers, and vehicles to create colorful art work. Dubbed “truck art,” it gained its roots from the 1920s when the local artist, Ustad Elahi Buksh, was asked by a bus company to decorate its buses to attract clientele. As a result, buses, cars, and trucks are painted all colors of the spectrum from bright orange to emerald green. Intricate

³²⁰ The Kennedy Center, Gift of the Indus: The Arts and Culture of Pakistan. “Dance.” 1999. <http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/pakistan/arts-of-pakistan/dance.htm>

³²¹ The Kennedy Center, Gift of the Indus: The Arts and Culture of Pakistan. “Visual Arts.” 1999. <http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/pakistan/arts-of-pakistan/> <http://www.pakpk.com/truckart.html> [visual-arts.htm](http://www.pakpk.com/truckart.html#visual-arts.htm)

designs such as floral patterns, landscapes, flowers, mosques, and birds are used. Usually, every inch of the vehicle is covered in art making it quite a sight when finding a ride.

Embroidery

For centuries, Pakistan, along with South Asia, has been known for its exquisite embroidered clothes and textiles. These include a wide variety of garments and products, such as *rumals* (bedding covers), *bushkiri* (dowry bags), *theli* (purses), *abochhini* (festive head covers), *chadar* and *bagh* (women's headdress), *topi* (caps), *natiyos* (children's caps), *chola* (women's wedding tunic), and men's wedding attire. The style and motifs of the embroidered pattern often represented tribal affiliation and identity. The embroidery styles, choice of designs, and color combinations would tell the location, religion, and community of the embroiderer. In Sindh, embroiderers considered it essential to show their group affiliation on their work. In certain regions, cowry shells, glass mirror pieces, beetle-wing casings, and beads were used to add uniqueness or regional identification.

Traditional Dress

The traditional dress in Pakistan is the *salwar kameez*, Pakistan's national dress. The *salwar* are the loose-fitting pants with the *kameez* worn over them like a tunic or long shirt. This *salwar kameez* can be worn by both men and women and styled accordingly.³²²



© Mary Loosemore
Kalashu woman hand weaving

Women

To accompany their *salwar kameez*, Pakistani women wear the *dupatta*, a long head scarf. The *salwar kameez* is worn in Pakistan because of its loose fit, comfort, and versatility. In hot weather, it allows circulation around the body.³²³ Women also wear traditional shoes called *khussa*, worn in both Pakistan and India. They are hand stitched, light weight flats, often decorated with ornate embroidery.³²⁴ In Northwest Pakistan, the Kalash women traditionally wear a *shushut*, or a headdress. To accompany this, they also wear long black dresses decorated with bead work or embroidery. The *shushut* itself has very ornate and elaborate beadwork. It has a band of woolen cloth that fits over the head with a long "streamer" that hangs down the back. This streamer is decorated with cowry shells, buttons, beads, metallic chain and small metal discs, and long tassels hang from the end of the streamer.³²⁵

Another head covering worn by Muslim women in Pakistan is the *niqab* that covers the face completely except for the eyes. Most common of the various head scarves worn, the *hajib* is square in shape and wraps around the head leaving the face exposed.³²⁶

³²² Indian Dresses.net. "Salwar Kameez Suits." 2007. <http://www.indian-dresses.net/Salwarkameez.asp>

³²³ Indian Dresses.net. "Salwar Kameez Suits." 2007. <http://www.indian-dresses.net/Salwarkameez.asp>

³²⁴ Indian Dress.net. "Khussa Shoes." 2007. http://www.indian-dresses.net/Khussa_Shoes.asp

³²⁵ Power House Museum. "Kalash Women's Headdress (shushut) Northwest Pakistan." 2006. <http://www.powerhousemuseum.com/collection/database/?irn=343241>

³²⁶ CTV.ca. "Behind Islamic Veils and Headscarves." Hahn, Phil. 06 October 2006.

http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20061006/veils_headscarves_061006/20061006/

Men

Men in Pakistan wear the *salwar kameez* and also usually wear a hat. There are various hats depending on the region. In the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP), a hat called *chitirali* or *gilgiti* cap, is often worn. It is round with a flat top and made out of wool. Locals outside of NWFP refer to it as a *pakol*, a name which came from Afghanistan. In Hunza and Skardu, a white *pakol* is more common, often worn with a peacock feather inserted into it.³²⁷ Turbans, or *purgees*, are also worn by Pakistani men, and the style changes with each region. In the NWFP, some are designed in two pieces and embroidered in fine gold thread. One piece is a dome-shaped cap, or *kulla*. The other piece, a *lungi*, is a long narrow piece of cotton cloth that requires skill to wrap it properly around the *kulla*. In tribal areas, men wear a one-piece turban, and in Punjab Province they wear different styles of turbans. The Punjabi pug, a long narrow piece of cotton wrapped around the head, is typically worn by peasants.³²⁸

Gender Issues

*Patriarchal Culture*³²⁹

As Pakistan is a patriarchal culture, men and women conceptually inhabit separate worlds. The home is defined as the women's world whereas the outside world is defined as the man's world. As Pakistani women are considered domestic producers and providers, they lack social status and value. Also, the preference for sons is dominant in Pakistan, so giving birth to a female child is not as celebratory as giving birth to a son. Men in general receive a better education and more access to public resources than women do. Among children, the rate of chronic malnutrition is higher for girls than boys in poor families. Women lack access to proper health care due to their low economic, social, and cultural status. As men are allowed to eat before women, often there is little or no food for the women, so they may suffer from nutritional deficiencies which require health care.



© Jee Kin Wee
Mother, son, Skardu

Women's roles are clearly delineated and limited. Girls are expected to marry at a very young age and give birth to numerous children. In general, women lack access to financial resources including earnings, formal lending institutions, or careers. Except in urban areas, they generally do not work outside the home for wages and if they do, they remain responsible for household duties.

³²⁷ Pakistaninat.com. "The Caps of Pakistan." Qalandar, Mast. 27 November 2006.
<http://pakistaniat.com/2006/11/27/pakistan-caps/>

³²⁸ Pakistaniat.com. "The Turbans (Purgees) of Pakistan." Qalandar, Mast. 11 December 2006.
<http://pakistaniat.com/2006/12/11/turban-pugree-pug-pakistan/>

³²⁹ Munich Personal RePEe Archive (MPRA). "Background, Assessment, and Analysis of the Gender Issues in Pakistan" November 2005. Moheyuddin, Ghulam. http://mpr.aub.uni-muenchen.de/683/01/MPRA_paper_683.pdf

Violence toward Women

Violence toward women is a powerful mechanism used by the family and society to silence any voices of resistance. Past forms of violence toward Pakistani women have included physical and mental torture, murder, honor killing, sexual harassment, rape, kidnapping, trafficking, and prostitution. Statistics toward these occurrences has remained low as these violations tend to go underreported.

Despite a woman's legal right to own land and inherit property, very few women have access to these resources. A 1995 survey found that only 36 women out of 1,000 rural households in Punjab owned property in their names, and of the 36, only nine had control over their property.³³⁰

Bills of Protection for Women

In 2001, the Government of Pakistan amended their constitution to address issues of gender inequality. The amendment gave women more representation in local and national government. As of 2005, women's representation was better in Pakistan's government than in "most countries of the world, including the largest democracies."³³¹ There has been much talk of reforms for women in the social, political, and economic arenas, but actual reforms have been minimal at best. A recent study revealed that "lack of political will, weak and corrupt governance structures, limited technical and intellectual capacity of institutions, and resource constraints have been the main impediments in policy implementation."³³²



© Montreals
Hina Jilani, UN Human Rights

Raping a woman has been illegal in Pakistan since 1979. A law known as the Hudood Ordinance provides some measure of governmental protection to rape victims. However, under this law rape victims must provide four male eyewitnesses to the crime or suffer punishment for adultery.³³³ A new amended law, the Women's Protection Bill, brings the crime of rape under Pakistan's penal code and is thus based on civil law rather than Shari'a. Religious conservatives in Pakistan oppose it for this reason. They argue that this amended law is against Articles 2a and 227 of the constitution, which states that "Islam

³³⁰ Munich Personal RePEe Archive (MPRA). "Background, Assessment, and Analysis of the Gender Issues in Pakistan" November 2005. Moheyuddin, Ghulam. http://mpr.aub.uni-muenchen.de/683/01/MPRA_paper_683.pdf

³³¹ Munich Personal RePEe Archive (MPRA). "Background, Assessment, and Analysis of the Gender Issues in Pakistan" November 2005. Moheyuddin, Ghulam. http://mpr.aub.uni-muenchen.de/683/01/MPRA_paper_683.pdf

³³² Munich Personal RePEe Archive (MPRA). "Background, Assessment, and Analysis of the Gender Issues in Pakistan" November 2005. Moheyuddin, Ghulam. http://mpr.aub.uni-muenchen.de/683/01/MPRA_paper_683.pdf

³³³ Pakistani.org. "The Offence of Zina (Enforcement of Hudood) Ordinance, 1979." 09 February 1979. http://www.pakistani.org/pakistan/legislation/zia_po_1979/ord7_1979.html

will be the state religion,” and “no laws will be passed which are repugnant to the Koran and Sunnah.”^{334, 335}

The practice of honor killings, or *karo-kari*, is widespread in Pakistan. A law that took effect in 2005 provides strong penalties for this crime, but has not reduced the number of deaths. A United Nations office reports that across Pakistan, at least 36 women were murdered in the name of honor in January 2007. Seventeen of the deaths took place in Sindh Province. Islamic religious leaders, government officials, and human rights activists have opposed the practice, which is reportedly spreading from rural areas to large cities.

Marriage and Divorce

*Marriage*³³⁶

Marriages in Pakistan are traditionally arranged and are seen as a means to cement relationships between families. Two male heads of household usually negotiate the marriage, and the choice of partners is based on pragmatic concerns. Around 50 percent of marriages are between cousins, usually the children of two brothers, which assures that property stays in the patrilineage.³³⁷ Other marriages are between children of family friends within the same village or area. Marriages may continue in this way between families, reinforcing family ties through generations. In about five percent of all marriages in Pakistan the bride and groom do not meet at all until the wedding. In some cases, the father forces a marriage.



© John Milton
Extended family

A small number of marriages are based on romantic attachment. As opportunities arise for interaction between men and women at schools and in the workplace, the number of such marriages is increasing. Still, it remains the exception and reduces the woman's chance of marrying another man if the romance does not lead to marriage. Standards of morality are rigid in Pakistan, especially for women. Sexual relations outside of marriage, for instance, are rare and can have harsh consequences.

Forced Child Marriages

The law states that a girl can get married at the age of 16. However, if she has reached puberty, then it is no longer illegal. Although such child marriages are considered illegal, they are practiced widely throughout all of the country. In some parts of Pakistan girls are not only forced into child marriages, they are exchanged for sheep with fellow herders.

³³⁴ BBC News. “Strong Feelings over Pakistan Rape Laws.” Hasan, Syed Shoaib. 15 November 2006.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/6152520.stm

³³⁵ IRIN. “Pakistan: Honour Killings Continue, Despite Law.” 08 March 2007.

<http://newsite.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=70575>

³³⁶ *Pakistan: A Global Studies Handbook*. Mohiuddin, Yasmeen Niaz. 2007. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC CLIO.

³³⁷ The taboo in the West against marriage between cousins is of fairly recent origin and does not exist in Pakistan.

This custom is known as *swara* and although illegal, it is practiced widely in Sindh Province. A shepherd can get as much as 60 rupees for the sale of his daughter.

Divorce

The Quran states that the court should be the last resort for an Islamic couple deciding to divorce. Still, according to Islamic laws, a couple can divorce for several reasons. They can divorce if the whereabouts of the husband has not been known for four years or if the husband has neglected to provide for his wife for two years. They can file for divorce on grounds of excessive imprisonment, failing to perform marital obligations, impotence, or insanity. If a woman is a victim of forced marriage, or a victim of abuse, she can file for divorce.^{338, 339}



© lolamemola / flickr.com
Woman in burka, Peshawar

Laws concerning divorce are often applied without consistency. Islamic law is codified unevenly, which presents problems in the consideration of family law. The laws are embodied in case law which has been handed down from jurists (revered imams) who differ in their interpretation of family law. Thus, verdicts often represent different legal philosophies. According to the Muslim Women's League based in Los Angeles, California, many judicial decisions about divorce have been chaotic at best, because of the male-dominated society and justice system.³⁴⁰ As a result, it is nearly impossible to rule in favor of women.

Sports

Pakistan is a sports-oriented country. While such sports as skiing, baseball, cycling, rowing, and yachting are quite popular, cricket remains their most popular game. Muhammad Ali Jinnah, known as Pakistan's founder, had a great love for sports. He recognized its potential to promote discipline and health among Pakistan's citizens. As a result, Pakistan has participated internationally in the Olympics, the Commonwealth, Asian, and South Asian Federation games, and the Cricket World Cup.³⁴¹

Field Hockey

The Pakistan Hockey Federation started in 1948, and field hockey today is Pakistan's national sport. Pakistani hockey gained recognition during the 1960s with the team participating internationally and later won several world titles, the last in 1994. Pakistan has both men's and women's hockey teams.³⁴²

³³⁸ Helpline Law. "Divorce Laws in Pakistan." 2005. <http://www.helplineaw.com/article/pakistan/270>

³³⁹ Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan. Social Laws of Islam. "Islamic Laws Regarding Divorce." Undated. <http://www.jamaat.org/islam/divorce.html>

³⁴⁰ Muslim Women's League. "Muslim Family Law: The Latest Assault on Society." Ahmed, Khaled. 2007. http://www.mwlnusa.org/topics/marriage&divorce/muslim_family_law_pakistan.html

³⁴¹ Answers.com "Sport in Pakistan." c2007. <http://www.answers.com/topic/sport-in-pakistan>

³⁴² Pakistan Hockey Federation. "Pakistan Hockey Federation." 2006. <http://www.phf.com.pk/federation.php>

Cricket

Cricket teams began to develop after partition and have grown over the years. The Pakistani team first toured England in 1954, and its World Cup contests in India are always played to packed stadiums. Pakistan now has men's, women's, youth, and school cricket leagues.



© Usman Ahmed
Cricket

Gulli Danda

Similar to cricket or even baseball, *gulli danda* is a sport played by boys in rural areas of Pakistan. It requires a *danda* (a stick about 12 to 16 inches in length) and a *gilli* (a smaller stick cylindrical in shape that is about one inch diameter and about 3-4 inches long and sharpened like a lead pencil from both sides). The *danda* is swung at the *gilli* in a golf-like fashion as opposed to a baseball swing. As in baseball, the person hitting the *gilli* is out when another player catches the ball. There is no running to bases, however, because if the *gilli* is not caught, the hitter hits another *gilli*. After three strikes, the hitter is out.³⁴³

Rugby

The Karachi Rugby Football Union was formed in 1926 and became almost nonexistent by the 1980s. In the 1990s, local players established clubs in Lahore and Karachi, and foreign staff from embassies and business agencies established a club in Islamabad. Since then, popularity has increased considerably. In 2000 the Pakistan Rugby Union was established and Pakistan fielded its first national team in 2003. Rugby has become so popular that schools now offer it in their curriculums.³⁴⁴

Olympics

Pakistan has won three gold medals and three silver team medals in hockey since 1956. In individual placement, the men have won gold and silver medals in hockey. There were no female winners.³⁴⁵

Education

During the country's short history, the quality and quantity of Pakistan's educational system has been "dismal." Education in Pakistan is challenged by high levels of illiteracy. As of 2007, adult illiteracy stood at 56 percent, high in comparison with other countries. In rural areas, adult illiteracy is as high as 66 percent. Challenges to education also include low enrollment rates in school at all levels, combined with high dropout rates. By the age of twelve, only three percent of girls in rural areas are still in school. The enrollment rates for primary school in Pakistan are below the average for both South Asia and for developing countries.³⁴⁶



© Steve Evans
Schoolboys

³⁴³ Answers.com. "Gilli-Danda." c2007. <http://www.answers.com/topic/gilli-danda>

³⁴⁴ Pakistan Rugby Union. "Pakistan Rugby Union." 2007. <http://www.pakistanrugby.com/about.html>

³⁴⁵ Olympic.org: Official Website of the Olympic Movement. "Olympic Medal Winners." 2007. http://www.olympic.org/uk/athletes/results/search_r_uk.asp

Pakistan's National Education Policy for 1998–2010 states that education should enable Pakistani citizens to live by Islamic teachings as laid out in the Quran and Sunnah. Further, it is their stated goal to use community involvement to raise literacy to 70 percent by 2010. The Policy also sets forth plans to increase education among rural women, increase primary and secondary school enrollment, and broaden the base for technical and vocational education. The curriculum for teacher education will also be strengthened, according to plans.³⁴⁷

³⁴⁶ *Pakistan: A Global Studies Handbook*. Mohiuddin, Yasmeen Niaz. 2007. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC CLIO.

³⁴⁷ Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Education. Undated. "Educational Policy 1998-2010." <http://www.moe.gov.pk/edupolicy.htm>

A Perspective

U.S.–Pakistan Relations

Pakistan and the United States have gone through ups and downs in their relations since Pakistan became an independent country in 1947. Until the 1965 India–Pakistan war, the two countries were allies. After the U.S. suspended military assistance to both Pakistan and India during that war, however, relations cooled.³⁴⁸



DoD photo
Protestors condemn terrorism

Relations began to improve during the 1970s, but the early years of the Zia ul-Haq regime again saw a rapid deterioration in relations. In 1979 the U.S. cut off all economic and military aid to Pakistan because of its continuing nuclear weapons program. The situation reached a nadir during November of that year when the U.S. Embassy was burned to the ground by a mob reacting to untrue reports that the U.S. was involved in the occupation of the Great Mosque in Mecca.³⁴⁹

Only a month later, however, the U.S.–Pakistan relationship once again changed dramatically when the Soviet Union sent military forces into Afghanistan. The frontier regions of Pakistan quickly became the staging areas for the resistance fighters known as Mujahideen. During the early 1980s, a USD 3.2 billion package of military and economic loans was approved for Pakistan, followed in 1986 by a military and economic assistance program worth USD 4 billion.³⁵⁰

During the late 1990s, relations between the countries once again turned cold as Pakistan began nuclear weapons testing and a military coup brought Army leader Pervez Musharraf to power. As in the past, however, outside events would quickly shift the bilateral equation between the two countries. Following the 9/11 attacks in the U.S., Musharraf ended Pakistan’s support of the ruling Taliban in Afghanistan. He also allowed the U.S. to use Pakistan as a logistics area for Operation Enduring Freedom, the U.S. mission to attack terrorists in Pakistan and oust their Taliban supporters.³⁵¹

Since late 2001, the U.S. and Pakistan have been firm allies in the continuing battle against extremist groups within the region. Hundreds of Al Qaeda members have been captured with the assistance of the Pakistani military and intelligence organizations. U.S.

³⁴⁸ U.S. Department of State. “Background Note: Pakistan—U.S.-Pakistan Relations.” May 2005. <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3453.htm>

³⁴⁹ BBC News, On This Day. “1979: Mob Destroys US Embassy in Pakistan” 2007. http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/november/21/newsid_4187000/4187184.stm

³⁵⁰ U.S. Department of State. “Background Note: Pakistan—U.S.-Pakistan Relations.” May 2005. <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3453.htm>

³⁵¹ *Pakistan: A Global Studies Handbook*. Mohiuddin, Yasmeeen Niaz. “Chapter 3. Political Development Since 1947 [p. 215].” 2007. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, Inc.

economic and military aid has also been reestablished, and in 2004 Pakistan was given Major Non-NATO Ally (MNNA) status.³⁵²

Poverty

The present economic upswing in Pakistan has helped the country lower its high poverty rate, reducing it from 34 percent to 24 percent over the period 2001–2006.³⁵³ (These are government estimates; outside estimates tend to place the poverty rate higher.)³⁵⁴ Rural areas have been estimated to include up to 80 percent of Pakistan’s poor.³⁵⁵ The highest concentrations of rural poor occur in southern Punjab and Sindh Provinces.³⁵⁶ Recent increases in per capita income in such rural areas owe more to the record-high remittances being sent to Pakistan from workers abroad than they do to Pakistan’s growing economy.³⁵⁷



© N B / flickr.com
Slums in Karachi

The majority of the poor in Pakistan’s rural areas do not work in agriculture, either as land-owning or tenant farmers. Nonetheless, these non-farmer poor suffer economically from the slow growth of Pakistan’s agricultural sector, since they provide the goods and services for agricultural workers.³⁵⁸ Average household expenditures in rural areas are over 30 percent lower than in urban areas. Thus, agricultural drops in production can ripple throughout the rural areas and quickly plunge into poverty those who depend on purchases paid for with agricultural income.³⁵⁹

As is the case in much of the developing world, the rural poor in Pakistan are increasingly moving to urban areas. Many of this mostly uneducated rural migrant population find housing in “informal settlements” (slums). They find employment within the “informal sector,” a broad category of wageless jobs that includes everything from

³⁵² U.S. Department of State. “Background Note: Pakistan—U.S.-Pakistan Relations.” May 2005.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3453.htm>

³⁵³ Federation of American Scientists. Congressional Research Service. Kronstadt, K. Alan. “Pakistan-U.S. Relations: Economic Issues.” 6 June 2007. <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL33498.pdf>

³⁵⁴ DAWN.com. “WB, UNDP Question Poverty Estimates.” 20 June 2006.

<http://www.dawn.com/2006/06/20/top1.htm>

³⁵⁵ The World Bank. “Pakistan Promoting Rural Growth and Poverty Reduction: Executive Summary [p. x].” 30 March 2007. <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/PAKISTANEXTN/Resources/293051-1177200597243/ruralgrowthandpovertyreduction.pdf>

³⁵⁶ Asian Development Bank. Shah, M. Ali. “Growth of Poverty and PRSP’s Capacity for Its Mitigation in Pakistan.” 6 November 2004. <http://www.adb.org/Documents/Speeches/2004/sp2004036.asp>

³⁵⁷ The World Bank. “Pakistan Promoting Rural Growth and Poverty Reduction: Executive Summary [p. xi].” 30 March 2007. <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/PAKISTANEXTN/Resources/293051-1177200597243/ruralgrowthandpovertyreduction.pdf>

³⁵⁸ The World Bank. “Pakistan Promoting Rural Growth and Poverty Reduction: Executive Summary [p. xiii].” 30 March 2007. <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/PAKISTANEXTN/Resources/293051-1177200597243/ruralgrowthandpovertyreduction.pdf>

³⁵⁹ The World Bank. “Pakistan Promoting Rural Growth and Poverty Reduction: Executive Summary [p. xiv].” 30 March 2007. <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/PAKISTANEXTN/Resources/293051-1177200597243/ruralgrowthandpovertyreduction.pdf>

street vending to criminal activities.³⁶⁰ In Karachi, the poverty-ridden slums have largely divided into ethnic enclaves for Pashtuns, Muhajirs, Sindhis, and other groups.³⁶¹ In a city that has suffered several periods of rampant ethnic and sectarian violence over the last three decades, these slums provide the kindling for future outbreaks of violence.

Radical Groups

Numerous extremist and terrorist groups operate in Pakistan, ranging from local organizations to transnational networks. Al-Qaeda is the most well-known of these groups, and numerous al-Qaeda leaders have been captured both in Pakistani cities and in the rugged frontier regions.



© openDemocracy / flickr.com
Demonstration at Lal Masjid

The Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), an area of Pashtun tribespeople adjacent to Afghanistan, continues to be a particular concern for terrorist activity.

In their annual report on terrorism released in April 2007, the State Department labeled the FATA as “a safe haven for Al Qaeda, the Taliban, and other militants.”³⁶²

The Pakistani military has been involved in a running conflict with the Taliban and other militant groups in North and South Waziristan, the southernmost agencies of FATA. Recently the Musharraf government has moved toward a new strategy. It now uses negotiations and economic development to help restore the traditional tribal structure of FATA that has withered as religious extremists have moved into the area.³⁶³ In September 2006 a truce was signed between the Pakistan government and the tribal forces in North Waziristan. Since then, there has been concern that Waziristan has become increasingly “Talibanized” and an area of refuge for other militant groups, including al-Qaeda.^{364, 365}

Other terrorist and extremist groups continue to operate in other parts of the country. The Balochistan Liberation Army has staged numerous violent attacks throughout the province, as well as in Sindh and Punjab. In the northern part of the country, the Lashkar-e-Tayyiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed groups have been blamed for terrorist acts in both

³⁶⁰ Daily Times. “Pakistan’s Urban Population to Equal Rural by 2030: UNFPA.” 28 June 2007.

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2007%5C06%5C28%5Cstory_28-6-2007_pg7_9

³⁶¹ The Observer. Burke, Jason. “Pakistan Bloodshed Opens New Fault Lines.” 20 May 2007.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/pakistan/Story/0,,2083803,00.html>

³⁶² Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism, U.S. Department of State. “Chapter 2—Country Reports: South and Central Asia Overview.” 30 April 2007. <http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/crt/2006/82734.htm>

³⁶³ Federation of American Scientists. Congressional Research Service. Kronstadt, K. Alan. “Pakistan-U.S. Relations: Terrorism [p. CRS-15].” 6 June 2007. <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL33498.pdf>

³⁶⁴ Center for World Religion, Diplomacy, and Conflict Resolution, Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University. Nojumi, Neamat. “Iftar in the White House.”

<http://www.gmu.edu/departments/crdc/neamat3.pdf>

³⁶⁵ Federation of American Scientists. Congressional Research Service. Kronstadt, K. Alan. “Pakistan-U.S. Relations: Most Recent Developments [p. CRS-2].” 6 June 2007.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL33498.pdf>

Kashmir and India. These groups have been designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations under U.S. law.³⁶⁶

After 9/11, much attention was addressed to the activities of some Pakistani *madrassas* (Muslim schools) that were teaching extreme Islamic fundamentalism and even *jihadi* ideology. In July 2007 one such *madrassa* in Islamabad located at the Lal Masjid (Red Mosque) became the center of a violent confrontation with the Pakistan government. This conflict led to the death of at least 75 people within the *madrassa* complex. The Lal Masjid *madrassa* attracted many students from FATA and was supported by Taliban members in Waziristan.³⁶⁷

Progress

Pakistan is a country that faces many challenges. Continuing ethnic and sectarian strife, border conflicts with its neighbors, high illiteracy rates, insurgent groups in the western provinces, and the spread of religious militancy are just a few of Pakistan's ongoing issues. Despite this, there are also positive signs indicating the country may be able to address some of its lingering problems.

Positive improvement has been observed on both the economic and political fronts. Strong economic reform measures, backed by substantial foreign aid, have helped turn around a dormant economy that just a few years ago seemed to totter on the brink of disaster. As the economy has revived, more governmental attention has been placed on improving the country's social and physical infrastructure. Pakistani leaders clearly recognize that stability and economic growth are only possible when education, health care, road systems, and other key elements of the country serve the needs of its workers.

Relations with India have recently become more normalized as transportation links between the two countries begin to open and trade relations increase. The two countries continue to engage in the Composite Dialogue process which has provided hope that they may eventually find common ground to establish a relationship built on cooperation rather than mistrust. As Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Kurshid Mahmood Kasuri, recently noted, "[India and Pakistan] have made some good progress and come a long way from the tense period in 2001 and 2002."³⁶⁸



DoD photo
Pakistani Foreign Minister Kasuri (right)

³⁶⁶ Federation of American Scientists. U.S. Department of State Press Release. "Redesignation of Foreign Terrorist Organizations. 23 December 2003. <http://www.fas.org/irp/news/2003/12/dos122303.html>

³⁶⁷ BBC News, International Version. Hasan, Syed Shoab. "Profile: Islamabad's Red Mosque." 3 July 2007. http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/6503477.stm

³⁶⁸ Associated Press of Pakistan. "Pakistan, India Dialogue Provide Chance to Resolve Kashmir Issue: Kasuri." 2 July 2007.

http://www.app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=11970&Itemid=2

Looking Forward

One of the great uncertainties in Pakistan is the future of their government. Elections are scheduled for the end of 2007, but how that process will play out is still anybody's guess. Current President Pervez Musharraf has stated that he wishes to serve for five more years. However, Musharraf has been weakened politically by his controversial decision to fire Pakistani Supreme Court Justice Iftikhar Chaudhury, sparking protests that led to street violence in Karachi. Two of the strongest opposition leaders, former Prime Ministers Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif, have been in exile during most of Musharraf's time in office. A law passed by the Musharraf supporters barring anyone from serving as Prime Minister for more than two terms would seem to shut them out from taking power once again. There has been speculation about a possible Bhutto–Musharraf alliance in order for Musharraf to secure continued power. However, his refusal to shed his role as Army Chief while serving as President is a stumbling block to any such arrangement.³⁶⁹



© Juan Biazquez
Moving forward

Against this political backdrop lies the lingering question of how the government will deal with militant groups that have increasingly spread their influence to Pakistani cities from their strongholds in the frontier regions. The crackdown on the Lal Masjid *madrassa* in Islamabad was seen by some observers as a watershed action, as government forces decided to take forceful action against radical clerics who had previously been able to resist government pressure.^{370, 371} Whether the Lal Masjid raid will strengthen Musharraf's resolve to clamp down on other extremist groups in the country or will instead incite a violent domestic backlash from parties sympathetic to the Lal Masjid leaders remains to be seen.³⁷²

³⁶⁹ Council on Foreign Relations. Zissis, Carin. "Pakistan's Political Future." 30 April 2007.

<http://www.cfr.org/publication/13160/>

³⁷⁰ International Herald Tribune. Masood, Salman. "Musharraf Defends Raid That Ended Red Mosque Siege." 12 July 2007. <http://www.iht.com/articles/2007/07/13/asia/13pakistan.php>

³⁷¹ BBC News, International Version. Hasan, Syed Shoaib. "Profile: Islamabad's Red Mosque." 3 July 2007. http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/6503477.stm

³⁷² The Guardian Unlimited. "Q & A: Pakistan Mosque Siege." 11 July 2007. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/pakistan/Story/0,,2119664,00.html>