The Geographic Panorama

- Subcontinent:
  - Divides oceans
  - Divided by mountains, deserts, and fertile valleys
- Cultural diversity:
  - Influenced by environmental diversity
  - Unified by British colonial period
  - Religious partitions: Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist
    - Pakistan's place in the region
    - Pakistan and India linked culturally and in fight over Kashmir
**South Asia’s Physiography: A Tectonic Encounter**

- Tectonic collision:
  - Indian Plate and Eurasian Plate
  - Accordion-like crust deformation

- Himalaya Mountains:
  - High elevation conditions
  - Permanent snow and ice provide meltwaters
  - Headwaters of great rivers
  - Ganges River, Indus River, and Brahmaputra River

**South Asia’s Physiography: The Monsoon**

- Monsoon: annual rains
- Northern Hemisphere summer conditions:
  - Warm air rises as low pressure over mountains
  - Water in air condenses into rain
- Driven by winds onto subcontinent
- Blocked and directed by Himalayas
- Lasts for weeks

**South Asia’s Physiography: Physiographic Regions**

- Northern mountains:
  - Hindu Kush and Karakoram ranges in west
  - Dry and barren
  - Himalayas in center
  - Mount Everest
  - Ranges of Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh in east
  - Green and forested
- Transitional foothills
  - Valleys cut by meltwater
South Asia’s Physiography:
Physiographic Regions

- River lowlands:
  - Pakistan’s Lower Indus River Valley
  - Punjab = “land of five rivers”
- North Indian Plain:
  - Ganges River plain
  - Double delta of Ganges and Brahmaputra Rivers
- Importance of meltwater
  - Impact of global warming

South Asia’s Physiography:
Physiographic Regions

- Deccan plateau: Basalt tableland from Pangaea
  - Highest in the west
  - Rivers flow eastward to Bay of Bengal
  - Eastern and Western Ghats (steps) descend from plateau to narrow coastal plain
- Central Indian Plateau
- Chota Nagpur Plateau in east

Birthplace of Civilizations:
Indus Valley Civilization

- Sindhu
  - circa 2500 BC
  - Two major capitals
  - 100+ smaller urban settlements
  - Influence extended eastward to Delhi
- Decline due to:
  - Environmental change
  - Shift of political center to the Ganges Basin
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**Birthplace of Civilizations: Aryans and the Origins of Hinduism**

- Arrival of Aryans in northern India, circa 1500 BC:
  - Peoples speaking Indo-European languages
  - Organized the isolated tribes and villages
  - Resurgence of urbanization
- Aryan cultural influence:
  - Sanskrit language
  - New social order
  - Vedism: religious belief system

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**Birthplace of Civilizations: Aryans and the Origins of Hinduism**

- Hinduism:
  - Emerged out of Vedism texts and local beliefs
- Caste system:
  - Social stratification: hierarchy of power among peoples
  - Solidified powerful position of Aryans
  - Legitimized through religious belief system
  - Brahmins had highest rank
  - Lower castes determined by past lives

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**Birthplace of Civilizations: Aryans and the Origins of Hinduism**

- Indo-European languages:
  - Rooted in Sanskrit
  - Dominate in the western and northern parts
- Dravidian languages:
  - Indigenous languages
  - Dominate in the South
- Other languages:
  - Sino-Tibetan
  - Austro-Asiatic

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**Birthplace of Civilizations:**

**Buddhism and Other Indigenous Religions**

- **Buddhism:** circa 500 BC in eastern Ganges Basin
  - Under 1% in India; strong in Bhutan and Sri Lanka
  - Influence greater in Southeast Asia and East Asia
- **Jainism:** emerged alongside Hinduism
  - Purist, deeply spiritual form of Hinduism
  - Under 1% of population
- **Sikhism:** circa AD 1500, following Islam’s arrival
  - Blend of Islamic and Hindu beliefs
  - About 2% of population

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**Foreign Invaders:**

**The Reach of Islam**

- 10th century arrival:
  - Overland into the Indus Valley (today’s Pakistan)
- 13th century establishment of Delhi Sultanate:
  - Expansion over northern tier
  - By sea:
    - Arrival at Ganges-Brahmaputra Delta (today’s Bangladesh)
- 16th century Mughal (Mogul) Empire:
  - Centered in Afghanistan, ousted the Delhi Sultanate
  - 16th and 17th centuries, Mughal Empire expanded Islam with tolerance to Hindus; built Taj Mahal

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**Foreign Invaders:**

**The Reach of Islam**

- Millions of Hindus converted
- Appeal of Islam:
  - Hindu princes choose cooperation over annihilation by Islamic armies.
  - Welcome alternative for low-caste Hindus.
- Decline of Islam:
  - 18th century Mughal Empire in decline
  - Resurgence of Hindu religion
  - Left India culturally and politically fragmented

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**Foreign Invaders:**

**The European Intrusion**

- 18th century East India Company:
  - EIC represented the British empire.
  - British controlled most of trade in South Asia and between South Asia and Southeast Asia.
  - "Indirect rule" took advantage of fragmentation:
    - Local maharajas were left to rule, but were forced to make trade concessions.
    - In 1857, "East India" officially became part of the British Colonial Empire.

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**Foreign Invaders:**

**Colonial Transformation**

- Economic restructuring:
  - Export raw materials to European factories
  - Import European manufactured goods
  - Decline of local industries and loss of markets
- Infrastructure development:
  - Extensive transport network
  - Urban network
- Social restructuring:
  - New elite of South Asians

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**The Geopolitics of Modern South Asia:**

**Partition and Independence**

- British India could not survive self-rule as a single political entity:
  - Tensions between Hindu and Muslim interests
- Partition:
  - Based on geography of Hindu and Muslim majorities
  - Groups did coexist in some areas
  - New boundaries caused displacement

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South Asian Partition and Migration

- New cultural and geopolitical landscape
- Comparing before and after geographies:
  - Muslim exodus out of Hindu India
  - Hindu migration out of West and East Pakistan (Bangladesh)
- Refugee migrations:
  - “Forced” or “voluntary”?

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The Geopolitics of Modern South Asia: India-Pakistan

- Tenuous relationship:
  - War in 1965
  - India supported East Pakistan’s secession
  - Conflict over Jammu and Kashmir
  - Cold War: India toward USSR and Pakistan toward United States
  - Arms race led to both becoming nuclear powers
  - Muslims in India: world’s largest cultural minority:
    - Complicates geopolitics between the two countries and within India

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The Geopolitics of Modern South Asia: Contested Kashmir

- Forward capital: Islamabad’s placement in the embattled interior as a claim to northern frontiers
- Kashmir and partition:
  - Maharaja was Hindu, ruled over mostly Muslims
  - Decided not to join Pakistan:
    - Muslim uprising and India’s intervention
    - Line of control became de facto boundary
- Tensions continue:
  - Referendum for people to decide
  - “Summer of rage”
Regional Issue:
Who Should Govern Kashmir?

KASHMIR SHOULD BE PART OF PAKISTAN!

• Everywhere else, Muslims went to Pakistan and Hindus to India.
• Why doesn’t “democratic” India allow a referendum?
• Muslims unfairly accused of terrorism for fighting to unite with Pakistan.

KASHMIR BELONGS TO INDIA!

• Kashmiri maharaja wanted autonomy from “extremist” Pakistan.
• In Pakistan, non-Muslim minorities are not tolerated, and it’s a failed democracy.
• The quality of life for people in India is much better than in Pakistan.

The Geopolitics of Modern South Asia:
The Specter of Terrorism

• Indian terrorist attacks:
  – Roots in Pakistan:
    • Lashkar-e-Taiba aims to return Kashmir to Islamic rule.
    • Most of India’s Muslims are uninvolved in extremism.
  – Pakistan and terrorist groups:
    • Border with Afghanistan is out of government’s control.
    • Pakistan is under U.S. pressure to secure border.
• Geopolitical chess game between India, Pakistan, and the United States could have deadly consequences.

The Geopolitics of Modern South Asia:
Chinese Border Claims

• Jammu and Kashmir:
  – Northeastern extensions are claimed by China.
  – No sign of concession by India.
  – China offers strategic support for Pakistan versus India.
• Arunachal Pradesh:
  – China claims most of territory.
  – Border agreed by Tibet, pre-Chinese control.
  – War in 1962 was fought over border.
  – Borders are unresolved today.
The Geopolitics of Modern South Asia: Indian Ocean Geopolitics

- Control of Indian Ocean Basin:
  - China needs access to markets and is building military bases.
  - India responds by building alliances in Southeast Asia.
  - United States is balancing between the two.
- Economic interdependence:
  - Terms of trade are currently to China's advantage.
  - China-India trade is growing.

Emerging Markets and Fragmented Modernization

- Staggering growth:
  - "India Shining" and the new era for India is considered key:
    - Rising economic growth rates
    - Due to globalization and modernization
    - Increasing integration into global economy
- Dramatic unevenness:
  - Poverty: over half of people in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh live in poverty.
  - Benefits of economic growth are not spread around.

Among the Realm's Great Cities...

Delhi New and Old

- Population growth in India's largest urban area:
  - 1970 = 4 million
  - 2012 = 22.9 million
- Fortuitous relative location:
  - Narrow corridor for land routes across northern India
- Multicultural, multifunctional urban giant:
  - Seat of government and core area
- Expansion in all directions:
  - Fastest in the south
Emerging Markets and Fragmented Modernization:

Economic Liberalization

- Neoliberalism:
  - Privatization of largely state-managed economies
  - Support from IMF required such structural reforms
- Economic growth:
  - New industries
  - Lead to new, urban middle class and consumer market
  - Uneven as many are still impoverished and rural

The Significance of Agriculture

- More than half of entire South Asian workforce:
  - Low productivity and economic contribution
  - Rural areas with lower incomes and standard of living
- Millions depend on good harvest each year:
  - Influenced by topography and rains
  - Rice in wetter areas and wheat in drier areas
- Government needs to create rural policy:
  - To increase agricultural productivity and standard of living

Among the Realm’s Great Cities...

Karachi

- Pakistan’s biggest city:
  - Economic and financial center
  - Controls links to global economy
- Problems:
  - Unplanned growth: congestion and pollution
  - Poverty and street crime
  - Violence among immigrant residents
  - Nurturing ground for extremists
South Asia's Population Geography

- Population geography focuses on spatial demography.
- Relative sizes of South Asia's area and population:
  - Two-fifths the size of East Asia and equally as populous.
  - Sub-Saharan Africa is five times as large, with less than half of South Asia's population.

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South Asia's Population Geography: Population Density

- Population density is number of people per unit area.
  - Arithmetic density is number of people per unit area.
  - Physiological density is number of people per unit of arable (agricultural) land:
    - More meaningful measure for understanding the ability of a country to support its population size.

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Map Analysis Activity:
Comparing Physiography and Population

1. What relationship is seen between physiography and where people are clustered? What specific physiographic feature do people cluster around?
2. What about where people are not clustered?
South Asia’s Population Geography: The Question of Overpopulation

- Overpopulation and “carrying capacity”
  - High population growth and densities unsupportable
- Depends on circumstances:
  - Not all high-density countries are struggling.
  - Human resources: productivity, education, or technology help use natural resources efficiently.
- South Asia’s large population is illiterate, undereducated and not productive.
  - A burden rather than a resource
  - Too many that are insufficiently productive

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South Asia’s Population Geography: The Demographic Transition

- Structural change in birth and death rates:
  - Rapid population increase
  - Decline in growth rates
  - Stable population
- In Stage 2, birth rates stabilize; deaths decline due to medical advances.
- South Asian birth rates need to drop for population to stabilize.

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South Asia’s Population Geography: Demographic Burdens

- Proportion of population that is too old or too young to be productive and must be cared for by productive population (ages 20 to 50)
  - Low death rates and high birth rates will have large share of young and old
  - High demographic burden
- Population Pyramid graphic of age-sex structure
  - India’s burden greater today and less in future

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South Asia’s Population Geography: The Missing Girls

- Sex ratio
  - Skewed ratio of girls and boys
- Gender bias:
  - Higher value on boys: more productive and support parents
  - Female infanticide
  - Abortion of females: ultrasounds and rising incomes
  - “Bachelor angst” leading to change in attitudes

Future Prospects

- Realm in transition
  - Politically...
  - India-Pakistan relations, specter of terrorism, and religious movements engagement of politics
  - Economically...
  - India’s rise in global economy, its growing middle class, and its advantages
  - Demographically...
    - Pass through demographic transition and lower fertility