**The Cultural Geography of South Asia**

* **I. Population Patterns**
* **22% of the world’s population live here**
* **A. Human Characteristics**
	+ **Rich, complex mix of cultures**
		- **Six major religions and hundreds of languages**
* **1. India**
	+ **Hindu majority**
		- **Also Muslim, Buddhist, Sikh, Jain, and Christian**
	+ **People belong to one of hundreds of jati**
		- **Social groups/ classes**
* **A. Human Characteristics cont.**
* **2. Pakistan and Bangladesh**
	+ **Mainly Muslims**
	+ **Pakistan has five ethnic groups**
	+ **Most of Bangladesh is Bengali**
* **3. Sri Lanka**
	+ **Sinhalese: Buddhists**
		- **The majority, run the govt.**
	+ **Tamils: Hindu**
		- **Resort to terrorism**
		- **Tamil Tigers**
	+ **Have different languages and fight for control of the nation**
* **4. Bhutan and Nepal**
	+ **Originally descendants of the Mongols**
	+ **Different in appearance**
		- **Complex mix in Nepal: Sherpas**
* **B. Population Density and Distribution**
* **760 people per Sq. mile**
	+ **7 times the world average**
* **1. Densely Populated Areas**
	+ **Indo-Gangetic Plain**
		- **Excellent farming**
		- **Rice abundant**
	+ **Sri Lankan plantations**
	+ **Bangladesh has 2,454 people per sq. mile**
* **2. Less Dense Regions**
	+ **Deccan Plateau**
		- **Still 125-250 people per sq. mile**
	+ **Thar Desert is sparse**
	+ **Mountains of W. Pakistan**
	+ **Nepal and Bhutan: 25-60 per sq. mile**
		- **Less in the north**
* **C. Urbanization**
* **Generally a low urban population**
	+ **Bhutan: 15%, Pakistan: 28%**
* **1. Rapid Urban Growth**
	+ **People migrate for better jobs and higher wages**
	+ **Cities are overcrowded**
* **2. The Largest Cities**
	+ **Calcutta: India’s largest**
		- **Grim slums and bustling ports**
	+ **Mumbai (Bombay): main western port**
	+ **Delhi, 3rd largest city in India**
		- **New Delhi was built in the early 1900s**
	+ **Dhaka, Bangladesh: the 2nd most crowded city in the world**
	+ **Islamabad, Pakistan is growing from a middle class surge**
* **II. History and Government**
* **A. Early History**
	+ **Culture hearth at the Indus River**
	+ **Harappans build cities, Mohenjo-Daro**
		- **Had a writing system, strong govt., and overseas –trade**
	+ **1700-1500 BC, they left**
		- **Environmental changes?**
	+ **Aryans entered the area**
		- **Left the sacred books of the Vedas**
		- **Society was divided into classes**
		- **Noble, Priests, and regular people**
	+ **A rigid caste system developed**
	+ **B. Religions**
* **1. Hinduism**
	+ **Grew out the Aryan culture, the Vedas, and the work of Brahman priests**
	+ **Hundreds of gods**
	+ **Everyone has a moral duty: dharma**
	+ **Good actions are rewarded and bad ones punished: karma**
	+ **People are reincarnated and either move up or down on the caste system based on their karma**
	+ **Ultimate goal is to be reunited with the universal spirit after living as Brahman priest**
* **Hinduism**
* **B. Religions**
* **2. Buddhism**
	+ **Siddhartha Gautama, born in 563 BC**
	+ **A prince who left everything to find the meaning of life**
	+ **While meditating under a tree, he found the true nature of life**
		- **Became the Enlightened One or Buddha**
	+ **Spent the rest of his life teaching**
	+ **Buddhists accept the Four Noble Truths and follow the Eightfold Path to achieve nirvana: inner peace**
		- **Eliminate desires to eliminate suffering**
* **Buddhism**
* **C. Invasions and Empires**
* **The Mauryans est. an empire from 320-180 BC**
	+ **Last great ruler was Asoka**
		- **A Hindu who spread Buddhism**
* **The Gupta Empire ruled from 320-550 AD**
	+ **One of the most advanced cultures**
		- **Developed numbers the Arabs adopted**
* **The Muslims conquered N. India in the 1100s**
* **The Mogols invaded in the 1500s**
* **C. Invasions and Empires cont.**
* **Final invaders were the Europeans**
	+ **Started arriving in the 1500s for trade**
	+ **The English took over trade from the Portuguese in the 1600s**
		- **East India Co. grew and occupied most of the region by 1700**
	+ **The English reorganized education, taught English, and developed civil service**
* **D. Modern South Asia**
* **1. Independence**
	+ **Many wanted freedom from the UK**
	+ **Mohandas Gandhi led them with nonviolent resistance**
		- **Known as Mahatma (Great Soul)**
		- **Hunger strikes**
	+ **Granted independence in 1947**
		- **Hindus became India**
		- **Muslims became West and East Pakistan**
	+ **Ceylon was freed in 1972**
		- **Became Sri Lanka**
	+ **Bhutan and Nepal were always independent**
* **D. Modern South Asia cont.**
* **2. Today’s Governments**
	+ **Tensions are still there between Hindus and Muslims**
		- **Disagree over the region of Kashmir**
		- **Both have nukes now**
	+ **1971, East Pakistan revolted and became Bangladesh**
	+ **All the govts. Are democracies and monarchies**
	+ **Nepal and Bhutan are monarchies**
* **III. Cultures and Lifestyles**
* **A. Languages**
	+ **India has 14 major languages**
		- **English is common, but Hindi is the official one**
* **1. Indo-Aryan Languages**
	+ **Hindi: India**
	+ **Urdu: Pakistan**
	+ **Bengali: Bangladesh**
	+ **Hindustani is a mixture of Urdu and Hindi**
	+ **Nepali: Nepal**
	+ **Sinhalese: Sri Lanka**
* **2. Other Languages**
	+ **1/5 speak ones from the Dravidian Family**
	+ **Tamil, Telegu, Kannada, and Malayalam**
* **B. Religions**
* **India and Nepal: Hinduism**
	+ **Live in all the countries**
* **Pakistan and Bangladesh: Muslim**
	+ **Largest minority in India**
* **Even though Buddhism began here, it has declined**
	+ **Still in Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bhutan**
* **Jainism: extreme nonviolence**
	+ **Founded by Mahavira in the 500s BC**
	+ **Will not kill anything**
* **Sikhism: combined Hinduism and Islam**
	+ **Founded by Nanak**
	+ **Monotheism with karma reincarnation**
* **40 million Christians in the region**
	+ **B. Religions cont.**
* **1. Influence of Religion**
	+ **Prayer flags in Bhutan**
		- **Send out mantras: sacred messages**
	+ **Hindu teachers, sadhus wear yellow robes**
		- **Only have a bowl and blanket**
	+ **Cattle are sacred to Hindus**
	+ **Muslim women dress modestly**
* **C. The Arts**
* **1. Architecture**
	+ **Taj Mahal blends Muslim and Hindu styles**
		- **Built as a tomb for a Muslim emperor’s wife**
	+ **Mosques in Pakistan and Bangladesh**
	+ **Golden Temple of the Sikhs**
	+ **Dzongs: monasteries in Bhutan**
* **C. The Arts cont.**
* **1. Music and Dance**
* **Dances are based on mythology**
* **Classical music**
	+ **Hindustani: north**
	+ **Karnatak: South**
* **Melody is the raga**
* **Rhythm is the tala**
	+ **No harmony and the improvisation**
* **2. Literature**
	+ ***Mahabharata***
	+ **Includes the *Bhagavad-Gita***
	+ ***Ramayana***
		- **Epic poems from 1500-500 BC**
* **3. Movies, most popular art form**
	+ **Produce more films per year than any other country**
* **D. Lifestyles**
* **1. Urban and Rural Contrasts**
	+ **Most people are peasant farmers, low standard of living**
		- **Subsistence farming**
	+ **Prosperous people live in the cities, live modern lifestyles**
	+ **Cities are still crowded**
		- **Millions live on the streets**
* **2. Health**
	+ **The govts. have made progress fighting tropical diseases**
	+ **Difficult to get clean water**
		- **Cholera and dysentery**
		- **High infant mortality**
			* **1/3 of babies in Nepal**
* **D. Lifestyles cont.**
* **3. Food Needs**
	+ **1/3 of the people do not get enough to eat**
	+ **Govts. are doing what they can**
* **4. Education**
	+ **Key to improving the standard of living**
	+ **In most areas, 1/3 of the people can read and write**
	+ **Sri Lanka is up to 90%**
	+ **Weakening the caste system has opened schools to lower classes**
		- **The untouchables**
* **D. Lifestyles cont.**
* **5. Celebrations**
	+ **Diwali for Hindus**
	+ **Ramadan for Muslims**
	+ **Buddhists celebrate the birth of Buddha**