**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**