

**MAJOR GEOGRAPHIC QUALITIES OF SOUTH ASIA**

- WELL DEFINED PHYSIOGRAPHICALLY
- THE WORLD'S SECOND LARGEST POPULATION CLUSTER
- SIGNIFICANT DEMOGRAPHIC PROBLEMS
- LOW INCOME ECONOMIES
- POPULATION CONCENTRATED IN VILLAGES - SUBSISTENCE AGRICULTURE
- STRONG CULTURAL REGIONALISM

**THE REALM**

India  
New Delhi

Pakistan  
Islamabad

Bangladesh  
Dhaka

Nepal  
Kathmandu

Bhutan  
Thimphu

Sri Lanka  
Colombo

**INDIA**

Population: 1 billion (531 million male and 496 million female)

Life expectancy: 62.4 (male), 63.3 (female) years

Access to safe water: 62%

Under 5 mortality rate: 98/1,000 live births (male) 105/1,000 live births (female)

Six in every ten girls do not go to secondary school

Only one in three children have access to adequate sanitation facilities

Nearly one in every ten children die before reaching the age of five

One in two children under five years old are moderately or severely underweight

[www.plan-uk.org](http://www.plan-uk.org)

**INDIA**

**CHILD LABOR**

## Child Prostitution in Nepal/India

Every year, thousands of Nepalese girls, some as young as 11 are sent to or procured for brothels in the big Indian cities, like Bombay or Calcutta.

They are often the daughters of poor farming families, where everyone must help with the family income. Girls have little or no earning potential, and if they are to marry need substantial dowries. So, when the middleman arrives in the village, and promises parents cash in return for taking the girls to work in India, or perhaps in "the circus", and that they will be fed, housed and cared for, the offer is hard to resist.

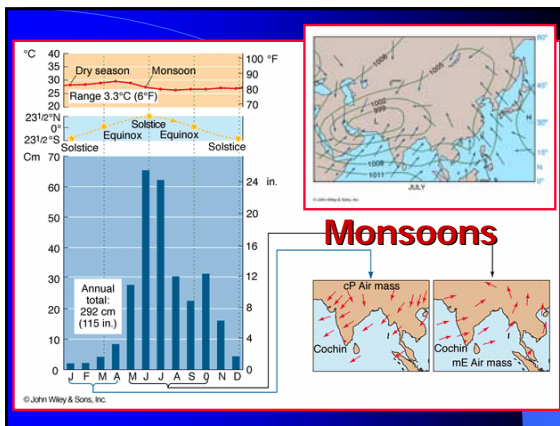
In reality, many of these girls are taken to work in Indian brothels, where new, young girls are much sought after, and their families may never hear from them again.



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## MONSOONS

- "To know India and her people, one has to know the monsoon."
- To the people of India the monsoons are a source of life.
- Seasonal reversal of winds
- General onshore movement in summer
- General offshore flow in winter
- Very distinctive seasonal precipitation regime



## POTENTIALLY NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF MONSOONS (RESULTS OF CATASTROPHIC RAINFALL)

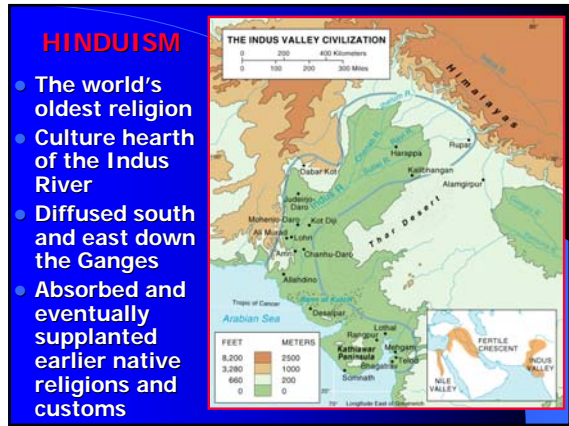
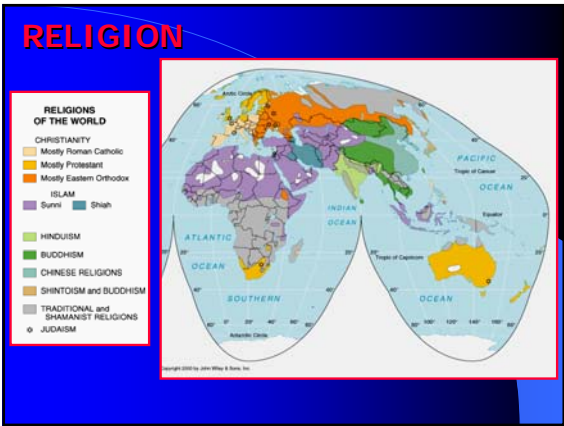
- Widespread flooding
- Property damage
- Destruction to agricultural lands
- Damage to transportation infrastructure
- Homelessness
- Disease
- Malnutrition
- Serious injury
- Death

## CULTURE

- A culturally fragmented realm
- Religious and linguistic diversity
- Religious Patterns
  - Islam is predominant in Pakistan and Bangladesh.
  - Hinduism is predominant in India.
  - Sikhism thrives in northern India.
  - Buddhism is predominant in Sri Lanka.

## CULTURE HEARTH: The Indus River

- Where an early culture emerged and developed
  - Arts and trade routes emerged from isolated tribes and villages to towns and beyond.
  - Hinduism emerged from the beliefs and practices brought to India by the Indo-Europeans (Aryans). (6th century BC)
  - Buddhism born of discontent; made the state religion of India in 3rd century BC
  - Islam sweeps through central India from the 8th -10th centuries AD



- ## HINDUISM
- Not just a religion
  - An intricate web of religious, philosophical, social, economic, and artistic elements
  - No common creed
  - No single doctrine
  - No direct divine revelation
  - No rigid narrow moral code

- ## MAJOR TENETS OF HINDUISM
- Three main ideas are important in understanding the Hindu religion and the caste system
    - Reincarnation
    - Karma
    - Dharma
- 

To be born a Hindu in India is to enter the caste system, one of the world's longest surviving forms of social stratification. Embedded in Indian culture for the past 1,500 years, the caste system follows a basic precept: All men are created unequal. The ranks in Hindu society come from a legend in which the main groupings, or *varnas*, emerge from a primordial being. From the mouth come the Brahmins—the priests and teachers. From the arms come the Kshatriyas—the rulers and soldiers. From the thighs come the Vaisyas—merchants and traders. From the feet come the Sudras—laborers. Each varna in turn contains hundreds of hereditary castes and subcastes with their own pecking orders.

A fifth group describes the people who are *achuta*, or untouchable. The primordial being does not claim them. Untouchables are outcasts—people considered too impure, too polluted, to rank as worthy beings. Prejudice defines their lives, particularly in the rural areas, where nearly three-quarters of India's people live. Untouchables are shunned, insulted, banned from temples and higher caste homes, made to eat and drink from separate utensils in public places, and, in extreme but not uncommon cases, are raped, burned, lynched, and gunned down.

*"Discrimination by caste is outlawed in India but it is a part of daily life."*

<http://magma.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0306/feature1/>

## REINCARNATION

- Every living thing has a soul.
- When a living thing dies, its soul moves into another living creature.
- Souls are reborn in a newly created life.



## KARMA

- Every action brings about certain results.
- There is no escaping the consequences of one's actions.
- Good behavior is rewarded when the soul is reborn into a higher ranking living creature.



## DHARMA

- A set of rules that must be followed by all living things if they wish to work their way up the ladder of reincarnation.
- Each person's dharma is different.



## Ganges River



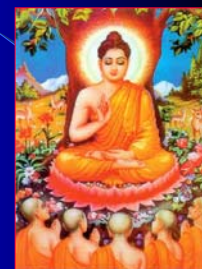
## BUDDHISM

- Adherents objected to harsher features of Hinduism
- Focuses on knowledge, especially self-knowledge
- Elimination of worldly desires, determination not to hurt or kill people or animals



## FOUR NOBLE TRUTHS

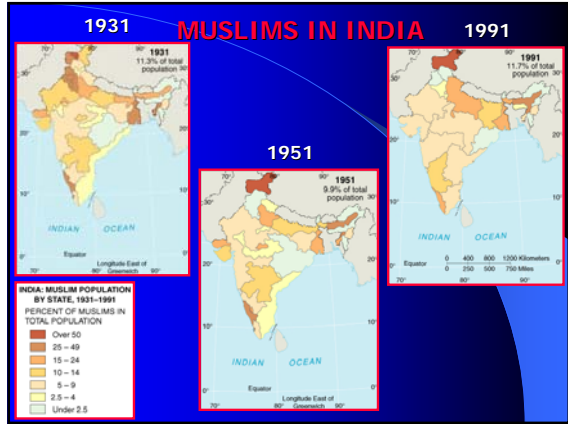
- Sorrow and suffering are part of all life.
- People suffer because they desire things they cannot have.
- The way to escape suffering is to end desire, to stop wanting, and to reach a stage of not wanting.
- To end desire, follow the "middle path," i.e., the path that avoids the extremes of too much pleasure and desire.



## EIGHTFOLD PATH TO THE MIDDLE WAY

- Right understanding
- Right purpose
- Right speech
- Right conduct
- Right means of earning a living
- Right effort
- Right awareness
- Right meditation



## RELIGIOUS CONTRASTS

**ISLAM**

- Monotheistic
- No idols
- One sacred book
- Uniform dogma - 5 pillars
- Intolerant (of other religions)
- Eat beef/Sacrifice cows
- Bury Dead
- Social Equality (in theory)
- Theocratic society

**HINDUISM**

- Polytheistic
- Many idols
- Various sacred writings
- Varying beliefs
- Absorbed other religions
- Venerate cows
- Burn dead (& alive)
- Caste separation
- "State" of secondary importance

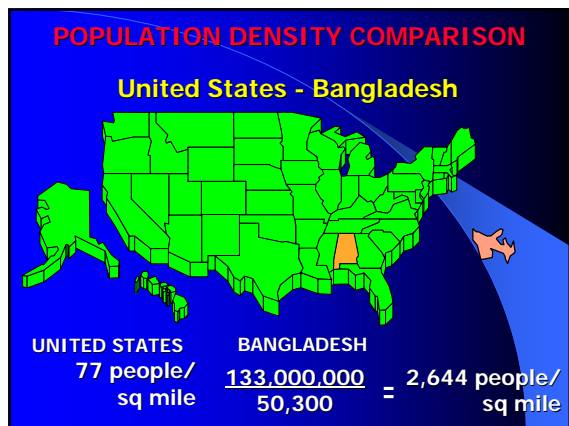
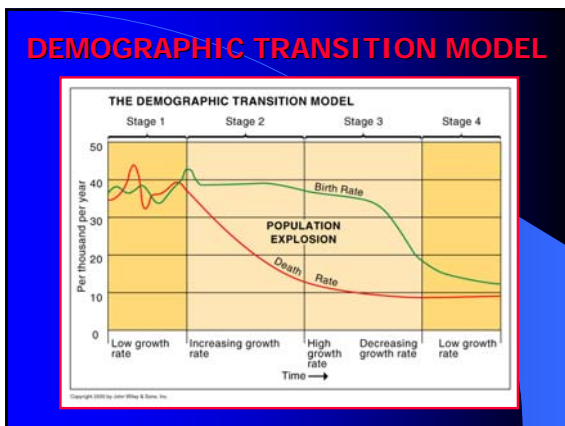
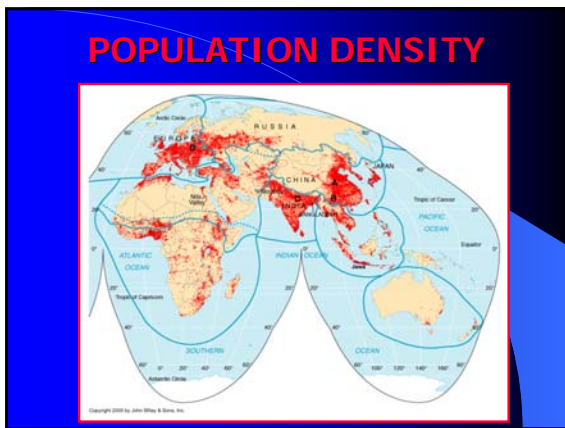
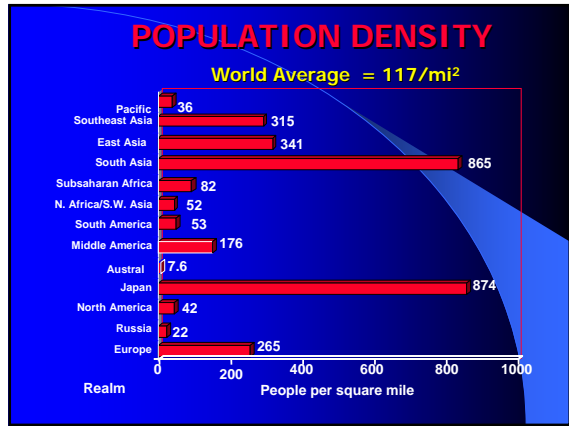
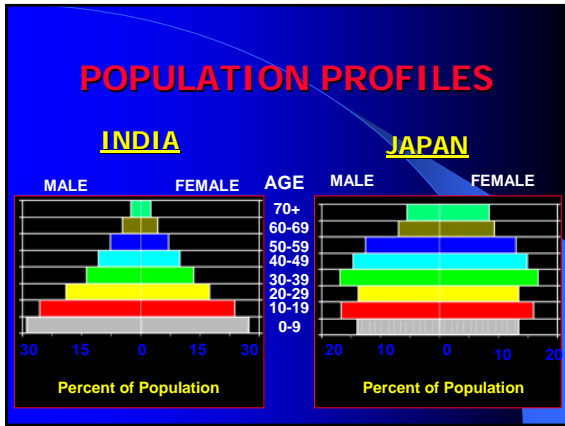
## KASHMIR

- INDEPENDENCE & PARTITION
  - JAMMU & KASHMIR FACED WITH THE CHOICE OF JOINING EITHER HINDU INDIA OR MUSLIM PAKISTAN
  - KASHMIR - HINDU MAHARAJA BUT MUSLIM POPULATION
- 1947 - PAKISTANI TRIBESMEN INVADE
- MAHARAJA FLEES TO DELHI AND ACCEDES TO INDIA
- INDIAN TROOPS MOVE IN - PAKISTANI REFUGEE TROOPS JOIN IN
- JANUARY 1949 - U.N. CEASE FIRE
- 1980-88 MUSLIM EXTREMISTS CONTINUE INSURGENCY



## POPULATION GEOGRAPHY

- THE SPATIAL VIEW OF DEMOGRAPHY
  - STUDY OF POPULATION DISTRIBUTION, COMPOSITION, RATES OF GROWTH, AND PATTERNS OF FLOW
- POPULATION DENSITY (INDIA)
  - ARITHMETIC- 904/sq mi
  - PHYSIOLOGIC- 1,615/sq mi (US=415/sq mi)
- KEY MEASURES
  - RATE OF NATURAL INCREASE
  - DOUBLING TIME



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (INDIA)

- LEVELS OF DEVELOPMENT (TECHNOLOGY)
- A MIXTURE OF TRADITIONAL VILLAGE FARMING AND MODERN AGRICULTURE
- HANDICRAFTS, OLD AND NEW BRANCHES OF INDUSTRY
- A MULTITUDE OF SUPPORT SERVICES AND NUCLEAR POWER



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (BANGLADESH)

- LEVELS OF DEVELOPMENT (TECHNOLOGY)
- ONE OF THE WORLD'S POOREST AND LEAST DEVELOPED STATES
- ECONOMY IS OVERWHELMINGLY AGRICULTURAL
- CULTIVATION OF RICE IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITY IN THE ECONOMY.



## BANGLADESH

- INDEPENDENT SINCE 1971
- FORMERLY EAST PAKISTAN
- 85% MUSLIM, 12% HINDU
- 133 MILLION PEOPLE
- PHYSIOLOGIC DENSITY = 3,622/sq mi
- 1.9% ANNUAL GROWTH RATE
- PER CAPITA GNP = 350 US DOLLARS
- NATURAL HAZARDS - CYCLONES

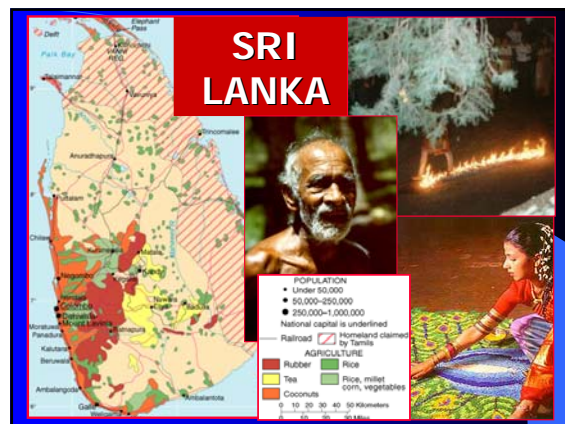
## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (PAKISTAN)

- LEVELS OF DEVELOPMENT (TECHNOLOGY)
- A POOR COUNTRY THAT SUPPORTS A LARGE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT
- ECONOMIC LIBERALIZATION BEGAN IN 1990 TO BOOST FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC PRIVATE INVESTMENT.



## SRI LANKA

- INDEPENDENT SINCE 1948
- 19.7 MILLION PEOPLE (70% BUDDHISTS)
- PLANTATION AGRICULTURE:
  - TEA, RUBBER, COCONUTS
- SOUTH (MAJORITY OF POPULATION)
  - ARYAN
  - BUDDHISTS
  - SPEAK SINHALA (INDO-EUROPEAN)
- NORTH (18% OF THE POPULATION)
  - DRAVIDIAN
  - HINDU
  - TAMIL LANGUAGE





### CULTURAL ASSESSMENT

**India** – the Sikh religion forbids cutting or shaving any body hair. Toddlers usually sleep with their parents until the age of 4 or 5. The head motion for “yes” and “no” are opposite of those in the United States. Men shake hands with other men but not women.

**Nepal** – only a mother, sister, daughter, or wife can be touched by a male family member. During his wife’s pregnancy, a husband is not allowed to slaughter an animal. Adult literacy rates for males and females are 41% and 14%, respectively.

**Bhutan** – young women may self-inflict burns in response to family quarrels. Except for noble families, Bhutanese do not have surnames.

**Bangladesh** – about 60,000 women of reproductive age die each year, 25% of whom die of pregnancy complications. Rural, traditional custom requires the mother to reach a water source unaided to wash herself and her clothing immediately after birth. Boys receive preferential treatment in terms of family food allocation and health care practices.

**Pakistan** - women are governed by different laws than men. Women are expected to be obedient to men and are discouraged from making decisions. The most traditional Pakistanis may wrap their infants in cow dung to give them the strength and warmth needed for growth.