

Cambodia: A Reign of Terror

In 1953 Cambodia won its independence from France. The country then became a **constitutional monarchy** led by King Norodom Sihanouk. Cambodia tried to remain neutral during the Vietnam War. However, when North Vietnam and the Viet Cong troops began using Cambodia as a hiding place, Cambodia was drawn into the war. American planes began bombing Viet Cong camps and supply lines in Cambodia. As a result of the bombing, the conflict between Communist rebels and the Cambodian government increased. In 1970 an army officer named Lon Nol overthrew the Cambodian government of Sihanouk.



Cambodia

Between 1970-1975, North Vietnam and the Viet Cong forces in Cambodia supported Cambodian Communist guerrillas called the *Khmer Rouge* to fight Lon Nol's government. Cambodia eventually fell to the Communist leader Pol Pot and his troops in 1975. The country was renamed *Kampuchea*. In order to drastically change Cambodian society, the Pol Pot government began a *reign* (period of rule) of terror. The government killed anyone that it believed to be an enemy of the Communist Revolution. All the people

who lived in cities were moved to rural areas. They were forced to work on government-run farms under the close supervision of the army. The Khmer Rouge wanted Cambodia to become a self-sufficient agricultural country. Pol Pot's army murdered government workers, teachers, and many other educated professionals who may have supported the old system. Conditions in Cambodia were terrible. Starvation, torture, and famine were widespread. The Khmer Rouge killed over three million people, one third of the nation's population.

In December of 1978, Vietnam invaded Kampuchea and eventually overthrew the Khmer Rouge and Pol Pot. Vietnam installed a new government and attempted to rebuild the country's economy. The Vietnamese withdrew their forces in 1979. The Khmer Rouge withdrew to remote areas and continued fighting for years to regain power. Since 1990 the United Nations has attempted to restore peace to Kampuchea, which

is again called *Cambodia*. Many refugees are being resettled in their country in an attempt to restore normal conditions to this shattered nation. In October 1991, the representatives of the four major political groups in Cambodia signed an agreement that ended the 20-year civil war and called for free elections. In 1993 elections brought about the establishment of a stable government. A *coalition* or temporary alliance was formed between several political parties. In 1994 the united government captured Khmer Rouge strongholds. By 1997 all the remaining Khmer Rouge leaders were captured or surrendered. Trials for the mass murderers were scheduled to begin. Pol Pot was never held accountable for his crimes. He died in his jungle hideout in 1998.

Pol Pot (1928-1998)

Cambodian politician Pol Pot was born Saloth Sar on May 19, 1928, in Kompong Thom Province, Cambodia. When he was five or six, he was sent to live with his older brother in Phnom Penh. He was not a good student and failed the entrance examination for high school, so he briefly studied carpentry. In 1949 he was awarded a scholarship to study radio electronics in Paris. While there, he became active in the anti-French resistance under Ho Chi-Minh. His scholarship was cut short after he failed examinations, and he returned to Phnom Penh in 1953 but had to leave in 1963 because of his Communist ties. By 1963 he adopted the pseudonym Pol Pot and continued in his efforts to strengthen the Communist Party. In 1975, Pol Pot became prime minister and in 1976 became leader of the Khmer Rouge guerrillas. As the country's new prime minister, he set up a totalitarian regime which caused the death, imprisonment, or exile of an estimated 1.7 million people. Hundreds of thousands of Cambodians were forced to work on disease-ridden collective farms. He withdrew to the mountains to lead the Khmer Rouge forces against the Vietnamese invasion of his country. He announced his retirement in 1985, but he remained an influential figure. On April 15, 1998, just as negotiations for his transfer for trial seemed promising, Pol Pot died of natural causes.

Despite the progress made in recent years, the economy of Cambodia continues to suffer from the effects of decades of civil war and government corruption. The standard of living is improving rapidly, but remains low compared with its neighbors in this region. Most rural households depend

on agriculture. The general population in the countryside lacks the education and skills necessary for Cambodia's economic growth. The government is trying to attract foreign investment and recently has seen an increase in its tourist industry. The tourism industry is the country's second-greatest source of revenue. Next is "hard currency," which is currency or money that is widely accepted around the world as a form of payment for goods and services. After that is the textile industry.



Angkor Wat is a massive complex of ancient Cambodian temples with a 2.5 mile perimeter. It was constructed over 30 years and consists of five towers with beautiful examples of Khmer and Hindu art. In 1992, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Committee declared the monument, and the whole city of Angkor, a World Heritage site.

Myanmar (Burma)

Myanmar, formerly known as *Burma*, became an independent republic in 1948. Facing ethnic tensions and opposition from the Communists, Myanmar's government became dominated by military leaders in 1962. During the 1960s-1970s, Myanmar's repressive military dictatorship seized control of the economy and strictly limited human rights. It closed off Myanmar from contact with the outside world. Myanmar's economy was modeled after the Chinese state-controlled economy. By the 1980s, the people began to protest the government's policies and push for democracy. When free elections were held in 1990, the opposition party led by Aung San Suu Kyi (awng sahn soo shee) won the election. The government leaders refused to accept the results of the election and jailed, killed, or sent into exile many of the opposition leaders.



The temple of Dhammayangyi, Bagan, Myanmar (Burma) is easily viewed. One can gaze over 40 square miles of countryside with thousands of temples in sight.

Aung San Suu Kyi was placed under house arrest. In 1991 she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her nonviolent struggle for human rights and democracy in her country. She was released in 1995 after worldwide attention was focused on her struggle. Her house arrest was extended in May 2007. Although peace talks with rebel groups began, the military government has refused to allow the **parliament** to meet. The people of Myanmar continue to struggle for democracy to this day.

Aung San Suu Kyi (1945-)

Aung San Suu Kyi was born in Yangon, Myanmar (formerly Rangoon, Burma). She studied in India and at Oxford where she met her future husband. They had two children and lived a relatively quiet life until she returned to Myanmar to care for her dying mother. Social unrest forced dictator General Ne Win to resign in 1988, and the military took power. Aung San Suu Kyi began speaking out against him and began a nonviolent struggle for human rights and democracy. She co-founded the National League for Democracy (NLD). She was later arrested in 1989 along with many NLD members. In 1990 the NLD won more than 80 percent of the parliamentary seats that were contested, but the military government ignored it. The military agreed to release her from house arrest if she would agree to leave Myanmar, but she refused to leave until political prisoners were freed and the country was returned to the civilian government. She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 and was released from house arrest in July 1995.

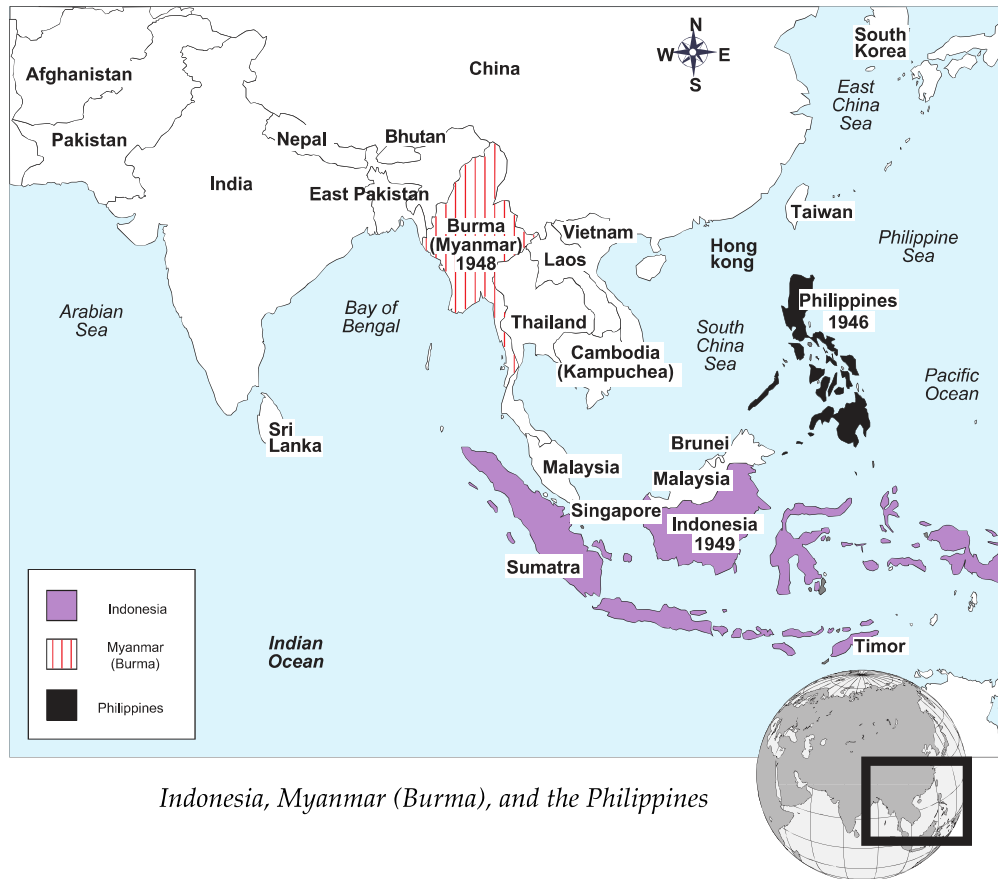
In recent years, she has been repeatedly placed under house arrest. Despite a direct appeal by Kofi Annan, the UN secretary to Burmese government, and pressure from the world community, the Burmese **military junta** extended Aung San Suu Kyi's house arrest in May 2007.

Myanmar's foreign relations, especially with the West, have been strained. The United States has placed economic sanctions on Myanmar because its government refused to uphold the results of the 1990 People's Assembly election. In addition, the EU has placed an arms *embargo* and discontinued all aid, with the exception of humanitarian aid.

Indonesia

Indonesia won its independence from the Dutch after World War II. Like many other third world nations, Indonesia had numerous obstacles to overcome. Indonesia, like the Philippines, is an *archipelago* (a group of many islands). Indonesia has 13,000 islands which stretch across 3,000 miles of ocean. Its 200 million people include many different ethnic groups and religions. Indonesia's first President Achmed Sukarno united his country's diverse population and took a leadership role in international affairs. Sukarno's government became *hostile* (angry towards) to the West and friendly with Communist China. The influence of communism in Indonesia grew steadily. A giant power struggle between the military and

the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI) caused increasing tensions in Sukarno's government. Then in 1965, a group of the military's army officers attempted to overthrow the government.



Indonesia, Myanmar (Burma), and the Philippines

A military leader named Suharto put down the *coup*, and then *seized* (took) power for himself. The coup was blamed on the Communists. Thousands were killed in a violent revolt that followed, primarily the ethnic Chinese who were suspected of being Communists or Communist sympathizers. Strongly anti-Communist, Suharto eventually became the new president in 1967. Suharto's policies soon turned Indonesia into a police state. He frequently placed his country under *martial law* (military rule) and was accused of many human rights violations. The Chinese living in Indonesia often faced discrimination, and the Christian population was frequently persecuted.

In the decades that followed, Indonesia's economy grew rapidly because of its oil and mineral resources, as well as agricultural exports of coffee and rubber. However, only the rich enjoyed the benefits of Indonesia's expanding economy. In 1975 Indonesia invaded and eventually *annexed*

(took control of) the eastern half of the island of Timor, which had been a Portuguese colony. Indonesia, a former Dutch colony, including East Timor, was governed by Portuguese for 400 years. The people of East Timor are mainly Catholic, although 90 percent of Indonesians are Muslim.

Since the annexation, more than 200,000 Timorese have died from starvation due to famine, disease, and fighting. In 1996 East Timor received international attention when two of its resistance activists, Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo and Jose Ramos-Horta, received the Nobel Peace Prize. In August 1999, the UN-sponsored election in East Timor resulted in 79 percent of the population voting to *secede* (to break away) from Indonesia. After the election, pro-Indonesian militias and Indonesian soldiers massacred civilians and forced a third of the population out of the region. After international pressure, Indonesia agreed to allow UN forces into East Timor. A peacekeeping force tried to restore order. About 100,000 refugees were living in dirty, disease-ridden camps in West Timor. Tensions were still running high as local and world leaders sought to find ways to peacefully relocate people to their homes.

In 1997 Indonesia, like many other Asian nations, suffered economic setbacks. The value of the currency rapidly declined and many banks failed. Riots and antigovernment demonstrations broke out. Student demonstrators demanded the resignation of Suharto. In 1998 Suharto resigned, ending 32 years of rule. Student demonstrations continued as the economic crisis in Indonesia increased. Many demonstrators demanded political and economic reforms. On June 7, 1999, Indonesia had its first free parliamentary election since 1955. Presidential elections were held in November 1999. The newly elected President Abdurrahman Wahid announced that corruption charges would be filed against former President Suharto. Suharto was accused of stealing over \$157 million from charitable foundations he controlled. In addition, President Wahid promised to pardon Suharto if he returned the estimated \$45 billion he stole from the Indonesian people.

From 1998 to 2006, Indonesia has had four presidents. Corruption and political scandals, internal ethnic and religious strife have created continu□ amended the constitution and established the direct election of their president. The first direct presidential election was held in 2004 and won

by Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. The new president has promised to work to increase prosperity through continued economic growth based on foreign investment.

Since 2001, the Indonesian government has collaborated with the United States in cracking down on Islamic *terrorist* groups. In 2002, the deadliest act of terrorism in Indonesian history occurred in Bali. The majority of the 200 killed were foreign tourists, in particular Australians. The group suspected of the bombings was a radical fundamentalist Muslim terror network organized by Osama bin Laden, known as **al Qaeda** or **al-Qaeda**. Those involved in this terrorist act were sentenced to death.

In December of 2004, a powerful earthquake and **tsunami** (or large ocean wave) destroyed parts of the island of Sumatra in Indonesia. Again in March of 2005 and May of 2006, earthquakes destroyed many of the island communities, killing thousands.

The Philippines Struggle towards Democracy

The Southeast Asian nation known as the *Philippines* is an archipelago (a group of many islands) east of Vietnam in the Pacific Ocean. After World War II, the Philippines won their independence, ending almost 50 years of American rule. The United States had controlled the Philippines since the end of the Spanish-American War in 1898. Although the Philippines were an independent nation, the United States controlled several military bases by treaty and maintained a strong economic presence there.



Although the Philippines had a democratic government, a wealthy upper class tightly controlled politics and the economy. The rich controlled most of the land, with the economy being dependent upon plantation agriculture. The majority of the population were poor countryside

dwellers who survived on inadequate amounts of food they grew on their small farms. Many moved into the cities, leading to the development of massive slums.

In 1965 Ferdinand Marcos was elected president. Although he promised reforms, he made himself dictator of the Philippines. Political opponents were persecuted or forced into exile. During the 1970s, his corrupt and repressive government was faced with demonstrations and left-wing guerrilla movements. The Marcos government responded by declaring martial law. Marcos' downfall resulted when his government **assassinated** popular opposition leader Benigno Aquino. Public outrage over the assassination forced new elections in 1986. Marcos won the election, but many suspected fraud. The Philippine people were unwilling to accept the outcome of the election and violent protests led to the overthrow of the Marcos' government. Corazon Aquino, the widow of the murdered opposition leader, became the new president.

When Mrs. Aquino took office, she promised to promote land reform, establish a new constitution, and recover the wealth that was stolen during the Marcos administration. However, opposition to Aquino grew during her administration. Marcos supporters, the military, **left-wing** guerrillas, and Philippine Nationalists who were opposed to American military bases in the Philippines weakened her administration. Although the Philippine economy remained heavily dependent on assistance from the United States and the international community, the Philippine people came to resent the presence of the American military bases in their country. The national legislature voted not to renew the leases on American military bases. As a result, in 1992, the United States had to withdraw its military personnel from the Philippines and close its bases.

Corazon Aquino (1933-)

Corazon Aquino was president of the Philippines from 1986-1992. She restored democratic rule in the Philippines after the long dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos. Corazon was born into a politically prominent, wealthy family in Tarlac province north of Manila. She studied at Mount St. Vincent College in New York before marrying Benigno S. Aquino in 1956. He eventually became an opposition opponent to Ferdinand Marcos. Marcos had Benigno jailed for eight years. Benigno was exiled in 1980 to the United States, and Corazon accompanied him. When they returned to the Philippines in 1983, Benigno was *assassinated* by a military guard at the Manila airport. This event caused opposition to the Marcos government.

Corazon took up her husband's causes and was chosen by the opposition to be their candidate in the elections in 1986. She was officially reported to have lost the election to Marcos. She and her supporters challenged the results and accused the government of ballot-rigging. Officials denounced Marcos and proclaimed Corazon the rightful president. On February 25, 1986, both Aquino and Marcos were inaugurated as president by their supporters. That very day, Marcos fled the country. Aquino proclaimed a provisional constitution and appointed a commission to write a new constitution. She did not run for re-election in 1992; however, the peaceful election in 1992 of her chosen successor, Fidel Ramos, was seen as evidence that she had established and preserved a working democracy.

Several attempts were made to overthrow Aquino's government, but she successfully completed her presidential term. In 1992 Fidel Ramos succeeded her as president. The Ramos administration promoted a *national reconciliation* to bring together all opposition groups in the country. Although the Philippine economy was hurt by the withdrawal of the United States, it was able to steadily grow throughout the 1990s. In 1998, Joseph Estrada, a popular actor, became the new president of the Philippines. His administration had lost favor with the people because of accusations of corruption.

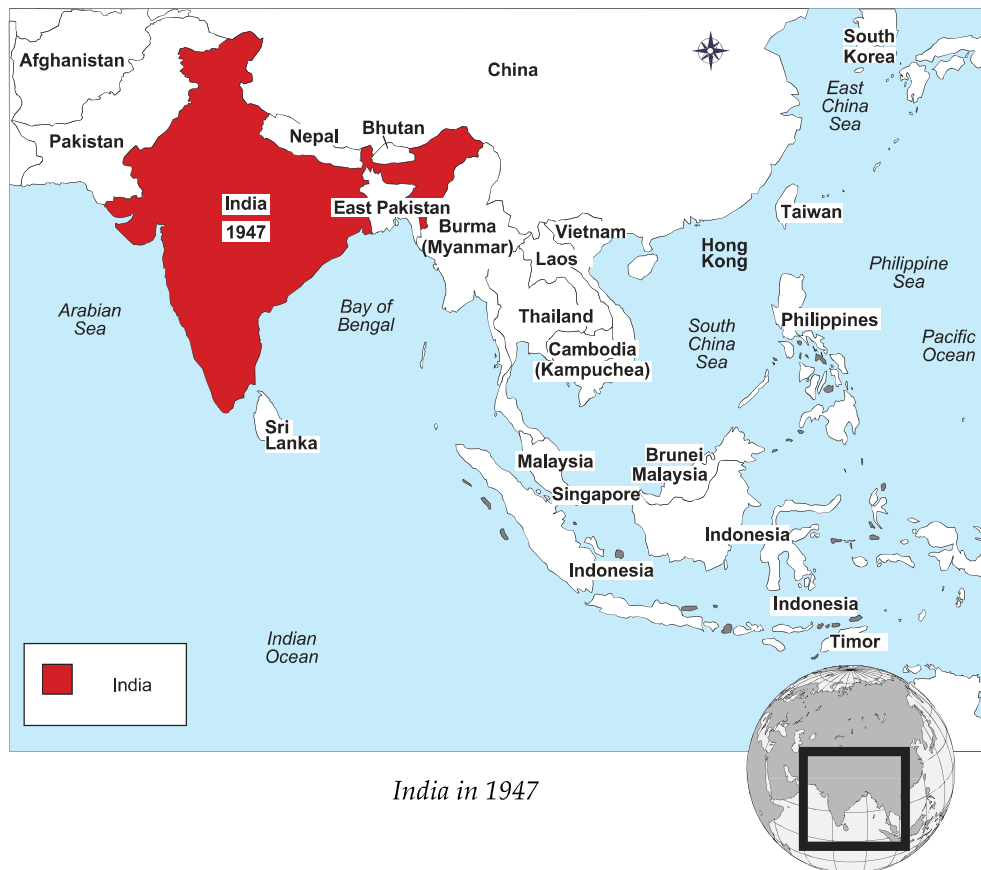
President Estrada was impeached and eventually removed from office in 2001. The Philippines new president, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, is faced with the task of reforming the country's struggling economy and corrupt

government. The Philippines in recent years has also been plagued by massive national debt, coup attempts, a communist insurgency, and a Muslim separatist movement.

Arroyo's vision for the country is to "build a strong republic." She has promised to lower crime rates, increase tax collection, improve economic growth, and intensify counter-terrorism efforts.

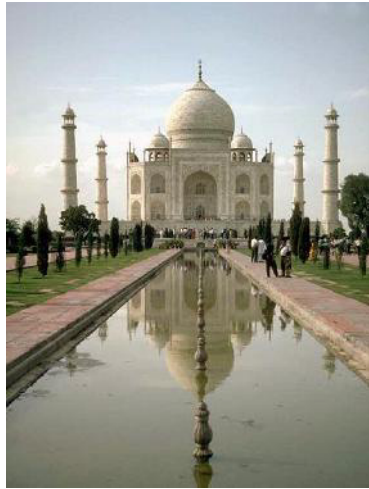
Independence for South Asia: Dividing the Indian Subcontinent

India



India in 1947

India's independence movement started at the beginning of the 20th century. After World War I, Great Britain promised India greater self-rule. In the 1920s, an Indian Nationalist named Mohandas Gandhi led a movement across India to resist British rule. Gandhi was a devout Hindu who was called *Mahatma* (Great Soul) by his followers. He applied the Hindu belief in *ahimsa* (nonviolence) with *passive resistance* (peaceful noncooperation) as a means to fight against British rule. Gandhi's followers committed a series of nonviolent actions in the form of acts of civil disobedience and **boycotts** to force the British to eventually hand over more power to the Indians. Complete independence from British rule did



The Taj Mahal was built by a Muslim, Emperor Shah Jahan. He reigned from 1628-1658. He had the Taj Mahal built in the memory of his dear wife and queen Mumtaz Mahal at Agra, India. Today it is a tourist site.

not come until after World War II. A centuries-old rivalry existed between the Muslims and Hindus of India. Neither religious group trusted or liked the other. Great Britain negotiated with both the *Indian National Congress*, which was mostly Hindu, and the *Muslim League*, which represented the Muslims of India. However, Hindus and Muslims were unwilling to accept a single Indian state. Although Gandhi objected to the division of India, in 1947 the British decided to split the colony of India into two new independent countries: India, dominated by Hindus, and Pakistan, controlled by Muslims. Pakistan would be a nation divided in two sections separated by more than 1,000 miles. On the northwest of India would be *West Pakistan* and on the northeastern border with India would be *East Pakistan*.

Mohandas “Mahatma” K. Gandhi (1869-1948)

Mohandas K. Gandhi was born in 1869 to Hindu parents in the state of Gujarat in Western India. He entered an arranged marriage with Kasturbai Makanji when both were 13 years old. He later went to London to study law. He went to Southern Africa, where he lived until 1914, where he worked to improve the rights of the immigrant Indians. It was there that he developed his creed of passive resistance against injustice, *satyagraha*, meaning truth force. He held to his beliefs despite persecution and imprisonment. Before he returned to India with his wife and children in 1915, he had radically changed the lives of Indians living in Southern Africa.

Back in India, he became leader of the Congress Party, initiating the campaign which led to the independence of India after World War II. He never wavered in his belief in nonviolent protest. When Muslim and Hindu compatriots committed acts of violence, he fasted until the fighting ceased.

Independence came in 1947, but to Gandhi's despair, the country was partitioned into Hindu India and Muslim Pakistan. The last two months of his life were spent trying to end the violence which came, leading him to fast (to eat little or no food) to the brink of death. In January 1948, at the age of 79, he was assassinated by a Hindu fanatic who disapproved of his tolerance of Muslims.

As India planned for its future independence, violent riots broke out between Hindus and Muslims throughout India. Many feared becoming religious minorities in the new countries, so Hindus quickly left for India and Muslims fled to Pakistan. The flight of millions of Hindus and Muslims across new borders led to violent clashes between the rival religions. These two religious groups deeply distrusted one another and had been at odds throughout history. The British complicated matters by playing one religious group against the other throughout their colonial rule in India. The migration of 10-12 million people, the largest in history, led to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people. On January 30, 1948, Gandhi was assassinated by a Hindu extremist who was unhappy with Gandhi's acceptance of the breakup of India. The death of Gandhi and the killings during the mass migration did not end the conflicts between Hindus and Muslims. Tensions between Hindus and Muslims continued because many Muslims remained in India.



Gandhi

The Nehru Period

From 1947-1964, India was ruled by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru (ju-waw-hur-lawl nae-roo), a member of the Congress Party. India established a democratic government with a constitution that guaranteed civil liberties to all of its citizens. Its government was modeled after the British system with a parliament led by a prime minister. Although there were many political parties, the Congress Party was the dominant political force. It claimed to represent the interests of all Indians. The new constitution established a strong central government with local governments to meet the needs of the local communities. However, India faced many challenges. It was a nation of diverse religions, ethnic, and language groups. Most Indians were Hindu; however, millions of others were Muslim, Christian, Sikh, or Buddhist.



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Prime Minister Nehru's new government worked to modernize his country and develop industry. Nehru wanted to create a system of *democratic socialism* in his country. The government owned and operated the major industries and private ownership was permitted at the local level. Nehru avoided dependence on foreign investment in his country. By

law, all businesses were to be owned mostly by Indians. The Nehru government also refused to take sides with the superpowers during the Cold War. Under Nehru, India became the leader of the *nonaligned* nations. The nonaligned nations followed a policy of neutrality in international affairs. India also sought to provide leadership to all newly independent nations in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The neutral stand of India was in direct opposition to the United States policy on containing communism. India wanted to be on friendly terms with both the United States and the Soviet Union.

Indira and Rajiv Gandhi

Soon after the death of Nehru in 1964, the Congress Party chose Nehru's daughter Indira Gandhi (who was *not* related to Mohandas Gandhi) as India's new prime minister. She followed many of the policies of her father and tried to improve the quality of life of India's poor. India would remain a poor country as long as it was unable to support its rapidly growing population. India's rapid population growth led the government to establish a program of *forced sterilization*. Men who had fathered too many children were sometimes forced to accept sterilization. Despite these efforts, India has made little progress in controlling its population. By 2000 the population of India had reached one billion people.

Indira Gandhi's forced birth control policies and many of her actions made her unpopular. In 1975 government corruption, **censorship**, and limitations on civil liberties led to the collapse of her government. She was defeated in the general elections in 1977 but was able to make a comeback a few years later. After her reelection in 1980, she was faced with the rise of severe ethnic and religious violence. The *Sikhs* (pronounced "seeks"), followers of a religion based on both Hindu and Muslim ideas, demanded independence for their province, the prosperous Punjab region of India. Indira Gandhi's use of military force to put down a Sikh rebellion led to her assassination. She was killed in 1984 by two of her personal bodyguards who were Sikhs. Her son Rajiv (raw-jeev) replaced her as prime minister.

Indira Gandhi (1917-1984)

Indira Gandhi was born on November 19, 1917, in Allahabad, India. She was the only child of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of India. Gandhi graduated from Visva-Bharati University, Bengal and studied at the University of Oxford, England. In 1938 she joined the National Congress party and became active in India's independence movement. She married Feroze Gandhi, a Parsi lawyer and fellow member of the party, in 1942. Shortly after, both were arrested by the British on charges of subversion and spent 13 months in prison. Five years later, her father took office as prime minister.

Indira Gandhi joined the executive body of the Congress Party, and in 1959 was elected as the president of the party, becoming a national political figure in her own right. Following the death of her father in May 1964, Gandhi became minister of information. When the prime minister died suddenly in 1966, Gandhi became leader of the Congress Party and prime minister. In the election in 1967, she won by a slim margin; however, in 1971 she won in a landslide victory. In 1975 Gandhi was convicted of a minor infraction of the election laws during the 1971 campaign. She charged that the conviction was part of an attempt to remove her from office and, instead of resigning, declared a national state of emergency, imprisoned her political opponents, and passed many laws limiting personal freedoms. Gandhi called a general election in 1977. Gandhi and the Congress Party were defeated, and she was imprisoned briefly on charges of official corruption.

In the elections of 1980, she regained her seat in Parliament and became prime minister again. Her elder son Sanjay Gandhi also won a seat for the lower house of parliament, and she thought he could become her successor. When Sanjay died in a plane crash that June, she began grooming her younger son, Rajiv Gandhi, for eventual leadership of her party.

In 1984 Gandhi ordered an army attack on the Golden Temple of Amritsar, the Sikhs' holiest shrine, which led to the deaths of more than 450 Sikhs. On October 31, 1984, Gandhi was shot and killed in her garden in New Delhi, by two of her own Sikh bodyguards. After her death, her son Rajiv served as prime minister until 1989 when his party lost the national elections. He was assassinated by Tamil Tiger terrorists in a bombing 18 months later at an election rally in Madras on May 21, 1991.

Rajiv was not an effective leader, although his government did begin a program to encourage foreign investment and private enterprise. Many accused his government of corruption and not doing enough to help the nation's poor. In 1991 he was assassinated by *Tamil* (Tamils are an ethnic group from southern India and Sri Lanka) militants who objected to India's involvement in the civil war in *Sri Lanka* (an island country neighboring India). In the years since Rajiv's assassination, the power of the ruling Congress Party has declined. Rising new political parties have competed with the Congress Party in both state and national elections. During the 1990s, the Hindu Party called Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) dominated India's government. In addition, rising tensions between various *separatist groups* (ethnic or religious groups who want their own independent state) and between Hindus and Muslims have caused instability in India.

The first Sikh Indian prime minister, Manmohan Singh, was elected in 2004. He is the most educated Indian Prime Minister in history. His administration has promised to focus on debt relief for India's poorest farmers, to expand social programs, and to continue promoting economic and tax policies that have successfully driven the major economic expansion of India's industrial growth since 2002.

Problems Facing India

India still struggles to make economic and social reforms. To make India self-sufficient in food production, the government took part in the *Green Revolution*. The Green Revolution used new scientific discoveries and technologies to develop new kinds of grains in order to rapidly increase food yields. This program has had limited success because many of India's poor rural peasant farmers cannot afford to make the changes necessary to increase the efficiency of their farms.

India's rapid population growth has caused many problems. In 1999 India became the second country



A direct result of India's slums have been pollution and the spread of disease.

ever to have more than one billion people. Although many Indians have benefited from the India's steady economic growth, more than one-third of India's people live in poverty. As India's population has boomed, many of the poor have left rural areas and moved into the already overcrowded cities. As a result, many slums and *shantytowns* have spread around cities. Many cities in India have been unable to care for these people, who are often both homeless and jobless. A direct result of India's slums have been pollution and the spread of disease.

As India continues to modernize, it struggles with many social issues. It struggles with overcoming the centuries-old discrimination against the *untouchables* (the lowest-ranking people in the **caste system**, a class system in which people are restricted to the social and professional life of the class into which a person is born) and the unfair treatment of women. Although India's constitution outlaws discrimination and guarantees equal rights to all of its citizens, peasants in rural areas still cling to tradition. Belief in the *caste system* continues to undermine social equality in India.

Ethnic and religious tensions threaten the stability of India. There are dozens of different ethnic groups in India. Many of these ethnic groups do not get along. Others want their regions to become independent countries. Violence has often been the result of these conflicts. Distrust between religious groups, such as Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs, also has led to clashes.



As India begins to modernize, it struggles with many social issues.

The military rivalry between Pakistan and India is a problem for both countries. There is tension and distrust between the two countries. They have fought four wars since 1947 and border clashes are frequent. Military spending drains the economies of both countries, so not enough money is left for social programs and economic development. India and Pakistan both have developed atomic weapons, so any future war between them could become a nuclear catastrophe. Currently, the Indian government is seeking to reduce religious tensions and conflicts. It is also seeking political support from minorities like Muslims and Christians.

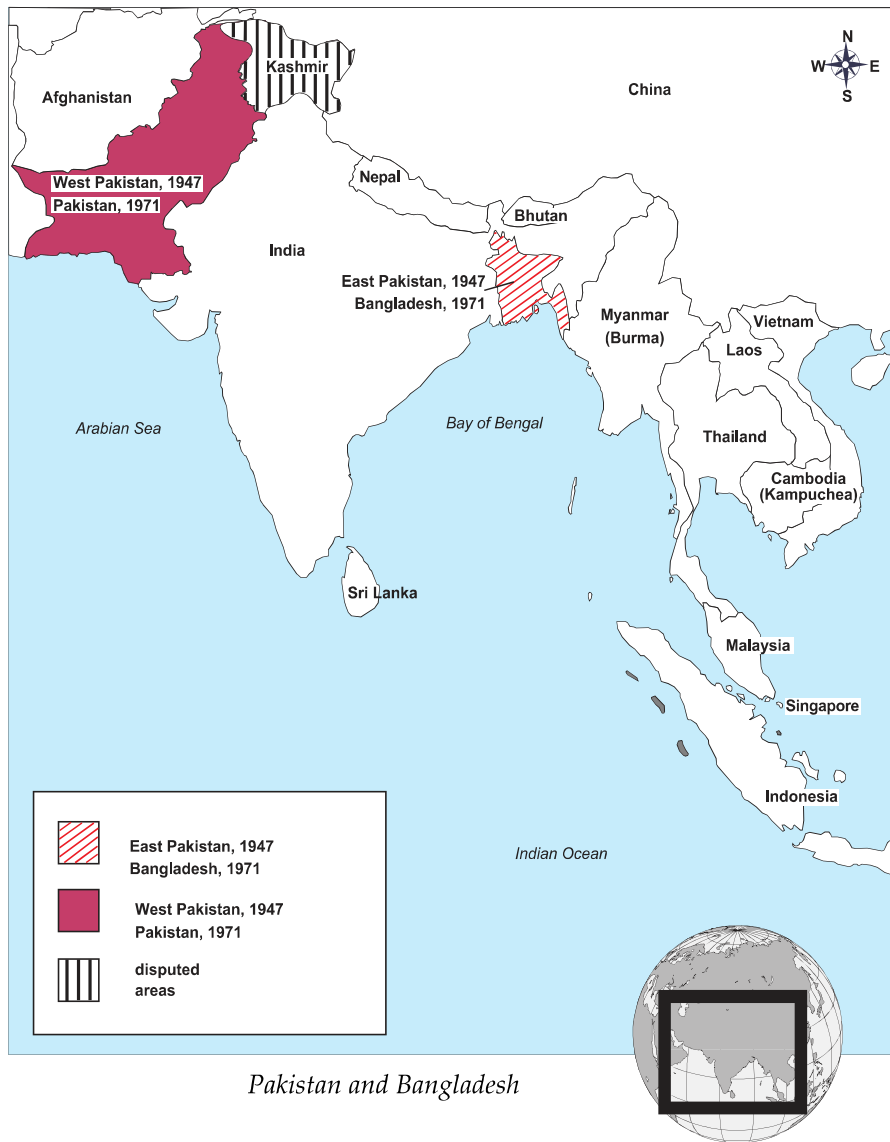
Pakistan Is Born a Divided Nation

Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the leader of the Muslim League, actively pursued the creation of an independent state for Muslims during the 1930s. Muslims did not want to be part of the Republic of India. As in India, when independence was declared, massive population movements were accompanied by widespread violence. This led to the deaths of many Muslims who had fled from India to the newly created Muslim country of Pakistan. Pakistan began as a divided nation. It consisted of two territories separated by more than 1,000 miles on the northeast and northwestern borders of India. Pakistan gained its independence from Great Britain in 1947.

East Pakistan Becomes the New Nation of Bangladesh

When Mohammad Ali Jinnah died in 1948, there was no strong leader to take his place. In 1956 Pakistan became a republic ruled by a series of military rulers for the next two decades. Pakistan also suffered from religious and ethnic turmoil. Tensions between East Pakistan and West Pakistan began to grow. Many citizens in East Pakistan believed that they were not fairly represented in Pakistan's government. East and West Pakistan had little in common with each other besides the Muslim faith. The culture, language, ethnic background, economic way of life, and the geography of the two regions were vastly different. West Pakistan was mountainous and dry and East Pakistan was a densely populated tropical lowlands.

A civil war began in 1971 as East Pakistan fought for its independence from West Pakistan. East Pakistan became the independent country of *Bangladesh*. West Pakistan became known simply as *Pakistan*. Tensions between India and West Pakistan dramatically increased when India joined the war on the side of East Pakistan. Fighting quickly spread to the province of Kashmir in northwestern India. Although a cease-fire finally ended the hostilities between India and Pakistan, tensions and distrust between the two countries still exist. Eventually, Pakistan recognized its former territory of East Pakistan as the country of Bangladesh. The breakup of East and West Pakistan led to the collapse of the military regime in West Pakistan.



Pakistan and Bangladesh

Problems Facing Bangladesh and Pakistan

Since 1971 the new nation of Bangladesh has struggled to modernize. Its geography has stood in the way of raising the standard of living for its people. Cyclones and devastating floods from monsoon rains have destroyed villages and farm lands in recent years. Most of the people in Bangladesh live in poverty. Their tiny country cannot support its rapidly growing population. A series of corrupt and inefficient military dictatorships have ruled Bangladesh since the 1970s. Several of its prime ministers have been assassinated. In the 1990s, civilian government

leaders tried to encourage foreign investment. However, many foreign businesses invested in Bangladesh simply to take advantage of the cheap labor market. According to human rights advocates, many young children were forced to work long hours in textile factories under *sweatshop* conditions.

After the breakup of East and West Pakistan, a new civilian government ruled by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto ruled Pakistan. Soon, however, the Bhutto government was overthrown by the military, and Bhutto was put to death. The subsequent military government of General Zia Ul Ha'q (zee-uh ul hawk) tried to establish an Islamic state which used Islamic law as the basis for the legal system. After Zia's death in 1988, a democratic election resulted in the election of Benazir Bhutto, the daughter of Ali Bhutto, as prime minister. Pakistan's democratic governments have been short-lived. The military overthrew the government twice, accusing Benazir Bhutto's government of corruption. In the 1990s, Pakistan had a succession of unstable governments.

In a military *coup*, Pervez Musharraf seized control of the government of Pakistan in 1999. He assumed the title of President of Pakistan and the Chief of Army Staff of the Pakistani military in 2001. After the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States, (see Unit 12), the Pakistani leader sided with the United States in its war on terrorism in Afghanistan. Many believe that his support was important in defeating the *Taliban* regime, a very conservative Islamic government that controlled Afghanistan. The Taliban regime gave support and refuge to Osama bin Laden and his radical fundamentalist Muslim terror network known as *al Qaeda*.

From the 1970s until the present, India and Pakistan have fought over control of the province of Kashmir. Kashmiri Muslims, who make up the majority of the population, want to become part of Pakistan. India and Pakistan have gone to war several times over Kashmir. Both countries have escalated the conflict through their development of nuclear weapons. India's test *detonation* (explosion) of five nuclear weapons in 1998 near Pakistan's borders increased tensions. Pakistan evened the score by detonating its own nuclear weapons later that year.

Afghanistan Struggles for Stability

Afghanistan is a small, mountainous, landlocked nation sharing a border with Pakistan in the east and Iran in the west. It is one of the least-developed nations in the world. Most of its people making a living as farmers and animal herders. During the 19th century, Afghanistan struggled to be free of foreign control. The Russian and the British both competed for control of this region; however, by 1919 Afghanistan had become an independent nation and established a **monarchy**, a government in which a king or queen as supreme power. In 1973, the *monarchy* fell in a military coup and a *republic* was established.

In 1978, a pro-Soviet Communist-style dictatorship was established in Afghanistan. Most of the population opposed the Communist government. Its policies conflicted with the deeply rooted Islamic faith of the Afghani people. The opposition, known as the **mujahideen**, or “holy warriors,” was a rebel group of guerrilla fighters that fought against the Soviets and the Communist government. The civil war that ensued prompted the Soviet Union to invade Afghanistan in 1979 in support of the Communist government. The Afghan rebels successfully used guerrilla warfare against the Soviet armies to their advantage. The United States also provided financial and military assistance to the rebels. After more than 10 years of bloody warfare, the Soviets withdrew their troops from Afghanistan.



Several years after the Soviets withdrew their troops, rebel groups fought for control of the government. By 1996, the *Taliban*, a very conservative Islamic government in Afghanistan, took over most of the country and established a regime based on strict adherence to Islamic law. Another rival group known as the Northern Alliance controlled the northwestern region of Afghanistan.

Although the Taliban brought some stability to the war-torn nation, it also began to enforce a strict Muslim code of behavior. Taliban leaders restricted women’s lives by not allowing them to go to school or hold

jobs. Television, western music, and western clothing were banned. Afghanistan became the focus of the world's attention after it was learned that the Taliban supported Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda, his terrorist network. Islamic terrorists built training camps in the Afghan countryside and recruited and trained many young Muslim men in how to establish a global terrorist network. The United States demanded that the Afghan government shut down the terrorist training camps and turn over Osama bin Laden to United States authorities. Osama bin Laden was responsible for numerous attacks on the West, including the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., on September 11, 2001. (See Unit 12.)

In 2001, when the Taliban refused these demands, a coalition force led by the United States bombed Afghanistan. This campaign was known as "Operation Enduring Freedom." The Taliban were defeated with the help of the Northern Alliance (an Afghan rebel group) and other western allies. With the help of the United States, a new democratically elected government was established in Afghanistan. Although the al Qaeda network was broken, Osama bin Laden has not yet been captured.

After the defeat of the Taliban, Hamid Karzai was named interim president. He was later elected president in 2004. Karzai's government has many obstacles to overcome. He must rebuild a country that has suffered more than two decades of warfare and unify a nation that includes more than a dozen regional ethnic groups. In addition, there has been pressure to destroy Afghanistan's poppy fields, which supply 75 percent of the world's

American forces are still present in Afghanistan. Many of the last remnants of the Taliban and the al Qaeda terrorists have escaped into the mountainous border region between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The search for Osama bin Laden continues to this day.

Review

The *Third World* is the nickname given to those economically underdeveloped nations that have gained independence from colonial rule. During the Cold War, some Third World nations chose to become *nonaligned* countries. These nations followed a policy of neutrality in foreign affairs and refused to take sides in the conflict between the superpowers. The largest Third World nation is China, which continues to be governed by a Communist dictatorship. China developed its own form of communism and remained free of Soviet control and influence. Many Third World nations have been the location of struggles between the superpowers. In Vietnam, for instance, the United States and the Soviet Union supported rival governments in a civil war. Each superpower wanted to influence Third World nations so they would accept its form of government. In Vietnam, the victorious Communist government united the country under Communist rule.

Asia has seen the growth of two world powers—Communist China and capitalist Japan. For the last 50 years, Communist China has refused to allow any political reform movements in its country. The Communist Party still has a firm control over the government. The violent reaction to the democracy movement at Tiananmen Square in 1989 showed that the Communist leaders of China had no intention of loosening their political control. By the late 1990s, more moderate leaders had successfully used some capitalist ideas to encourage and improve the growth of industry and agriculture. China desperately wants permanent “most favored nation status” with the United States, but its continued refusal to address human rights issues might put its trading status in jeopardy.

Capitalist Japan has completely rebuilt itself and has become an economic superpower since the end of World War II. United States occupation forces after the war helped Japan develop a modern society and a democratic government. The Japanese government promoted economic development and helped Japan secure its place as a major car and electronics exporter around the world.

Since World War II, dramatic changes have also taken place in Southeast Asia. South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore have created stable governments that have allowed economic growth. Nicknamed the “Asian Tigers,” these countries took different paths to modernization and *industrialization*. Their governments promoted ambitious programs for

economic growth and social welfare. South Korea's growing prosperity has created an economic gulf between itself and North Korea, its poverty-stricken Communist neighbor. Despite differences between the two countries, many believe that North and South Korea will eventually be reunited. Others fear that North Korea's nuclear weapons program is a threat to the global community.

The Vietnam War's devastating effects on other parts of Southeast Asia have begun to fade. After many years of struggle for economic and political stability, these nations have begun to show signs of improvement. Some countries still strive to move from military dictatorships to democracies. Pro-democracy movements had a dramatic effect on countries like the Philippines, Indonesia, and Myanmar. In other parts of Asia, it has been a challenge to create stable societies. The South Asian countries of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka suffer from continued religious and ethnic upheavals. Several of India's leaders have been assassinated by extremist groups. Poverty and overpopulation are also major obstacles to economic growth, especially in India and Bangladesh. Political stability is still an issue for Pakistan, whose government has had a series of military dictatorships since its independence in 1947.

The global war on terrorism took center stage in Afghanistan when the United States invaded Afghanistan and the Taliban refused to shut down terrorist training camps or to turn over Osama bin Laden. This country has endured more than 20 years of invasions and ethnic upheavals. Since the election of a new government, hopes are high that the Afghan government will be able to rebuild and unify their country.