

Pakistan

Pakistan, [e] officially the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, [f] is a country in South Asia. It is the fifth-most populous country, with a population of over 241.5 million, [g] having the second-largest Muslim population as of 2023. Islamabad is the nation's capital, while Karachi is its largest city and financial centre. Pakistan is the 33rd-largest country by area. Bounded by the Arabian Sea on the south, the Gulf of Oman on the southwest, and the Sir Creek on the southeast, it shares land borders with India to the east; Afghanistan to the west; Iran to the southwest; and China to the northeast. It shares a maritime border with Oman in the Gulf of Oman, and is separated from Tajikistan in the northwest by Afghanistan's narrow Wakhan Corridor.

Pakistan is the site of several ancient cultures, including the 8,500year-old Neolithic site of Mehrgarh in Balochistan, the Indus Valley Civilisation of the Bronze Age, [10] and the ancient Gandhara civilisation.[11] The regions that compose the modern state of Pakistan were the realm of multiple empires and dynasties, including the Gandhāra, the Achaemenid, the Maurya, the Kushan, the Parthian, the Paratarajas, the Gupta: [12] the Umavvad Caliphate in its southern regions, the Hindu Shahis, the Ghaznavids, the Delhi Sultanate, the Samma, the Shah Miris, the Mughals, [13] the Durranis, the Sikhs and most recently, the British Raj from 1858 to 1947.

Spurred by the Pakistan Movement, which sought a homeland for the Muslims of British India, and election victories in 1946 by the All-India Muslim League, Pakistan gained independence in 1947 after the Partition of the British Indian Empire, which awarded separate statehood to its Muslim-majority regions and was accompanied by an unparalleled mass migration and loss of life. [14][15] Initially a Dominion of the British Commonwealth, Pakistan officially drafted its constitution in 1956, and emerged as a declared Islamic republic. In 1971, the exclave of East Pakistan seceded as the new country of Bangladesh after a nine-month-long civil war. In the following four decades, Pakistan has been ruled by governments whose descriptions, although complex, commonly alternated between civilian and military, democratic and authoritarian, relatively secular and Islamist. [16]

Pakistan is considered a middle power nation, [17][h] with the world's sixth-largest standing armed forces. It is a declared nuclearweapons state, and is ranked amongst the emerging and growthleading economies, [18] with a large and rapidly growing middle class. [19][20] Pakistan's political history since independence has been characterized by periods of significant economic and military growth as well as those of political and economic instability. It is an

Islamic Republic of Pakistan (Urdu) اسلامی جمهوریه پاکستان Islāmī Jumhūriyah Pākistān^[1]





Flag

State emblem (Coat of arms)

Motto:

Īmān, Itṭiḥād, Nazam (Urdu) ايمان، اتحاد، "Faith, Unity, Discipline"[2]

Anthem:

Qaumī Tarānah (Urdu)

قومی ترانه

"The National Anthem"

0:00 / 0:00 -





Land controlled by Pakistan shown in dark green: land claimed but not controlled shown in light green (see Kashmir conflict and Annexation of Junagadh)

Capital	Islamabad 33°41′30″N 73°3′0″E				
Largest city	Karachi 24°51'36"N 67°0'36"E				
Official languages	<u>Urdu</u> • <u>English^[a]</u>				
Native languages	Over 77 languages ^[4]				
Religion	96.4% Islam (official)				

ethnically and linguistically diverse country, with similarly diverse geography and wildlife. The country continues to face challenges, including poverty, illiteracy, corruption, and terrorism. [21][22][23] Pakistan is a member of the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, the Commonwealth of Nations, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, and the Islamic Military Counter-Terrorism Coalition, and is designated as a major non-NATO ally by the United States.

Etymology

The name Pakistan was coined by Choudhry Rahmat Ali, a Pakistan Movement activist, who in January 1933 first published it (originally as "Pakstan") in a pamphlet $Now \ or \ Never$, using it as an acronym. [24][25][26] Rahmat Ali explained: "It is composed of letters taken from the names of all our homelands, Indian and Asian, Panjab, Afghania, Kashmir, Sindh, and Baluchistan." He added, "Pakistan is both a Persian and Urdu word... It means the land of the Paks, the spiritually pure and clean."[27] Etymologists note that $Lequiv \ pak$, is 'pure' in $Lequiv \ pak$ and the $Lequiv \ pak$ and $Lequiv \ pak$ and the $Lequiv \ pak$ and the $Lequiv \ pak$ and $Lequiv \ pak$ and the $Lequiv \ pak$ and the $Lequiv \ pak$ and $Lequiv \ pak$ and the $Lequiv \ pak$ and $Lequiv \ pak$ and Lequiv

Rahmat Ali's concept of Pakistan only related to the northwestern area of the $\underline{\text{Indian subcontinent}}$. He also proposed the name "Banglastan" for the Muslim areas of $\underline{\text{Bengal}}$ and "Osmanistan" for $\underline{\text{Hyderabad State}}$, as well as a political federation between the three. $\underline{^{[28]}}$

History

Indus Valley Civilisation

Some of the earliest ancient human civilisations in South Asia originated from areas encompassing present-day Pakistan. The earliest known inhabitants in the region were Soanian during the Lower Paleolithic, of whom artefacts have been found in the Soan Valley of Punjab. The Indus region, which covers most of the present-day Pakistan, was the site of several successive ancient cultures including the Neolithic (7000–4300 BCE) site of Mehrgarh, and the 5,000-year history of urban life in South Asia to the various sites of the Indus Valley Civilisation, including Mohenjo-daro and Harappa.

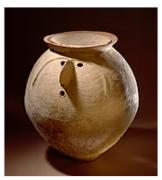
Vedic period

Following the decline of the Indus valley civilization, <u>Indo-Aryan tribes</u> moved into the <u>Punjab</u> from <u>Central Asia</u> in several waves of <u>migration</u> in the <u>Vedic period</u> (1500–500 BCE), <u>[38]</u> bringing with them their distinctive religious traditions and practices which fused

	2.2% Hinduism
	1.4% Christianity
	0.1% other
Demonym(s)	Pakistani
Government	Federal parliamentary Islamic republic
 President 	Asif Ali Zardari
• Prime Minister	Shehbaz Sharif
• Chairman of the Senate	Yusuf Raza Gilani
 Speaker of the National Assembly 	Ayaz Sadiq
Chief Justice	Yahya Afridi
Legislature	Parliament
 Upper house 	Senate
• Lower house	National Assembly
Independence from t	he United Kingdom
• Declaration	23 March 1940
 Recognized dominion 	14 August 1947
• Republic	23 March 1956
• Last territory's acquisition	8 December 1958
Eastern territory withdrawnCurrent	16 December 1971
constitution	14 August 1973
Area	
• Total	881,913 km ²
	(340,509 sq mi) ^{[b][6]} (33rd)
• Water (%)	2.86
Population	
• <u>2023</u> census	▲ 241,499,431 ^[c] (5th)
Density	273.8/km ²
	(709.1/sq mi) (<u>56th</u>)
GDP (PPP)	2024 estimate
• Total	▲ \$1.584 trillion ^[7] (24th)
• Per capita	▲ \$6,715 ^[7] (<u>141st</u>)
GDP (nominal)	2024 estimate
• Total	▲ \$374.595 billion ^[7] (43rd)
• Per capita	▲ \$1,588 ^[7] (<u>158th</u>)
<u>Gini</u> (2018)	▼ 29.6 ^[8] low inequality
HDI (2022)	▲ 0.540 ^[8] low (164th)
Currency	Pakistani rupee (Rs) (PKR)

with local culture. [39] The Indo-Aryans religious beliefs and practices from the Bactria–Margiana culture and the native Harappan Indus beliefs of the former Indus Valley civilization eventually gave rise to Vedic culture and tribes. [39] Most notable among them was Gandhara civilization, which flourished at the crossroads of India, Central Asia, and the Middle East, connecting trade routes and absorbing cultural influences from diverse civilizations. [40] The initial early Vedic culture was a tribal, pastoral society centered in the Indus Valley, of what is today Pakistan. [41] During this period, the Vedas, the oldest scriptures of Hinduism, were composed. [42][i]

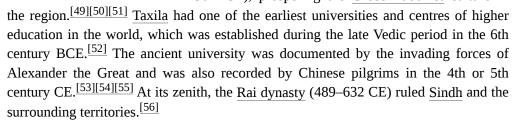
Time zone	UTC+05:00 (PKT) DST is not observed.
	BST IS NOT OBSCIVED.
Date format	dd-mm-yyyy ^[d]
Drives on	Left ^[9]
Calling code	+92
ISO 3166 code	<u>PK</u>
Internet TLD	<u>.pk</u> یاکستان.
	<u>پاکستان.</u>



Cremation urn, <u>Gandhara</u> grave culture, Swat Valley, c. 1200 BCE^[37]

Classical period

The western regions of Pakistan became part of Achaemenid Empire around 517 BCE. [44] In 326 BCE, Alexander the Great conquered the region by defeating various local rulers, most notably, the King Porus, at Jhelum. [45] It was followed by the Maurya Empire, founded by Chandragupta Maurya and extended by Ashoka the Great, until 185 BCE. [46][47][48] The Indo-Greek Kingdom founded by Demetrius of Bactria (180–165 BCE) included Gandhara and Punjab and reached its greatest extent under Menander (165–150 BCE), prospering the Greco-Buddhist culture in





<u>Standing Buddha</u> from <u>Gandhara</u> (1st–2nd century CE)^[43]

Islamic conquest

The Arab conqueror Muhammad ibn Qasim conquered Sindh and some regions of Punjab in 711 CE. [46][57] The Pakistan government's official chronology claims this as the time when the foundation of Pakistan was laid. [58] The Early Medieval period (642–1219 CE) witnessed the spread of Islam in the region. [59] Before the arrival of Islam beginning in the 8th century, the region of Pakistan was home to a diverse plethora of faiths, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Zoroastrianism. [60][61] During this period, Sufi missionaries played a pivotal role in converting a majority of the regional population to Islam. [62] Upon the defeat of the Turk and Hindu Shahi dynasties which governed the Kabul Valley, Gandhara (present-day Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa), and western Punjab in the 7th to 11th centuries CE, several successive Muslim empires ruled over the region, including the Ghaznavid Empire (975–1187 CE), the Ghorid Kingdom, and the Delhi Sultanate (1206–1526 CE). The Lodi dynasty, the last of the Delhi Sultanate, was replaced by the Mughal Empire (1526–1857 CE). [64]

The Mughals introduced Persian literature and high culture, establishing the roots of Indo-Persian culture in the region. [65] In the region of modern-day Pakistan, key cities during the Mughal period were Multan, Lahore, Peshawar and Thatta, which were chosen as the site of impressive Mughal buildings. In the early 16th century, the region remained under the Mughal Empire. In the 18th century, the slow disintegration of the Mughal Empire was



<u>Priest-King</u> from <u>Mohenjo-</u>daro (c. 2500 BCE)^[29]



Badshahi Mosque, Lahore

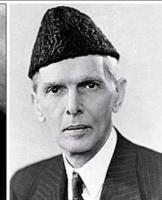
hastened by the emergence of the rival powers of the <u>Maratha Confederacy</u> and later the <u>Sikh Empire</u>, as well as invasions by <u>Nader Shah</u> from Iran in 1739 and the <u>Durrani Empire</u> of Afghanistan in 1759. [9][69] The growing political power of the British in Bengal had not yet reached the territories of modern Pakistan. [70]

Colonial rule

None of modern Pakistan was under British rule until 1839 when <u>Karachi</u>, a small fishing village governed by <u>Talpurs</u> of <u>Sindh</u> with a mud fort guarding the harbour, was <u>taken</u>, [75][76] and used as an enclave with a port and <u>military base</u> for the <u>First Afghan War</u> that ensued. The remainder of <u>Sindh</u> was acquired in 1843, and subsequently, through a series of wars and treaties, the <u>East India Company</u>, and later, after the post-<u>Sepoy Mutiny</u> (1857–1858), direct rule by <u>Queen Victoria</u> of the <u>British Empire</u>, acquired most of the region. Key conflicts included those against the <u>Baloch Talpur dynasty</u>, resolved by the <u>Battle of Miani</u> (1843) in Sindh, and the <u>Anglo-Sikh Wars</u> (1845–1849), and the <u>Anglo-Afghan Wars</u> (1839–1919). By 1893, all modern Pakistan was part of the <u>British Indian Empire</u>, and remained so until independence in 1947.



Sir Syed Ahmad Khan (1817–1898), whose vision formed the basis of Pakistan. [71][72][73]



Muhammad Ali Jinnah (1876–1948) served as Pakistan's first Governor-General and the leader of the Pakistan Movement. [74]

Under British rule, modern Pakistan was primarily divided into the <u>Sind Division</u>, <u>Punjab Province</u>, and the <u>Baluchistan Agency</u>. The region also included various princely states, with the largest being <u>Bahawalpur</u>. [84][85]

The major armed struggle against the British in the region was the <u>rebellion</u> known as the <u>Sepoy Mutiny</u> in 1857. [86] Divergence in the <u>relationship</u> between <u>Hinduism</u> and Islam resulted in significant tension in <u>British India</u>, leading to religious violence. The <u>language controversy</u> further exacerbated tensions between Hindus and Muslims. [73][87] A <u>Muslim intellectual movement</u>, led by Sir <u>Syed Ahmed Khan</u> to counter the <u>Hindu renaissance</u>, advocated for the <u>two-nation</u> theory and led to the establishment of the All-India Muslim League in 1906. [71][72][73]

In March 1929, in response to the Nehru Report, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan, issued his fourteen points, which included proposals to safeguard the interests of the Muslim minority in a united India. These proposals were rejected. [88][89][90] In his December 29, 1930 address, Allama Iqbal advocated the amalgamation of Muslimmajority states in North-West India, including Punjab, North-West Frontier Province, Sind, and Baluchistan. [90][91] The perception that Congress-led British provincial governments neglected the Muslim League from 1937 to 1939 motivated Jinnah and other Muslim League leaders to embrace the two-nation theory. [92][93] This led to the adoption of the Lahore Resolution of 1940, presented by Sher-e-Bangla A.K. Fazlul Haque, also known as the Pakistan Resolution. [94]

By 1942, Britain faced considerable strain during <u>World War II</u>, with India directly threatened by Japanese forces. Britain had pledged voluntary independence for India in exchange for support during the war. However, this pledge included a clause stating that no part of British India would be compelled to join the resulting dominion, which could be interpreted as support for an independent Muslim nation. Congress under the leadership of <u>Mahatma Gandhi</u> launched the <u>Quit India Movement</u>, demanding an immediate end to British rule. In contrast, the <u>Muslim League</u> chose to support the <u>UK's war efforts</u>, thereby nurturing the possibility of establishing a Muslim nation. [95][96]

Independence

The <u>1946 elections</u> saw the Muslim League secure 90 percent of the Muslim seats, supported by the landowners of Sindh and Punjab. This forced the Indian National Congress, initially skeptical of the League's representation of Indian Muslims, to acknowledge its significance. [97] Jinnah's emergence as the voice of the Indian Muslims, compelled the British to consider their stance, despite their reluctance to partition India. In a final attempt to prevent partition, they proposed the Cabinet Mission Plan. [98]

As the Cabinet Mission failed, the British announced their intention to end rule by June 1948. [99][100] Following rigorous discussions involving Viceroy of India, Lord Mountbatten of Burma, Muhammad Ali Jinnah of the All-India Muslim League, and Jawaharlal Nehru of Congress, the formal declaration to partition British India into two independent dominions—namely Pakistan and India—was issued by Mountbatten on the evening of 3 June 1947. In Mountbatten's oval office, the prime ministers of around a dozen major princely states gathered to receive their copies of the plan before its worldwide broadcast. At 7:00 P.M., All India Radio transmitted the public announcement, starting with the viceroy's address, followed by individual speeches from Nehru, and Jinnah. The founder of Pakistan Muhammad Ali Jinnah concluded his address with the slogan Pakistan Zindabad (Long Live Pakistan). [101]



The partition of India: green regions were all part of Pakistan by 1948, and orange ones part of India. The darker-shaded regions represent the <u>Punjab</u> and <u>Bengal</u> provinces partitioned by the Radcliffe Line. The grey areas represent some of the key <u>princely states</u> that were eventually integrated into India or Pakistan.

As the United Kingdom agreed to the partitioning of India, [101] the modern state of Pakistan was established on 14 August 1947 (27th of Ramadan in 1366 of the Islamic Calendar, considered to be the most blessed date from an Islamic perspective). [102][103] This new nation amalgamated the Muslim-majority eastern and northwestern regions of British India, comprising the provinces of Balochistan, East Bengal, the North-West Frontier Province, West Punjab, and Sindh. [104]

In the riots that accompanied the partition in Punjab Province, between 200,000 and 2,000,000 people were killed in what some have described as a retributive genocide between the religions. Around 50,000 Muslim women were abducted and raped by Hindu and Sikh men, while 33,000 Hindu and Sikh women experienced the same fate at the hands of Muslims. Around 6.5 million Muslims moved from India to West Pakistan and 4.7 million Hindus and Sikhs moved from West Pakistan to India. It was the largest mass migration in human history. A subsequent dispute over the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir eventually sparked the Indo-Pakistani War of 1947–1948.

Post Independence

After <u>independence</u> in 1947, Jinnah, the <u>President</u> of the Muslim League, became Pakistan's first <u>Governor-General</u> and the first <u>President-Speaker</u> of the <u>Parliament</u>, but he succumbed to tuberculosis on 11 September 1948. [111][112] Meanwhile, Pakistan's founding fathers agreed to appoint <u>Liaquat Ali Khan</u>, the <u>secretary-general</u> of the <u>party</u>, the nation's <u>first Prime Minister</u>. [110][111] From 1947 to 1956, <u>Pakistan was a monarchy</u> within the Commonwealth of Nations, and had two monarchs before it became a republic. [113]

The creation of Pakistan was never fully accepted by many British leaders including Lord Mountbatten. [114] Mountbatten expressed his lack of support and faith in the Muslim League's idea of Pakistan. [115] Jinnah refused Mountbatten's offer to serve as Governor-General of Pakistan. [116] When Mountbatten was asked by Collins and Lapierre if he would have sabotaged Pakistan had he known that Jinnah was dying of tuberculosis, he replied 'most probably'. [117]

Maulana Shabbir Ahmad Usmani, a respected Deobandi *alim* (scholar) who held the position of Shaykh al-Islam in Pakistan in 1949, and Maulana Mawdudi of Jamaat-i-Islami played key roles in advocating for an Islamic constitution. Mawdudi insisted that the Constituent Assembly declare the "supreme sovereignty of God" and the



<u>Liaquat Ali Khan</u> was elected 1st Prime Minister of Pakistan.^[110][111]

supremacy of the *shariah* in Pakistan.[119]

The efforts of Jamaat-i-Islami and the *ulama* led to the passage of the <u>Objectives Resolution</u> in March 1949. This resolution, described by Liaquat Ali Khan as the second most significant step in Pakistan's history, affirmed that "sovereignty over the entire universe belongs to God Almighty alone and the authority which He has delegated to the State of Pakistan through its people for being exercised within the limits prescribed by Him

is a sacred trust". It was later included as a preamble to the constitutions of 1956, 1962, and 1973. [120]



The American <u>CIA</u> film on Pakistan, made in 1950, examines the history and geography of Pakistan.

"You are free; you are free to go to your temples, you are free to go to your mosques or to any other place of worship in this State of Pakistan. You may belong to any religion or caste or creed — that has nothing to do with the business of the State."

—Muhammad Ali Jinnah's first speech to the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan. [118]

<u>Democracy</u> faced setbacks due to the <u>martial law</u> imposed by President <u>Iskander Mirza</u>, who was succeeded by General <u>Ayub Khan</u>. After adopting a presidential <u>system</u> in 1962, Pakistan witnessed significant growth until the <u>second war</u> with India in 1965, resulting in an economic

downturn and widespread public discontent in 1967. $\underline{^{[121][122]}}$ In 1969, President $\underline{\text{Yahya Khan}}$ consolidated control, but faced a devastating $\underline{\text{cyclone}}$ in East Pakistan resulting in 500,000 deaths. $\underline{^{[123]}}$

In 1970, Pakistan conducted its <u>first democratic elections</u> since independence, intending to transition from <u>military rule</u> to democracy. However, after the East Pakistani <u>Awami League</u> emerged victorious over the <u>Pakistan Peoples Party</u> (PPP), Yahya Khan and the military refused to transfer power. This led to <u>Operation Searchlight</u>, a military crackdown, and eventually sparked the <u>war of liberation</u> by Bengali <u>Mukti Bahini</u> forces in East Pakistan, lescribed in West Pakistan as a civil war rather than a liberation struggle.

Independent researchers estimate that between 300,000 and 500,000 civilians died during this period while the Bangladesh government puts the number of dead at three million, [128] a figure that is now nearly universally regarded as excessively inflated. [129] Some academics such as Rudolph Rummel and Rounaq Jahan say both sides committed genocide; [130] others such as Richard Sisson and Leo E. Rose believe there was no genocide. [131] In response to India's support for the insurgency in East Pakistan, preemptive strikes on India by Pakistan's air force, navy, and marines sparked a conventional war in 1971 that resulted in an Indian victory and East Pakistan gaining independence as Bangladesh. [132]

With Pakistan surrendering in the war, [133] Yahya Khan was replaced by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto as president; the country worked towards promulgating its constitution and putting the country on the road to democracy. [134][135] In 1972 Pakistan embarked on an ambitious plan to develop its nuclear deterrence capability with the goal of preventing any foreign invasion; the country's first nuclear power plant was inaugurated in that same year. [136][137] India's first nuclear test in 1974 gave Pakistan additional justification to accelerate its nuclear program. [137]

Democracy ended with a <u>military coup</u> in 1977 against the <u>leftist</u> PPP, which saw <u>General Zia-ul-Haq</u> become the president in 1978. From 1977 to 1988, President Zia's <u>corporatisation</u> and <u>economic Islamisation</u> initiatives led to Pakistan becoming



Signing of the <u>Tashkent</u>

<u>Declaration</u> to end

<u>hostilities</u> with India in 1965
in <u>Tashkent</u>, <u>USSR</u>, by

<u>President Ayub</u> alongside

<u>Bhutto</u> (centre) and <u>Aziz</u>

Ahmed (left)^[127]

one of the fastest-growing economies in South Asia. [139] While building up the country's <u>nuclear program</u>, increasing <u>Islamisation</u>, and the rise of a homegrown <u>conservative</u> philosophy, Pakistan helped subsidise and distribute US <u>resources to factions</u> of the <u>mujahideen</u> against the <u>USSR's intervention</u> in <u>communist Afghanistan</u>. [140][141][142] Pakistan's <u>North-West Frontier Province</u> became a base for the anti-Soviet Afghan fighters, with the province's influential <u>Deobandi</u> ulama playing a significant role in encouraging and organising the 'jihad'. [143]

President Zia died in a plane crash in 1988, and Benazir Bhutto, daughter of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was elected as the country's first female Prime Minister. The PPP was followed by conservative Pakistan Muslim League (N) (PML (N)), and over the next decade the leaders of the two parties fought for power, alternating in office. This period is marked by prolonged stagflation, political instability, corruption, misgovernment, geopolitical rivalry with India, and the clash of left wing-right wing ideologies. As PML (N) secured a supermajority in elections in 1997, Nawaz Sharif authorised nuclear testings, as a retaliation to the second nuclear tests conducted by India in May 1998.



President Musharraf meets with Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee in Islamabad at the sidelines of 12th SAARC summit in 2004. [149]

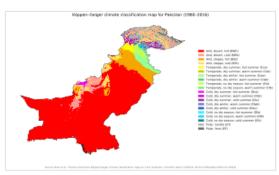
Military tension between the two countries in the <u>Kargil district</u> led to the <u>Kargil War</u> of 1999, and turmoil in <u>civil-military relations</u> allowed General Pervez Musharraf to take over through a bloodless coup d'état. Musharraf governed Pakistan as <u>chief executive</u> from 1999 to 2002 and as president from 2001 to 2008 a period of <u>enlightenment</u>, and <u>direct involvement in the US-led war on terrorism</u>. By its own financial calculations, Pakistan's involvement in the war on terrorism has cost up to \$118 billion, over <u>eighty one thousand casualties</u>, and more than 1.8 million displaced civilians.

The <u>National Assembly</u> historically completed its first full five-year term on 15 November 2007. [160] After the <u>assassination of Benazir Bhutto</u> in 2007, the PPP secured the <u>most votes</u> in the <u>elections</u> of 2008, appointing party member <u>Yusuf Raza Gilani</u> as Prime Minister. [161] Threatened with <u>impeachment</u>, President Musharraf resigned on 18 August 2008, and was succeeded by Asif

Ali Zardari. [162] Clashes with the judicature prompted Gilani's disqualification from the Parliament and as the Prime Minister in June 2012. [163] The general election held in 2013 saw the PML (N) achieve victory, [164] following which Nawaz Sharif was elected as Prime Minister for the third time. [165] In 2018, PTI won the general election and Imran Khan became the 22nd Prime Minister. [166] In April 2022, Shehbaz Sharif was elected as prime minister, after Imran Khan lost a no-confidence vote. [167] During 2024 general election, PTI-backed independents became the largest bloc, [168] but Shehbaz Sharif was elected prime minister for a second term, as a result of a coalition between PML (N) and PPPP. [169]

Geography

Pakistan's diverse geography and climate host a wide array of wildlife. Covering 881,913 km² (340,509 sq mi), 171] Pakistan's size is comparable to France and the UK combined. It ranks as the 33rd-largest nation by total area, but this varies based on Kashmir's disputed status. Pakistan boasts a 1,046 km (650 mi) coastline along the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman, and shares land borders totaling 6,774 km (4,209 mi), including 2,430 km (1,510 mi) with Afghanistan, 123 km (325 mi) with China, 2,912 km (1,809 mi) with India, and 909 km (565 mi) with Iran. It has a maritime border with Oman, and shares a border with Tajikistan via the Wakhan Corridor. Situated at the crossroads of South Asia, the Middle



Köppen climate classification of Pakistan

East, and Central Asia, [179] Pakistan's location is geopolitically significant. [180] Geologically, Pakistan straddles the Indus—Tsangpo Suture Zone and the Indian tectonic plate in Sindh and Punjab, while Balochistan and most of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa sit on the Eurasian Plate, primarily on the Iranian plateau. Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir, along the Indian plate's edge, are susceptible to powerful earthquakes. [181]

Pakistan's landscapes vary from coastal plains to glaciated mountains, offering deserts, forests, hills, and plateaus. Pakistan is divided into three major geographic areas: the northern highlands, the Indus River plain, and the Balochistan Plateau. The northern highlands feature the Karakoram, Hindu Kush, and Pamir mountain ranges, hosting some of the world's highest peaks, including five of the fourteen eight-thousanders (mountain peaks over 8,000 metres or 26,250 feet), notably K2 (8,611 m or 28,251 ft) and Nanga Parbat (8,126 m or 26,660 ft). In Balochistan Plateau lies in the west and the Thar Desert in the east. In the last. In Indus River and its tributaries traverse the nation from Kashmir to the Arabian Sea, sustaining alluvial plains along the Punjab and Sindh regions.



A satellite image showing the topography of Pakistan. [182]

The climate varies from tropical to temperate, with arid conditions in the coastal south. There is a monsoon season with frequent flooding due to heavy rainfall, and a dry season with significantly less rainfall or none at all. [191] Pakistan experiences

four distinct seasons: a cool, dry winter from December through February; a hot, dry spring from March through May; the summer rainy season, or southwest monsoon period, from June through September; and the retreating monsoon period of October and November. Rainfall varies greatly from year to year, with patterns of alternate flooding and drought common. Alternate flooding and drought common.

Flora and fauna

The diverse landscape and climate in Pakistan support a wide range of trees and plants. From coniferous alpine and subalpine trees like spruce, pine, and deodar cedar in the northern mountains to deciduous trees like shisham in the Sulaiman Mountains, and palms such as coconut and date in the southern regions. The western hills boast juniper, tamarisk, coarse grasses, and scrub plants. Mangrove forests dominate the coastal wetlands in the south. Coniferous forests span altitudes from 1,000 to 4,000 metres (3,300 to 13,100 feet) in most northern and northwestern highlands. In Balochistan's xeric regions, date palms and Ephedra are prevalent. In Punjab and Sindh's Indus plains, tropical and subtropical dry and moist broadleaf forests as well as tropical and xeric shrublands thrive. Approximately 4.8% or 36,845.6 square kilometres (3,684,560 ha) of Pakistan was forested in 2021.

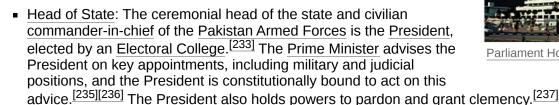
Pakistan's fauna mirrors its diverse climate. The country boasts around 668 bird species, [204] including crows, sparrows, mynas, hawks, falcons, and eagles. Palas, Kohistan, is home to the western tragopan, with many migratory birds visiting from Europe, Central Asia, and India. [205] The southern plains harbor mongooses, [206] small Indian civet, [207] hares, [208] the Asiatic jackal, [209] the Indian pangolin, [210] the jungle cat, [211] and the sand cat. [212] Indus is home to mugger crocodiles, [213] while surrounding areas host wild boars, [214] deer, [215] and porcupines. [216] Central Pakistan's sandy scrublands shelter Asiatic jackals, [209] striped hyenas, [217] wildcats, and leopards. The mountainous north hosts a variety of animals like the Marco Polo sheep, [218] urial, markhor goat, ibex goat, Asian black bear, and Himalayan brown bear. [191]

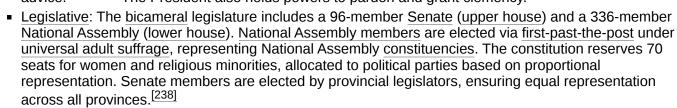
The lack of vegetative cover, severe climate, and grazing impact on deserts have endangered wild animals. The chinkara is the only animal found in significant numbers in Cholistan, with a few nilgai along the Pakistan–India border and in some parts of Cholistan. Rare animals include the snow leopard and the blind Indus river dolphin, of which there are believed to be about 1,816 remaining, protected at the Indus Dolphin Reserve in Sindh. In total, 174 species of mammals, 177 species of reptiles, 22 species of amphibians, 198 species of

freshwater fish, 668 species of birds, over 5,000 species of insects, and over 5,700 species of plants have been recorded in Pakistan. [204] Pakistan faces deforestation, hunting, and pollution, with a 2019 Forest Landscape Integrity Index mean score of 7.42/10, ranking 41st globally out of 172 countries. [223]

Government and politics

Pakistan operates as a democratic parliamentary federal republic, with Islam designated as the state religion. [224][225] Initially adopting a constitution in 1956, Pakistan saw it suspended by Ayub Khan in 1958, replaced by a second constitution in 1962. [226] A comprehensive constitution emerged in 1973, suspended by Zia-ul-Haq in 1977 but reinstated in 1985, shaping the country's governance. [176] The military's influence in mainstream politics has been significant throughout Pakistan's history. [227] The eras of 1958–1971, 1977– 1988, and 1999-2008 witnessed military coups, leading to martial law and military leaders governing de facto as presidents. [228] Presently, Pakistan operates a <u>multi-party</u> <u>parliamentary</u> <u>system</u>, [229] with distinct checks and balances among government branches. [230] The first successful democratic transition occurred in May 2013. [231] Pakistani politics revolves around a blend of socialism, conservatism, and the third way, [232] with the three main political parties being the conservative PML (N), socialist PPP, and centrist PTI. [233] Constitutional amendments in 2010 curtailed presidential powers, enhancing the role of the prime minister. [234]







Prime Minister's Office



Markhor is the national animal of Pakistan.[203]



Parliament House

- Executive: The Prime Minister, typically the leader of the majority rule party or coalition in the National Assembly (the lower house). [239] serves as the country's chief executive and head of government. Responsibilities include forming a cabinet, [240] making executive decisions, [235] and appointing senior civil servants, subject to executive confirmation.[241]
- Provincial governments: Each of the four provinces follows a similar governance system, with a directly elected Provincial Assembly choosing the Chief Minister, usually from the largest party or coalition. Chief Ministers lead the provincial cabinet and oversee provincial governance. [242][243] The Chief Secretary, appointed by the Prime Minister, heads the provincial bureaucracy. [244] Provincial assemblies

legislate and approve the provincial budget, typically presented by the provincial finance minister annually. [243][245] Ceremonial heads of provinces, the Provincial Governors, are appointed by the President based on the binding advice of the Prime Minister. [242][246]

• Judicature: The judiciary in Pakistan has two classes: the superior and subordinate judiciary. The superior judiciary includes the Supreme Court of Pakistan, [247] Federal Shariat Court, and five high courts, [248] with the Supreme Court at the top. It's responsible for safeguarding the constitution. [247] Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan have their own court systems. [249][250]

Role of Islam

Pakistan, the only country established in the name of Islam, [251] had overwhelming support among Muslims, especially in provinces like the <u>United Provinces</u>, where Muslims were a minority. [252] This idea, articulated by the Muslim League, the Islamic clergy, and Jinnah, envisioned an <u>Islamic</u>



Supreme Court of Pakistan

<u>state</u>. [253] Jinnah, closely associated with the *ulama*, was described upon his death by <u>Maulana Shabbir Ahmad</u> Usmani as the greatest Muslim after Aurangzeb, aspiring to unite Muslims worldwide under Islam. [254]

The Objectives Resolution of March 1949 marked the initial step towards this goal, affirming God as the sole sovereign. [120][255] Muslim League leader Chaudhry Khaliquzzaman asserted that Pakistan could only truly become an Islamic state after bringing all believers of Islam into a single political unit. [256] Keith Callard observed that Pakistanis believed in the essential unity of purpose and outlook in the Muslim world, expecting similar views on religion and nationality from Muslims worldwide. [257]

Pakistan's desire for a united Islamic bloc, called Islamistan, wasn't supported by other Muslim governments, [258] though figures like the Grand Mufti of Palestine, Al-Haj Amin al-Husseini, and leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood were drawn to the country. Pakistan's desire for an international organization of Muslim countries was fulfilled in the 1970s when the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) was formed. [259] East Pakistan's Bengali Muslims, opposed to an Islamist state, clashed with West Pakistanis who leaned towards Islamic identity. [260][261] The Islamist party Jamaat-e-Islami backed an Islamic state and opposed Bengali nationalism. [262]



Eid Prayers at the Badshahi Mosque in Lahore

After the 1970 general elections, the Parliament crafted the 1973 Constitution. [263] It declared Pakistan an Islamic Republic, with Islam as the state religion, and mandated laws to comply with Islamic teachings laid down in the Quran and Sunnah and that no law repugnant to such injunctions could be enacted. [264] Additionally, it established institutions like the Shariat Court and the Council of Islamic Ideology to interpret and apply Islam. [265]

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto faced opposition under the banner of *Nizam-e-Mustafa* ("Rule of the <u>Prophet</u>"), advocating an Islamic state. Bhutto conceded to some Islamist demands before being ousted in a coup. [267]

General Zia-ul-Haq, after seizing power, committed to establishing an Islamic state and enforcing \underline{sharia} law. [267] He instituted Shariat judicial courts, [268] and court benches, [269][270] to adjudicate using Islamic doctrine. [271] Zia aligned with Deobandi institutions, [272] exacerbating sectarian tensions with anti-Shia policies. [273]

Most Pakistanis, according to a <u>Pew Research Center</u> (PEW) poll, favor Sharia law as the official law, [274] and 94 percent of them identify more with religion than nationality compared to Muslims in other nations. [275]

Administrative units

Administrative unit ^[276]	Capital ^{[277][278][279]}	Population ^{[280][281][282]}
Balochistan	Quetta	14,894,402
Punjab	Lahore	127,688,922
Sindh	Karachi	55,696,147
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Peshawar	40,856,097
Gilgit-Baltistan	Gilgit	1,492,924
Azad Kashmir	Muzaffarabad	4,179,428
Islamabad Capital Territory	Islamabad	2,363,863

Pakistan, a <u>federal</u> <u>parliamentary republic</u>, consists of <u>four provinces</u>: Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, and Balochistan, along with three <u>territories</u>: <u>Islamabad Capital Territory</u>, <u>Gilgit-Baltistan</u>, and <u>Azad Kashmir</u>. The Government of Pakistan governs the <u>western parts</u> of the <u>Kashmir Region</u>, organized into separate political entities, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. In 2009, the <u>constitutional assignment</u> (the <u>Gilgit-Baltistan Empowerment and Self-Governance Order</u>) granted Gilgit-Baltistan semi-provincial status, providing it with self-government.

The <u>local government</u> system consists of <u>districts</u>, <u>tehsils</u>, and <u>union councils</u>, with an elected body at each tier. [286]



Clickable map of the four provinces and three federal territories of Pakistan.

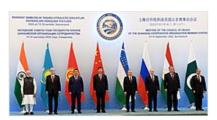
Foreign relations

Since independence, Pakistan has aimed to maintain an independent foreign policy. Pakistan's foreign policy and geostrategy focus on the economy, security, national identity, and territorial integrity, as well as building close ties with other Muslim nations. According to Hasan Askari Rizvi, a foreign policy expert, "Pakistan highlights sovereign equality of states, bilateralism, mutuality of interests, and non-interference in each other's domestic affairs as the cardinal features of its foreign policy."

The <u>Kashmir conflict</u> remains a major issue between Pakistan and India, with three of their <u>four wars</u> fought over it. [290] Due partly to strained relations with India, Pakistan has close ties with Turkey and Iran, both focal points in its foreign policy. [291] Saudi Arabia also holds importance in Pakistan's foreign relations. [292]

As a non-signatory of the <u>Treaty on Nuclear Non-Proliferation</u>, Pakistan holds influence in the <u>IAEA</u>. [293] For years, Pakistan has blocked an <u>international treaty</u> to limit <u>fissile material</u>, arguing that its stockpile does not meet its long-term needs. [294] Pakistan's nuclear program in the 20th century aimed to counter India's nuclear ambitions in the <u>region</u>, and reciprocal nuclear tests ensued after India's <u>nuclear tests</u>, solidifying Pakistan as a <u>nuclear power</u>. [295] Pakistan maintains a policy of <u>Full spectrum deterrence</u>, considering its nuclear program vital for <u>deterring</u> foreign aggression. [296]

Located strategically in the world's major maritime oil supply lines and communication <u>fiber optic corridors</u>, Pakistan also enjoys proximity to the natural resources of Central Asian countries. Pakistan actively participates in the United Nations with a <u>Permanent Representative</u> representing its positions in international politics. It has advocated for the concept of "<u>enlightened moderation</u>" in the Muslim world. Pakistan is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, <u>SAARC</u>, <u>ECO</u>, and the <u>G20</u> developing nations. [303]



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at the 2022 Shanghai Cooperation
Organisation summit [297]



President of Pakistan <u>Ayub</u>
<u>Khan</u> with US President <u>John</u>
F. Kennedy in 1961^[304]

Pakistan is designated as an "Iron Brother" by China, emphasizing the significance of their

close and supportive <u>relationship</u>. [305] In the 1950s, Pakistan opposed the <u>Soviet Union</u> for geopolitical reasons. During the <u>Soviet-Afghan War</u> in the 1980s, it was a close ally of the United States. [289] Relations with Russia have improved since the end of the <u>Cold War</u>, [306] but Pakistan's relationship with the United States has been "on-and-off." [289] Initially a close ally during the Cold War, [307] Pakistan's relations with the US soured in the 1990s due to <u>sanctions</u> over its secretive nuclear program. [308] Since <u>9/11</u>, Pakistan has been a US ally on <u>counterterrorism</u>, but their relationship has been strained due to diverging interests and mistrust during the <u>20-year war</u> and terrorism issues. Although Pakistan was granted <u>major non-NATO ally</u> status by the U.S. in 2004, [309] it faced accusations of supporting the <u>Taliban</u> insurgents in Afghanistan.

Pakistan does not have formal <u>diplomatic relations</u> with <u>Israel</u>; nonetheless, an exchange occurred between the two countries in 2005, with Turkey acting as an intermediary. [311]

Relations with China

Pakistan was among the first nations to establish formal diplomatic ties with the China, [314] forging a strong relationship since China's 1962 conflict with India, culminating in a special bond. [315] During the 1970s, Pakistan acted as an intermediary in U.S.-China rapprochement, [316] facilitating US President Richard Nixon's historic visit to China. [317][318] Despite changes in Pakistani governance and regional/global dynamics, China's influence in Pakistan remains paramount. [316] In reciprocation, China stands as Pakistan's largest trading partner, with substantial investment in Pakistani infrastructure, notably the Gwadar port. [319] In 2015 alone, they inked 51 agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) for cooperative efforts. [320] Both nations signed a Free Trade Agreement in 2006, [321] with China making its largest investment in Pakistan's history through CPEC. [322] Pakistan acts as China's liaison to the Muslim world, [323] and both nations support each other on sensitive issues like Kashmir, Taiwan, Xinjiang, and more. [324]

Relations with the Muslim world

After Independence, Pakistan vigorously pursued bilateral relations with other Muslim countries. The $\underline{\text{Ali}}$ brothers sought to project Pakistan as the natural leader of the Islamic world, partly due to its significant manpower and military strength. Khaliquzzaman, a prominent $\underline{\text{Muslim League}}$ leader, declared Pakistan's ambition to unite all Muslim countries into Islamistan, a pan-Islamic entity. 1327

These developments, alongside Pakistan's creation, didn't receive approval from the United States, with British Prime Minister <u>Clement Attlee</u> expressing a hope for India and Pakistan to reunite. However, due to a nationalist awakening in the Arab world at that time, there was little interest in Pakistan's Pan-Islamic aspirations. Some Arab countries perceived the 'Islamistan' project as Pakistan's bid to dominate other Muslim states.

Pakistan's founder, <u>Muhammad Ali Jinnah</u>, consistently advocated for the <u>Palestinian cause</u>, shaping Pakistan's foreign policy to support Palestinian rights within the broader framework of Muslim solidarity. <u>[331]</u> During the <u>1967 Arab-Israel war</u>, Pakistan supported the Arab states and played a key role in securing Iran's backing for the Arab cause both within the U.N. and beyond. <u>[332]</u>

Pakistan's relations with Iran have been strained by sectarian tensions, [333] with both Iran and Saudi Arabia using Pakistan as a battleground for their proxy sectarian war. [334] Since the early days of the Iran—Iraq war, President Zia-ul-Haq played an important mediatory role, with Pakistan actively engaging in efforts to end the conflict. [335][336] Pakistan provided support to Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War. [337] Pakistan chose to remain neutral during Operation Decisive Storm, refraining from sending military support to Saudi Arabia in its offensive against Yemen. Instead, Pakistan aimed to play a proactive diplomatic role in resolving the crisis, [338] which led to tensions between the two countries. [337] In 2016, Pakistan mediated between Saudi Arabia and Iran following the execution of Shia cleric Nimr al-Nimr, with



Pakistan Prime Minister
Huseyn Shaheed
Suhrawardy with Chinese
Premier Zhou Enlai signing
the Treaty of Friendship
Between China and
Pakistan. [312] Pakistan is host
to China's largest
embassy. [313]

visits to both countries by then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and the Chief of Army Staff, Raheel Sharif. [339]

Pakistan provided refuge to millions of displaced Afghans after the <u>Soviet invasion</u> and supported the <u>Afghan mujahideen</u> in their efforts to expel Soviet forces from Afghanistan. After the Soviets withdrew, infighting <u>erupted among Mujahideen factions</u> over control of Afghanistan. Pakistan facilitated <u>peace talks</u> to help end the conflict. After four years of unresolved conflict between rival Mujahideen groups, Pakistan helped establish the Taliban as a stabilizing force. Pakistan's support for the Sunni Taliban in Afghanistan challenged Shia-led Iran, which opposed a Taliban-controlled Afghanistan.

Pakistan vigorously advocated for self-determination among Muslims globally. Its efforts in supporting independence movements in countries like Indonesia, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, and $\underline{\text{Eritrea}}$ fostered strong ties. Due to its support for Azerbaijan in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Pakistan has not established $\underline{\text{diplomatic relations}}$ with Armenia. Armenia.

Pakistan and Bangladesh have experienced strained relations, particularly under the <u>Awami League</u> governments led by Sheikh Hasina, driven by her pro-India stance and historical grievances. [346]

Pakistan, a prominent member of the <u>Organisation of Islamic Cooperation</u> (OIC), prioritizes maintaining cultural, political, social, and economic relations with Arab and other Muslim-majority nations in its foreign policy. [347]

Kashmir conflict

<u>Kashmir</u>, a Himalayan region at the northern tip of the <u>Indian subcontinent</u>, was governed as the autonomous <u>princely</u> state of <u>Jammu and Kashmir</u> during the <u>British Raj</u> before the <u>Partition of India</u> in August 1947. This sparked a <u>major territorial dispute</u> between India and Pakistan, resulting in <u>several conflicts</u> over the region. India controls about 45.1% of Kashmir, including <u>Jammu and Kashmir</u> and <u>Ladakh</u>, while Pakistan controls roughly 38.2%, comprising <u>Azad Jammu and Kashmir</u> and <u>Gilgit–Baltistan</u>. Additionally, about 20% of the region, known as <u>Aksai Chin</u> and the <u>Shaksgam Valley</u>, is under Chinese control. [349] India claims the entire Kashmir region based on the <u>Instrument of Accession</u> signed by the princely state's ruler, Maharaja Hari Singh, while Pakistan argues for its Muslimmajority population, and geographical proximity to Pakistan. [352] The United Nations was involved in resolving

the conflict, leading to a ceasefire in 1949 and the establishment of the <u>Line of Control</u> (LoC) as a *de facto* border. India, fearing Kashmir's secession, did not hold the promised plebiscite, as it believed Kashmiris would vote to join Pakistan. [354]



Neelum Valley in Azad Kashmir is part of Pakistani-controlled Kashmir. [355]

Pakistan claims that its position is for the right of the Kashmiri people to determine their future through impartial elections as mandated by the United Nations, while India has stated that Kashmir is an "integral part" of India, referring to the 1972 Simla Agreement and to the fact that regional elections take place regularly. [356] Certain Kashmiri independence groups believe that Kashmir should be independent of both India and Pakistan. [357]



The areas shown in green are the Pakistani-controlled areas. [348]

Military

The armed forces of Pakistan <u>rank sixth</u> globally in personnel size, with about 660,000 on active duty and 291,000 paramilitary personnel as of 2024. [358] <u>Established in 1947</u>, they've wielded significant influence over <u>national politics</u>. The main branches include the <u>Army</u>, <u>Navy</u>, and <u>Air Force</u>, supported by numerous paramilitaries. [360]

The <u>Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee</u> (CJCSC) is the highest-ranking military officer, advising the civilian government. However, they lack direct command over the branches and serve as intermediaries, ensuring communication between the military and civilian leadership. Overseeing the <u>Joint Staff Headquarters</u>, they coordinate inter-service cooperation and joint military missions. [361]



Pakistan Air Force's JF-17 Thunder flying in front of the 8,130-metre-high (26,660-foot) Nanga Parbat

<u>Command and control</u> over Pakistan's <u>strategic arsenal</u> development and employment is vested in the <u>National</u> Command Authority, overseeing work on nuclear doctrine to maintain Full spectrum deterrence. [148]

The United States, Turkey, and China maintain close military relations with <u>Pakistan Armed Forces</u>, regularly exporting military equipment and <u>technology transfer</u>. Pakistan was the 5th-largest recipient and importer of arms between 2019 and 2023. [363]

Military history

Since 1947, Pakistan has been involved in <u>four conventional wars</u> with India. The <u>first conflict</u> took place in Kashmir and ended in a United Nations-mediated ceasefire, with Pakistan gaining control of one-third of the region. Territorial disputes led to <u>another war in 1965</u>. In 1971, India and Pakistan fought <u>another war over East Pakistan</u>, with Indian forces aiding its independence, leading to the creation of <u>Bangladesh</u>. Tensions in Kargil brought the two countries to the <u>brink of war</u>.

During the Soviet-Afghan War, Pakistan's intelligence community, mostly the ISI, coordinated US resources to support Afghan mujahideen and foreign fighters against Soviet presence. The PAF engaged with Soviet and Afghan Air Forces during the conflict. Pakistan has been an active participant in UN peacekeeping missions, playing a major role in operations like the rescue mission in Mogadishu, Somalia, in 1993. According to UN reports, the Pakistani military is the third largest troop contributor to UN peacekeeping missions after Ethiopia and India.

Pakistan has <u>deployed its military</u> in some Arab countries, providing defense, training, and advisory roles. The <u>PAF</u> and <u>Navy</u>'s fighter pilots served in Arab nations' militaries against Israel in the <u>Six-Day War</u> and the <u>Yom Kippur War</u>. Pakistani <u>special forces</u> assisted <u>Saudi forces</u> in <u>Mecca</u> during the <u>Grand Mosque Seizure</u>. Pakistan also sent 5.000 troops as part of a US-led coalition for the defense of Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War.

Despite the UN arms embargo on <u>Bosnia</u>, the ISI under General <u>Javed Nasir</u> airlifted anti-tank weapons and missiles to Bosnian mujahideen, shifting the tide in favor of Bosnian Muslims. ISI, under Nasir's leadership, supported Chinese Muslims in <u>Xinjiang</u>, rebel groups in the <u>Philippines</u>, and religious groups in Central Asia. [377][378]

Since 2004, the military has been engaged in an <u>insurgency</u> in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, primarily against <u>Tehrik-i-Taliban factions</u>. Major operations include <u>Operation Black Thunderstorm</u>, <u>Operation Rah-e-Nijat</u>, and <u>Operation Zarb-e-Azb. [379][380]</u>

Law enforcement

Law enforcement in Pakistan consists of federal and provincial police agencies. Each of the <u>four provinces</u> (<u>Punjab</u>, <u>Sindh</u>, <u>Khyber Pakhtunkhwa</u>, and <u>Balochistan</u>) has its own police force, while the <u>Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT)</u> has the Islamabad Police. Provincial police forces are led by an Inspector-General of Police (IGP) appointed by provincial governments. However, top officers are from the <u>Police Service of Pakistan (PSP)</u>, ensuring national standards across provincial forces.

Specialized Units:

- National Highways & Motorway Police (NHMP): Enforces traffic laws and ensures safety on Pakistan's inter-provincial motorway network.
- Elite Police Units: Each provincial police force, such as the Punjab Elite Force, focuses on counter-terrorism operations and high-risk situations.

The <u>Civil Armed Forces</u> (CAF) support regular law enforcement agencies, aiding in tasks like riot control, counter-insurgency, and border security, enhancing Pakistan's law enforcement capabilities. [382]

The <u>National Intelligence Coordination Committee</u> oversees intelligence activities at federal and provincial levels, including the <u>ISI</u>, <u>MI</u>, <u>IB</u>, <u>FIA</u>, Police, and <u>Civil Armed Forces</u>. Pakistan's primary intelligence agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), was established within a year of Pakistan's independence in 1947.

Human rights

In 2018, Pakistan ranked 139 out of 180 countries in the <u>Press Freedom Index</u> by <u>Reporters Without Borders</u>, highlighting restrictions on <u>freedom of the press. [386]</u> Television stations and newspapers face closures for publishing reports critical of the government or military. <u>[387]</u> Male <u>homosexuality</u> is illegal in Pakistan, punishable with up to life in prison. <u>[388]</u>

Economy

Pakistan's economy ranks 24th globally by purchasing power parity (PPP) and 43rd by nominal GDP. Historically, Pakistan was part of the wealthiest region in the first millennium CE, but lost ground to regions like China and Western Europe by the 18th century. Pakistan is a developing country, and part of the Next Eleven, poised to become one of the world's largest economies in the 21st century, alongside the BRICS.

Economic indicators					
GDP (PPP)	\$1.254 trillion (2019)	[389]			
GDP (nominal)	\$284.2 billion (2019)	[390]			
Real GDP growth	3.29% (2019)	[391]			
CPI inflation	10.3% (2019)	[392]			
Unemployment	5.7% (2018)	[393]			
Labor force participation rate	48.9% (2018)	[394]			

In recent years, Pakistan has faced social instability and macroeconomic imbalances, with deficiencies in services like rail transportation and electrical energy generation. [399] The

Total public debt National wealth

\$106 billion (2019) \$465 billion (2019) [395]

semi-industrialized economy has growth centers along the Indus River. [400][401][402] The diversified economies of Karachi and Punjab's urban centers coexist with less-developed areas in other parts of the country, particularly in Balochistan. [401] Pakistan ranks as the 67th-largest export economy and the 106th-most complex economy globally, with a negative trade balance of US\$23.96 billion in fiscal year 2015–16. [403][404]



Statue of a bull outside the Pakistan Stock Exchange, Islamabad, Pakistan

As of 2022, Pakistan's estimated nominal GDP is US\$376.493 billion. [405] The GDP by PPP is US\$1.512 trillion. The estimated nominal per capita GDP is US\$1,658, the GDP (PPP)/capita is US\$6,662 (international dollars).[389] According to the World Bank, Pakistan has important strategic endowments and development potential. The increasing proportion of Pakistan's youth provides the country with both a potential demographic dividend and a challenge to provide adequate services and employment. [406] 21.04% of the population live below the international poverty line of US\$1.25 a day. The unemployment rate among the aged 15 and over population is 5.5%. [407] Pakistan has an estimated 40 million middle class citizens, projected to increase to 100 million by 2050. [408] A 2015 report published by the World Bank ranked Pakistan's economy at 24th-largest in the world by purchasing power and 41st-largest in absolute terms. It is South Asia's

second-largest economy, representing about 15.0% of regional GDP. [411]

Pakistan's economic growth varied over time, with slow progress during democratic transitions but robust expansion under martial law, lacking sustainable foundations. [122] Rapid reforms in the early to mid-2000s, including increased development spending, reduced poverty by 10% and boosted GDP by 3%. [381][412] The economy cooled post- $2007, \frac{[381]}{}$ with inflation peaking at 25.0% in $2008, \frac{[413]}{}$ necessitating IMF intervention to prevent bankruptcy. $\frac{[414]}{}$ The Asian Development Bank later noted easing economic strain in Pakistan. [415] Inflation for fiscal year 2010–11 stood at 14.1%. [416] Since 2013, Pakistan's economy has seen growth under an IMF program. Goldman Sachs predicted Pakistan's economy could grow 15 times by 2050, [417] and Ruchir Sharma in his 2016 book anticipated a transformation to a middle-income country by 2020. [418]

Pakistan's vast natural commodity production and 10th-largest labour market, along with a US\$19.9 billion contribution from its 7-million-strong diaspora in 2015–16, [419][420][421] position it significantly. However, Pakistan's global export share is declining, accounting for just 0.13% in 2007 according to the World Trade Organization. [422]

Agriculture and mining sector



Surface mining in Sindh. Pakistan has been termed the 'Saudi Arabia of Coal' by Forbes. [423]

The Pakistani economy has shifted from agriculture to services, with agriculture contributing only 20.9% of the GDP as of 2015. [424] Despite this. Pakistan's wheat production in 2005 surpassed Africa's and nearly matched South America's, highlighting its agricultural significance. [425] The sector employs 43.5% of the labor force and is a major source of foreign exchange.[424][426]

Manufactured exports, heavily reliant on agricultural raw materials like cotton and hides, face inflationary pressures due to supply shortages and market disruptions. Pakistan ranks fifth in cotton production, self-sufficient in sugarcane, and the fourth-largest milk producer globally. Though land and water resources haven't increased proportionately, productivity gains,

especially from the <u>Green Revolution</u> in the late 1960s and 1970s, significantly boosted wheat and rice yields. Private tube wells and High Yielding Varieties (HYVs) further augmented crop yields. [427] Meat industry accounts for 1.4 percent of overall GDP. [428]

Industry

Industry, constituting 19.74% of GDP and 24% of total employment, is the second-largest sector. Large-scale manufacturing (LSM) dominates, representing 12.2% of GDP, with cement production thriving due to demand from Afghanistan and the domestic real estate sector. In 2013, Pakistan exported 7,708,557 metric tons of cement, with an installed capacity of 44,768,250 metric tons. In the textile industry, a key player in Pakistan's manufacturing, contributes 9.5% to GDP and employs around 15 million people. Pakistan ranks fourth globally in cotton production, with substantial spinning capacity, making it a major exporter of textile products in Asia. China is a significant buyer of Pakistani textiles, importing US\$1.527 billion worth of textiles last fiscal year.

Television assembly factory in <u>Lahore</u>. Pakistan's industrial sector accounts for about 20.3% of the GDP, and is dominated by <u>small and medium-sized</u> enterprises. [429]

Services

As of 2014–15, the services sector contributes 58.8% to GDP, [424] serving as the main driver of economic growth in Pakistan, [434] with a consumption-oriented society. The sector's growth rate surpasses that of agriculture and industry,

accounting for 54% of GDP and over one-third of total employment. It has strong linkages with other sectors, providing essential inputs to agriculture and manufacturing. Pakistan's IT sector is one of the fastest-growing, ranked 110th for ICT development by the World Economic Forum. With around 82 million internet users as of May 2020, Pakistan ranks 9th globally, and its ICT industry is projected to exceed \$10 billion by 2020. With 12,000 employees, Pakistan is among the top five freelancing nations, and its export performance in telecom, computer, and information services has notably improved.



Rising skyline of <u>Karachi</u>, with several under construction skyscrapers

Tourism

With its diverse cultures, landscapes, and attractions, Pakistan drew around 6.6 million foreign tourists in 2018. [442] However, this was a decline from the peak of tourism in the 1970s driven by the popular Hippie trail. [443] Pakistan boasts attractions from mangroves in the south to Himalayan hill stations in the northeast, including ancient Buddhist ruins of Takht-i-Bahi and Taxila, the 5,000-year-old Indus Valley civilization sites such as Mohenjo-daro and Harappa, [444] and numerous mountain peaks over 7,000 metres (23,000 feet). [445] The northern part of Pakistan boasts numerous old fortresses, showcasing ancient architecture. It encompasses the Hunza and Chitral valleys, where the small pre-Islamic Kalasha community resides, claiming descent from Alexander the Great. [446] Lahore, Pakistan's cultural capital, showcases



<u>Shangrila Lake</u> and adjoining resort in Gilgit-Baltistan

numerous examples of <u>Mughal architecture</u>, including the <u>Badshahi Masjid</u>, the <u>Shalimar Gardens</u>, the <u>Tomb of Jahangir</u>, and the <u>Lahore Fort</u>. Following the <u>2005 Kashmir earthquake</u>, <u>The Guardian</u> highlighted "The top five tourist sites in Pakistan" to boost tourism, featuring destinations like <u>Taxila</u>, <u>Lahore</u>, the <u>Karakoram Highway</u>,

<u>Karimabad</u>, and <u>Lake Saiful Muluk</u>. Festivals and government initiatives aim to promote Pakistan's cultural heritage. In 2015, the <u>World Economic Forum</u> ranked Pakistan 125th out of 141 countries in its Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Report. April 125th out of 141 countries in its Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Report.

Infrastructure

Pakistan was lauded as the top nation for infrastructure development in South Asia during the 2016 annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank. [450]

Power and energy

As of May 2021, Pakistan operates six licensed commercial <u>nuclear power plants. [451]</u> The <u>Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission</u> (PAEC) oversees these plants, while the <u>Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority</u> ensures their safe operation. [452] These plants contribute approximately 5.8% to Pakistan's electricity supply, while fossil fuels (crude oil and natural gas) provide 64.2%, <u>hydroelectric power provides 29.9%</u>, and <u>coal contributes 0.1%. [453][454]</u> The <u>KANUPP-I</u>, Pakistan's first commercial nuclear power plant, was supplied by Canada in 1971. Sino-Pakistani nuclear cooperation began in the 1980s, leading to the establishment of CHASNUPP-I. In 2005, both countries proposed a joint energy security plan, aiming for a generation capacity exceeding 160,000 <u>MWe</u> by 2030. Pakistan's Nuclear Energy Vision 2050 targets a capacity of 40,000 MWe, [455] with 8,900 MWe expected by 2030. [456]

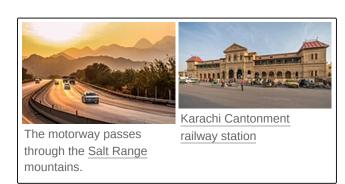


Tarbela Dam, the largest earth filled dam in the world, was constructed in 1968.

In June 2008, the nuclear complex at <u>Chashma</u> in Punjab Province expanded with the installation of <u>Chashma-III</u> and <u>Chashma-IV</u> reactors, each with 325–340 MWe, costing <u>Rs</u>129 billion, with Rs80 billion from international sources, mainly China. Another agreement for China's assistance was signed in October 2008, seen as a response to the <u>US-India agreement</u>. The project's cost was then US\$1.7 billion, with a foreign loan of US\$1.07 billion. In 2013, Pakistan established a second <u>nuclear complex</u> in Karachi with plans for additional reactors, similar to Chashma. [457] <u>Electrical energy in Pakistan</u> is generated by <u>various corporations</u> and distributed evenly among the <u>four provinces</u> by the <u>National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA)</u>. However, Karachi-based <u>K-Electric</u> and <u>Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) generate much of the electricity used in Pakistan and collect revenue nationwide. In 2023, Pakistan's installed <u>electricity generation</u> capacity was ~45,885 MWt. Pakistan produced 1,135 megawatts of <u>renewable energy</u> for the month of October 2016. Pakistan expects to produce 10.000 megawatts of renewable energy by 2025. [460]</u>

Transport

Pakistan boasts 2567 km of motorways and approximately 263,942 km of highways, which handle 92% of passengers and 96% of freight traffic. Despite constituting only 4.6% of the total road length, these north—south links manage 85% of the nation's traffic. They connect southern seaports such as Karachi port and Port Qasim in Sindh, along with Gwadar Port and Port of Pasni in Balochistan, to populous provinces like Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa domestically, and neighboring countries like Afghanistan, Central Asia, and China Pakistan



Economic Corridor. [461][462][463][464] According to the WEF's Global Competitiveness Report, Pakistan's port

infrastructure quality ratings rose from 3.7 to 4.1 between 2007 and 2016. The railway's share of inland traffic is reduced to below 8% for passengers and 4% for freight. This shift led to a decrease in total rail track from 8,775 kilometres (5,453 miles) in 1990–91 to 7,791 kilometres (4,841 miles) in 2011. $\frac{[462][461]}{[462][461]}$

The transport landscape of Pakistan features various modern transit systems. The Orange Line Metro Train in Lahore, inaugurated in 2020, [466] spans 27.1 km (16.8 mi), [467] and includes both elevated and underground sections, accommodating over 250,000 passengers daily. [468] Lahore also boasts the Lahore Metrobus, the first of its kind in Pakistan, operational since February 2013. The Rawalpindi-Islamabad Metrobus, stretching 48.1 km, commenced its first phase in June 2015, with subsequent extensions, and employs e-ticketing and an Intelligent Transportation System. [470][471] Multan Metrobus, inaugurated in January 2017, serves Multan with its rapid transit services. [472][473] Peshawar's Bus Rapid Transit, inaugurated in August 2020. marks the fourth BRT system in Pakistan. Karachi's Green Line Metrobus, operational since December 2021, is part of a larger metrobus project financed by the Government of Pakistan and initiated in February 2016.[474][475][476] Meanwhile, Faisalabad awaits its proposed rapid transit project, the Faisalabad Metrobus. [477] Karachi Circular Railway, partially revived in November 2020, offers public transit services in the Karachi metropolitan area. [478][479] Additionally, plans are underway to resurrect Karachi's tramway service, which ceased operations in 1975, in collaboration with Austrian experts.[480][481]



Karakoram Highway, connecting Pakistan to China, is one of the highest paved roads in the world.

As of 2013, Pakistan boasts approximately 151 airports and airfields, encompassing both military and civilian installations. Despite Jinnah International Airport serving as the primary international gateway, significant international traffic also flows through Lahore, Islamabad, Peshawar, Quetta, Faisalabad, Sialkot, and Multan airports. The civil aviation industry, deregulated in 1993, operates with a blend of public and private entities while state-owned Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) dominates, carrying 73% of domestic passengers and all domestic freight.



Boeing 737 owned and operated by Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) at Skardu International Airport

Science and technology

Developments in science and technology have played a significant role in Pakistan's infrastructure, linking the nation to the global community. Each year, the Pakistan Academy of Sciences and the government invite scientists worldwide to the International Nathiagali Summer College on Physics. In 2005, Pakistan hosted an international seminar on "Physics in Developing Countries" for the International Year of Physics. Pakistani theoretical physicist Abdus Salam won a Nobel Prize in Physics for his work on the electroweak interaction. Pakistani scientists have made notable contributions in mathematics, biology, economics, computer science, and genetics.

In chemistry, Salimuzzaman Siddiqui identified the medicinal properties of the neem tree's components. [488][489] Ayub K. Ommaya developed the Ommaya reservoir for treating brain conditions. [490] Scientific research is integral to Pakistani universities, national laboratories, science parks, and the industry. [491] Abdul Qadeer Khan spearheaded Pakistan's HEU-based gas-centrifuge uranium enrichment program for its atomic bomb project. [492] He established the Kahuta Research Laboratories (KRL) in 1976, serving as both its senior scientist and the Director-General until his retirement in 2001. Besides atomic bomb project, he made significant contributions in molecular morphology, physical martensite, and their applications in condensed and material physics. [493]

In 2010, Pakistan ranked 43rd globally in published scientific papers. [494] The influential Pakistan Academy of Sciences guides the government on science policies. [495] Pakistan was ranked 91st in the Global Innovation Index by 2024. [496]

The 1960s marked the rise of Pakistan's space program, led by <u>SUPARCO</u>, yielding advancements in <u>rocketry</u>, <u>electronics</u>, and <u>aeronomy</u>. Notably, Pakistan launched its <u>first rocket</u> into space, pioneering South Asia's space exploration. <u>[497]</u> In 1990, it successfully launched its <u>first satellite</u>, becoming the first Muslim nation and second in South Asia to achieve this milestone. <u>[498]</u>

Pakistan witnessed a fourfold increase in its scientific productivity in the past decade surging from approximately 2,000 articles per year in 2006 to more than 9,000 articles in 2015. Making Pakistan's cited article's higher than the <u>BRIC</u> countries put together.

—<u>Thomson Reuters</u>'s Another BRIC in the Wall 2016 report^[499]



Abdus Salam won the 1979 Nobel Prize in Physics for his contribution to electroweak interaction. He was the first Muslim to win a Nobel prize in science.



Atta-ur-Rahman won the UNESCO
Science Prize for pioneering contributions in chemistry in 1999, the first Muslim to win it.

Following the 1971 war with India, Pakistan hastily developed atomic weapons to deter foreign intervention and entered the atomic age. Tensions with India led to Pakistan's 1998 underground nuclear tests, making it the seventh country to possess such weapons. [501]

Pakistan is the sole Muslim nation active in Antarctica research, maintaining its <u>Jinnah Antarctic Research Station</u> since 1992. By May 2020, Pakistan had 82 million internet users, ranking ninth globally. The government invests heavily in information technology projects, focusing on e-government and infrastructure.

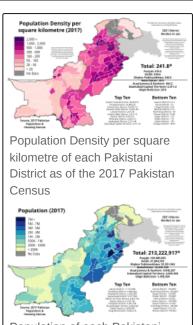
Demographics

Pakistan had a population of 241,495,112 according to the final results of the 2023 Census. [504][505][506] This figure includes Pakistan's four provinces e.g. Punjab, Sindh, KPK, Balochistan and Islamabad Capital Territory. AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan's census data is yet to be approved by CCI Council of Pakistan. Pakistan is the world's fifth most populous country. [507]

Between 1951 and 2017, Pakistan's population expanded over sixfold, going from 33.7 million to 207.7 million. The country has a relatively high, although declining, growth rate supported by high birth rates and low death rates. Between 1998 and 2017, the average annual population growth rate stood at +2.40%.

Dramatic social changes have led to urbanization and the emergence of two megacities: Karachi and Lahore. The country's urban population more than tripled between 1981 and 2017 (from 23.8 million to 75.7 million), as Pakistan's urbanisation rate rose from 28.2% to 36.4%. Even with this, the nation's urbanisation rate remains one of the lowest in the world, and in 2017, over 130 million Pakistanis (making up nearly 65% of the population) lived in rural areas.

Due to a high <u>fertility rate</u>, which was estimated at 3.5 in 2022, Pakistan has one of the world's <u>youngest populations</u>. The 2017 census recorded that 40.3% of the country's population was under the age of 15, while only 3.7% of Pakistanis were



Population of each Pakistani District as of the 2017 Pakistan Census

aged 65 or more. The $\underline{\text{median age}}$ of the country was 19, $\underline{\text{[508]}}$ while its $\underline{\text{sex ratio}}$ was recorded to be 105 males per 100 females.

The demographic history of Pakistan from the ancient Indus Valley civilization to the modern era includes the arrival and settlement of many cultures and ethnic groups in the modern region of Pakistan from Eurasia and the nearby Middle East. Because of this, Pakistan has a multicultural, multilinguistic, and multiethnic society. Despite Urdu being Pakistan's lingua franca, estimates on how many languages are spoken in the country range from 75 to 85, [509][510] and in 2023, the country's three largest ethnolinguistic groups were the Punjabis (making up 36.98% of the total population), the Pashtuns (18.15%), and the Sindhis (14.31%). [511] Pakistan is also thought to have the world's fourth-largest refugee population, estimated at 1.4 million in mid-2021 by the UNHCR. [512]

Urbanisation

Since <u>independence</u> due to the <u>partition of India</u>, <u>urbanisation</u> has surged for various reasons. In the south, <u>Karachi</u> stands as the most populous commercial hub along the <u>Indus River</u>. [513] In the east, west, and north, a dense population arc spans cities like <u>Lahore</u>, <u>Faisalabad</u>, <u>Rawalpindi</u>, <u>Islamabad</u>, <u>Sargodha</u>, <u>Gujranwala</u>, <u>Sialkot</u>, <u>Gujrat</u>, <u>Jhelum</u>, <u>Sheikhupura</u>, <u>Nowshera</u>, <u>Mardan</u>, and <u>Peshawar</u>. By 1990–2008, city dwellers constituted 36% of Pakistan's population, making it South Asia's most urbanized nation, with over 50% living in towns of 5,000+ inhabitants. [514] <u>Immigration</u>, both domestic and international, significantly fuels urban growth. Migration from India, especially to Karachi, the largest metropolis, and from nearby countries, accelerates urbanization, posing new political and socioeconomic challenges. Economic shifts like the green revolution and political developments also play crucial roles. [515]

Largest cities or towns in Pakistan According to the 2023 Census ^[516]									
	Rank	Name	Province	Pop.	Rank	Name	Province	Pop.	
	1	Karachi	Sindh	18,868,021	11	Sargodha	Punjab	975,886	ALL ALL
	2	Lahore	Punjab	13,004,135	12	Sialkot	Punjab	911,817	
Constitution of the	3	Faisalabad	Punjab	3,691,999	13	Bahawalpur	Punjab	903,795	
	4	Rawalpindi	Punjab	3,357,612	14	Jhang	Punjab	606,533	
Karachi	5	Gujranwala	Punjab	2,511,118	15	Sheikhupura	Punjab	591,424	Faisalabad
Karaciii	6	Multan	Punjab	2,215,381	16	Gujrat	Punjab	574,240	ASSESSMENT TO THE REAL PROPERTY.
	7	Hyderabad	Sindh	1,921,275	17	Sukkur	Sindh	563,851	
	8	Peshawar	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	1,905,975	18	Larkana	Sindh	551,716	
Lahore	9	Quetta	Balochistan	1,565,546	19	Sahiwal	Punjab	538,344	
	10	Islamabad	Capital Territory	1,108,872	20	Okara	<u>Punjab</u>	533,693	Rawalpindi

Ethnicity and languages

Pakistan is a diverse society with estimates suggesting it has between 75 and 85 languages. [518][519] Urdu and English serve as the official languages, with Urdu being a unifying force among over 75% of Pakistanis. [520][521] According to the 2023 national census, the largest ethnolinguistic groups include the Punjabis (36.98%), Pashtuns (18.15%), Sindhis (14.31%), Saraikis (12%), Urdu speaking people (9.25%), Balochs (3.38%), Hindkowans/Hazarewals (2.32%), and Brahuis (1.16%). [522][517] The remaining population consists of various ethnic minorities such as Kashmiris, Paharis, Chitralis, various peoples of Gilgit-Baltistan, Kohistanis, Torwalis, Meos, Hazaras, Kalash and Siddis. [523][524] The Pakistani diaspora, numbering over seven million, is the sixth largest in the world. [525]

Immigration



Afghan children near Islamabad fetching water from water pump. (Pakistan hosts the second largest refugee population globally after Turkey.[526])

Even post-1947 partition, Indian Muslims kept migrating to Pakistan, especially Karachi and Sindh province. [527] Wars in neighboring Afghanistan in the 1980s and 1990s pushed millions of Afghan refugees Pakistan, mainly in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and tribal areas, with some in Karachi and Quetta. Pakistan hosts one the world's largest refugee populations.[528] Additionally, around 2 million Bangladeshis and half a million undocumented individuals, purportedly from Myanmar, reside in Pakistan. [529] In October 2023, Pakistan ordered the

deportation of thousands undocumented refugees, citing security concerns. [530]

Migration of Bengalis and Rohingya to Pakistan started in the 1980s and continued till 1998. Karachi hosts a significant number of Bengali settlements, and large Rohingya migration made it one of their largest populations outside Myanmar. [531] Karachi's Burmese community resides in various slums across the city.[532]

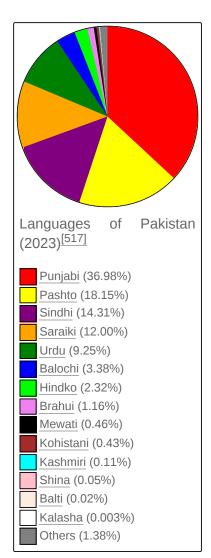
According to BBC, thousands of Uyghur Muslims live in Gilgit-Baltistan, some left Xinjiang, China and the thriving trading town of Kashgar in 1949, while others are later arrivals, claiming to escape political oppression. [533] Since 1989, thousands of Kashmiri Muslim refugees fled to Pakistan, alleging rape and forced displacement by Indian soldiers. [534]

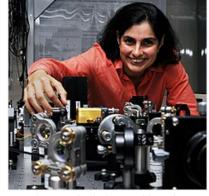
Diaspora

According to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Pakistan has the sixth-largest diaspora globally. [525] Approximately 7 million Pakistanis reside abroad, mainly in the Middle East, Europe, and North America. [535] Pakistan ranks 10th globally for remittances sent home. [420][536] Saudi Arabia is the largest source of remittances, contributing \$5.9 billion as of 2016. [537] The term Overseas Pakistani is officially recognized by the Government of Pakistan, with the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development addressing their needs, welfare, and issues. Overseas Pakistanis constitute the second-largest source of foreign exchange remittances to Pakistan, with remittances increasing by over 100% from US\$8.9 billion in 2009–10 to US\$19.9 billion in 2015–16. [419][536]

Religion

Islam is the state religion, [225] with freedom of religion guaranteed by the constitution. [539][540] The majority are Muslims (96.47%), followed by Hindus (2.14%) and Christians (1.27%). Minorities include Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Zoroastrians (Parsi), and the unique Kalash people who practice animism. [541] Additionally, a small percentage profess no faith, as seen in the 1998 census.





Nergis Mavalvala is a Pakistani American Professor of Physics at MIT who is known for her role in the first observation of gravitational waves.

Islam



Faisal Mosque, built in 1986 by Turkish architect Vedat Dalokay on behalf of <u>King Faisal</u> <u>bin Abdul-Aziz</u> of Saudi Arabia

Islam dominates in Pakistan, with about 96.5% of the population being Muslim. Pakistan ranks second globally in Muslim population, and is home to 10.5% of the world's Muslims. Karachi is the largest Muslim city in the world.

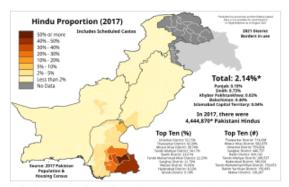
Religions in Pakistan (2023 Census) [538]				
Religions		Percent		
Islam		96.3%		
Hinduism		2.2%		
Christianity		1.4%		
others		0.1%		

The majority follow <u>Sunni Islam</u>, with a significant presence of <u>Sufism</u>, while Shia Muslims constitute a minority. [546][547] Shias represent between 5–25%. [546][381][548] The Shia population in Pakistan was estimated at 42 million in 2019. [549] As of 2012, 12% of Pakistani Muslims self-identify as non-denominational Muslims.

The <u>Ahmadis</u> are a minority, officially considered non-Muslims. [551][552] Ahmadis face persecution, banned from calling themselves Muslims since 1974. [553]

Hinduism

Hinduism is the second-largest religion, followed by 2.14% of the population according to 2017 census. [554][555] Pakistan had the fifth-largest Hindu population globally in 2010. [556] In 2017, Hindus numbered 4,444,437. [557] They reside across Pakistan but are concentrated in Sindh, where they make up 8.73% of the population. [554] Umerkot district is the only Hindu majority area. Tharparkar district hosts the largest Hindu population. Four districts – Umerkot, Tharparkar, Mirpurkhas, and Sanghar – have over half of Pakistan's Hindus. [558]



Hindu proportion of each Pakistani District in 2017 according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

At Pakistan's inception, the 'hostage theory' suggested fair treatment of Hindus to safeguard Muslims in India. [559][560]

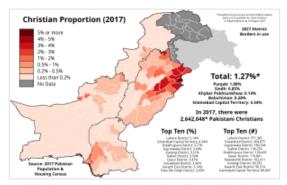
However, some Pakistani Hindus felt marginalized, leading to emigration to India. [561] They faced violence post the Babri Masjid demolition, enduring forced conversions and abductions.

Christianity and other religions

Christians are the next largest religious minority after Hindus, constituting 1.27% of the population. They are concentrated in Lahore District (5%) and Islamabad Capital Territory (over 4%). Karachi hosts a historic Roman Catholic community established by Goan and Tamil migrants during British colonial rule.

Following Christianity, the <u>Bahá'í Faith</u> had 30,000 followers in 2008, followed by Sikhism, Buddhism, and <u>Zoroastrianism</u>, each with around 20,000 adherents in 2008, [564] alongside a small <u>Jain community</u>.

In 2005, 1% of the population identified as atheist. By 2012, this figure had risen to 2.0% according to Gallup. [565]



Christian proportion of each Pakistani District in 2017 according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

Education

Pakistan's constitution mandates free primary and secondary education, [566] with public universities established in each province, including Punjab University, Sindh University, Peshawar University, Karachi University, and Balochistan University. The country's educational landscape encompasses both public and private universities, fostering collaboration to enhance research and higher education opportunities, albeit with concerns regarding teaching quality in newer institutions. [567] Technical and vocational institutions in Pakistan number approximately 3,193,[568] complemented by *madrassahs* providing free Islamic education to students, [569] with government efforts to regulate and monitor their quality amidst concerns over extremists recruitment. [570] Education is divided into six main levels, including nursery, primary, middle, matriculation, intermediate, and university programs. [568] Additionally, private schools offer a parallel secondary education system based on the curriculum set by the Cambridge International Examinations, [571] with 439 international schools reported in Pakistan. [572]



NUST in Islamabad is a top ranked Engineering University.



Malala Yousafzai was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014, alongside Kailash Satyarthi of India, for her advocacy of educational initiatives, particularly girls' education worldwide.

Initiatives since 2007 made English medium education mandatory nationwide. Following a 2012 attack on activist Malala Yousafzai by the Taliban, she became the youngest Nobel laureate for her education advocacy. [573] Reforms in 2013 mandated Chinese language courses in Sindh, reflecting China's growing influence. As of 2018, Pakistan's literacy rate stands at 62.3%, with significant regional and gender disparities. [574] Government initiatives, including computer literacy since 1995, aim to eradicate illiteracy, targeting 100% enrollment among primary school-age children and an ~86% literacy rate by 2015. [575] Pakistan allocates 2.3% of its GDP to education, [576] among the lowest in South Asia. [577]

Culture

Civil society in Pakistan is hierarchical, emphasizing local cultural etiquette and traditional Islamic values. The primary family unit is the extended family, but there's a rising trend towards nuclear families due to socio-economic factors. [578][579] Both men and women typically wear *Shalwar Kameez*; men also favor trousers, jeans, and shirts. [580] The middle class has grown to about 35 million, with another 17 million in the upper and upper-middle classes, leading to a shift in power from rural landowners to urban elites. [581] Festivals like Eid-ul-Fitr, Eid-ul-Azha, Ramadan, Christmas, Easter, Holi, and Diwali are primarily religious. [578] Pakistan ranks 56th on the A.T. Kearney/FP Globalization Index due to increasing globalization. [582]



Four periods define Pakistani architecture: pre-Islamic, Islamic, colonial, and post-colonial. The onset of the Indus civilization around the mid-3rd millennium BCE heralded an urban culture, evidenced by surviving large structures. [583] Notable pre-Islamic



Artwork by Sadequain on the ceiling of Frere Hall. Having painted around 15,000 paintings, Sadequain is considered one of the finest painters and calligraphers Pakistan has ever produced.



The <u>Lahore Fort</u>, a landmark built during the Mughal era, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site

settlements include Mohenjo-daro, Harappa, and Kot Diji. [584] The fusion of Buddhism and Greek influences birthed a distinctive Greco-Buddhist style from the 1st century CE, exemplified by the renowned Gandhara style. [585] Notable Buddhist architectural remnants include the Takht-i-Bahi monastery in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. [586]

The advent of Islam in present-day Pakistan marked the cessation of Buddhist architecture, ushering in Islamic architecture. The notable Indo-Islamic structure, the tomb of Shah Rukn-i-Alam in Multan, remains significant. During the Mughal era, Persian-Islamic design merged with Hindustani art, seen in Lahore's architectural gems like the Badshahi Mosque and the Lahore Fort with the iconic Alamgiri Gate. Lahore also boasts the vibrant Wazir Khan Mosque, [587] and the lush Shalimar Gardens. In the British colonial period, Indo-European buildings emerged, blending European and Indian-Islamic styles. Post-colonial identity shines through modern landmarks like the Faisal Mosque, Minar-e-Pakistan, and Mazar-e-Quaid. British architectural influence persists in structures across Lahore, Peshawar, and Karachi. [588]

Clothing, arts, and fashion

The <u>Shalwar Kameez</u> is Pakistan's <u>national dress</u>, worn in all provinces: Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Azad Kashmir. Each province has its own style. Pakistanis wear a variety of fabrics like silk, <u>chiffon</u>, and cotton. In addition to the national dress, men often wear domestically tailored suits and <u>neckties</u>, especially in offices, schools, and social gatherings. [589]

Pakistan's <u>fashion industry</u> has thrived, blending traditional and modern styles to create a unique cultural identity. Regional and traditional dress remain significant symbols of native tradition, evolving into both modern and purer forms. Organizations like the Pakistan Fashion Design Council in <u>Lahore</u> and the Fashion Pakistan Council in <u>Karachi</u> host events like <u>PFDC Fashion Week</u> and <u>Fashion Pakistan Week</u>. Pakistan's inaugural fashion week took place in November 2009. [590]

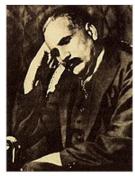


A depiction of traditional clothing of women from Sindh

Literature and philosophy

Pakistan boasts literature in various languages including <u>Urdu</u>, <u>Sindhi</u>, <u>Punjabi</u>, <u>Pashto</u>, <u>Baluchi</u>, <u>Persian</u>, <u>English</u>, and more. <u>[591]</u> The <u>Pakistan Academy of Letters</u> actively promotes literature and poetry both domestically and internationally. <u>[592]</u> <u>National Library</u> contributes to literary dissemination. Historically, Pakistani literature consisted mainly of <u>lyric</u>, <u>religious</u>, and <u>folkloric</u> works, later diversifying under colonial influence into prose fiction, now widely embraced. <u>[593][594]</u>

The <u>national poet</u> of Pakistan, <u>Muhammad Iqbal</u>, wrote influential poetry in Urdu and Persian, advocating for Islamic civilizational revival. [595] Notable figures in contemporary Urdu literature include <u>Josh Malihabadi</u>, <u>Faiz Ahmed Faiz</u>, and <u>Saadat Hasan Manto</u>. [594] Popular Sufi poets like <u>Shah Abdul Latif</u> and <u>Bulleh Shah</u> are revered. [596] <u>Mirza Kalich Beg</u> is hailed as the father of modern Sindhi prose. [597] Pakistani philosophy has been



Muhammad Iqbal, Pakistan's national poet who conceived the idea of Pakistan

shaped by influences from British and American philosophy, with notable figures like <u>M. M. Sharif</u> contributing to its development. Post-1971, Marxist thought gained prominence in Pakistani philosophy through figures like Jalaludin Abdur Rahim.

Media and entertainment

The private <u>print media</u>, state-owned <u>Pakistan Television Corporation</u> (PTV), and <u>Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation</u> (PBC) dominated media until the 21st century. Pakistan now boasts a vast network of domestic, privately owned 24-hour <u>news media</u> and television channels. A 2021 report by the <u>Reporters Without Borders</u> ranked Pakistan 157th among 180 nations on the <u>Press Freedom Index</u>, citing pressures faced by Pakistani reporters, particularly when reporting against the army or government. BBC describes Pakistani media as "among the most outspoken in South Asia". Pakistani media has been instrumental in exposing corruption.

The <u>Lollywood</u>, Punjabi, and <u>Pashto</u> film industry is centered in Karachi, Lahore, and Peshawar. Although Bollywood films were banned from public cinemas from 1965 to 2008, they remained influential in Pakistani popular culture. However, in 2019, the screening of Bollywood movies faced an indefinite ban. Despite challenges faced by the Pakistani film industry, Urdu <u>televised dramas</u> and theatrical performances remain popular, frequently broadcast by many entertainment media outlets. Urdu dramas dominate the television entertainment industry, renowned for their quality since the 1990s. Pakistani music encompasses diverse forms, from provincial folk music and traditional styles like <u>Qawwali</u> and <u>Ghazal</u> Gayaki to modern fusions of traditional and western music. Pakistan boasts numerous renowned folk singers, and the arrival of Afghan refugees in western provinces has sparked interest in Pashto music, despite occasional intolerance.

Cuisine

Pakistani cuisine, rooted in the royal kitchens of 16th-century Mughal emperors, blends influences from British, Indian, Central Asian, and Middle Eastern culinary traditions. [610] Unlike Middle Eastern fare, Pakistani dishes are heavily spiced with garlic, ginger, turmeric, chili, and garam masala. Roti, a wheat-based flatbread, accompanies most meals, alongside curry, meat, vegetables, and lentils. Rice is also common, served plain, spiced, or in sweet dishes. [179][611] Lassi, a traditional drink from the Punjab region, and black tea with milk and sugar are popular beverages enjoyed nationwide. [580][612] Sohan halwa, a beloved sweet dish from southern Punjab, is savored across Pakistan. [613]



<u>Chapatis</u> served with various side dishes are considered a staple food in Pakistan

Sports

<u>Cricket</u> is the most popular sport in Pakistan, followed by <u>football</u>. <u>Field hockey</u> is the national sport. Other sports like <u>squash</u>, <u>polo</u>, and <u>traditional games</u> are also enjoyed.

In cricket, Pakistan boasts victories in all major \underline{ICC} tournaments, including the \underline{ICC} Cricket World Cup, \underline{ICC} World Twenty20, and \underline{ICC} Champions Trophy. The Pakistan Super League ranks among the top $\underline{T20}$ leagues globally. $\underline{[614][615]}$



Locals playing tape ball cricket near <u>Badshahi</u> Masjid, Lahore



A cricket match between Pakistan and Australia at Lord's.

In football, Pakistan established the <u>Pakistan Football</u> Federation soon after its creation, and it is known for producing FIFA World Cup balls. [616][617]

In field hockey, Pakistan boasts four <u>Hockey World Cup</u> wins, eight <u>Asian Games</u> gold medals, and three <u>Olympic</u> gold medals. Squash player <u>Jahangir Khan</u> holds the record for the longest winning streak in professional sport history, winning 555 consecutive matches. [618][619] Pakistan has hosted various international events, including Cricket and Hockey World Cups and Asian Games. [620]

See also



- Outline of Pakistan
- Government of Pakistan
- Administrative units of Pakistan

Notes

- a. Article 251 of the Constitution of Pakistan^[3]
- b. "Includes data for Pakistani territories of Kashmir; <u>Azad Kashmir</u> (13,297 km² or 5,134 sq mi) and <u>Gilgit–Baltistan</u> (72,520 km² or 28,000 sq mi).^[5] Excluding these territories would produce an area figure of 796,095 km² (307,374 sq mi)."
- c. "This figure does not include data for Pakistan-administered areas of Kashmir; Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan."
- d. See Date and time notation in Pakistan.
- e. <u>Urdu</u>: پَاکِسَتَان, Urdu pronunciation: [ˈpɑːkɪst̪ɑːn] <u>ا»</u> : Pronounced variably in English as /ˈpækɪstæn/ اب بي المِثَان, Urdu pronunciation: [ˈpɑːkɪst̪ɑːn] اب بي المِثَان ; Pronounced variably in English as
- f. <u>ISO</u>: إِسْلامَى جُمْهُورِيَه پَاكِسْتَان, Islāmi Jumhūriyāh Pākistān
- g. "This figure does not include data for Pakistan-administered areas of Kashmir; Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan."
- h. In the framework of their regional security complex theory (RSCT), Barry Buzan and Ole Waever differentiate between superpowers and great powers which act and influence the global level (or system level) and regional powers whose influence may be large in their regions but have less effect at the global level. This category of regional powers includes Brazil, Egypt, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Turkey.
- i. The precise time span of the period is uncertain. Philological and Iinguistic evidence indicates that the Rigveda, the oldest of the Vedas, was composed roughly between 1700 and 1100 BCE, also referred to as the early Vedic period. Oberlies gives an estimate of 1200–1100 BCE for the youngest hymns in book ten. Estimates for a *terminus post quem* of the earliest hymns are more uncertain. Other 'cumulative evidence' sets a wide range of 1700–1100.
- j. The World Bank data lists the total area of Pakistan as 770,880 km², excluding Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Kashmir, and water areas.

References

- 1. Minahan 2009.
- 2. Jaffrelot 2015, p. 97.
- 3. Ayres 2009.
- 4. Eberhard, Simons & Fennig 2022.
- 5. James 2022.

- 6. Bhandari 2022.
- 7. IMF 2024.
- 8. IMF 2023.
- 9. Haleem 2013.
- 10. Wright (2009) "The Indus civilisation is one of three in the 'Ancient East' that, along with Mesopotamia and Pharaonic Egypt, was a cradle of early civilisation in the Old World (Childe, 1950). Mesopotamia and Egypt were longer lived, but coexisted with Indus civilisation during its florescence between 2600 and 1900 B.C. Of the three, the Indus was the most expansive, extending from today's northeast Afghanistan to Pakistan and India."
- 11. Badian 1987.
- 12. Wynbrandt 2009.
- 13. Spuler 1969.
- 14. Copland (2001) "However, the real turning point for the new Muslim League came with the general election of December 1945 and January 1946. Despite facing a rejuvenated Congress, the League won four-fifths of all the Muslim-reserved seats ... The result left no one, not least the British, in doubt about where the locus of power within the Muslim community now lay ... In most respects, therefore, the League's success in the elections of 1945–46 can be interpreted as a clear Muslim mandate for Pakistan. (p 72)"
- 15. Metcalf & Metcalf (2006) "The loss of life was immense, with estimates ranging from several hundred thousand up to a million. But, even for those who survived, fear generated a widespread perception that one could be safe only among members of one's own community; and this in turn helped consolidate loyalties towards the state, whether India or Pakistan, in which one might find a secure haven. This was especially important for Pakistan, where the succour it offered to Muslims gave that state for the first time a visible territorial reality. Fear too drove forward a mass migration unparalleled in the history of South Asia. ... Overall, partition uprooted some 12.5 million of undivided India's people."
- 16. Talbot 2016.
- 17. Middle power: multiple sources:
 - Buzan (2004)
 - Solomon (1997)
 - Rajagopalan (2011)
 - Buzan & Waever (2003)
 - Paul (2012, p. 11) "The regional powers such as Israel or Pakistan are not simple bystanders of great power politics in their regions; they attempt to asymmetrically influence the major power system often in their own distinct ways."
 - Vandamme (2014, p. 14) "Countries like Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have enough influence to not be considered small, but not enough to be major powers. Within the limits of their regions, they play a significant political role. Thus instinctively, they would qualify as middle powers. While it is not the objective here to question the characteristics of Jordan's definition of middle powers, we argue that Pakistan is in fact a middle power despite its being nuclear-armed. When looking at the numbers, for instance, it appears that Saudi Arabia and Pakistan can be classified as middle powers."
- 18. Zia & Burton 2023.
- 19. Rais 2017.
- 20. Cornwall & Edwards 2014.
- 21. Joseph 2016.
- 22. Baqir 2018.
- 23. SATP 2024.
- 24. Aziz 1987.
- 25. Saqib & Malik 2018.
- 26. Lahiri 2023.
- 27. Tummala 1996.
- 28. Anand 1991.
- 29. Parker 2017.
- 30. Allchin & Petraglia 2007.
- 31. Ahmed 2014.

- 32. Coningham & Young (2015) "Mehrgarh remains one of the key sites in South Asia because it has provided the earliest known undisputed evidence for farming and pastoral communities in the region, and its plant and animal material provide clear evidence for the ongoing manipulation, and domestication, of certain species. Perhaps most importantly in a South Asian context, the role played by zebu makes this a distinctive, localised development, with a character completely different from other parts of the world. Finally, the longevity of the site, and its articulation with the neighbouring site of Nausharo (c. 2800—2000 BCE), provides a very clear continuity from South Asia's first farming villages to the emergence of its first cities (Jarrige, 1984)."
- 33. Fisher (2018) "The earliest discovered instance in India of well-established, settled agricultural society is at Mehrgarh in the hills between the Bolan Pass and the Indus plain (today in Pakistan) (see Map 3.1). From as early as 7000 BCE, communities there started investing increased labor in preparing the land and selecting, planting, tending, and harvesting particular grain-producing plants. They also domesticated animals, including sheep, goats, pigs, and oxen (both humped zebu [Bos indicus] and unhumped [Bos taurus]). Castrating oxen, for instance, turned them from mainly meat sources into domesticated draft-animals as well."
- 34. <u>Dyson (2018)</u> "The subcontinent's people were hunter-gatherers for many millennia. There were very few of them. Indeed, 10,000 years ago there may only have been a couple of hundred thousand people, living in small, often isolated groups, the descendants of various 'modern' human incomers. Then, perhaps linked to events in Mesopotamia, about 8,500 years ago agriculture emerged in Baluchistan."
- 35. Allchin & Allchin (1982) "During the second half of the fourth and early part of the third millennium B.C., a new development begins to become apparent in the greater Indus system, which we can now see to be a formative stage underlying the Mature Indus of the middle and late third millennium. This development seems to have involved the whole Indus system, and to a lesser extent the Indo-Iranian borderlands to its west, but largely left untouched the subcontinent east of the Indus system."
- 36. Dales, Kenoyer & Alcock 1986.
- 37. Burrison 2017.
- 38. Oursel 2015.
- 39. Vedic period: multiple sources:
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 - Parmar (2018)
 - Consiglio (2015)
 - Carmichael (2022)
- 40. Behrendt 2007.
- 41. Rahmaan 2017.
- 42. Oberlies 2023.
- 43. Stonard 2017.
- 44. Dandamaev 2023.
- 45. Sadasivan 2011.
- 46. James 1980.
- 47. Khan 2022, p. 114.
- 48. Cooke 2017.
- 49. Pollitt 1986.
- 50. Quintanilla 2007.
- 51. Kubica 2023.
- 52. Westmoreland 2019.
- 53. Needham (1994) "When the men of Alexander the Great came to Taxila in India in the fourth century BCE they found a university there the like of which had not been seen in Greece, a university which taught the three Vedas and the eighteen accomplishments and was still existing when the Chinese pilgrim Fa-Hsien went there about CE 400."
- 54. <u>Kulke & Rothermund (2016)</u> "In the early centuries the centre of Buddhist scholarship was the University of Taxila."
- 55. Mookerji 1989.
- 56. Banerjee 2022.

- 57. Mufti 2013.
- 58. Hoodbhoy 2023.
- 59. Cavendish 2006, p. 318.
- 60. <u>Stubbs & Thomson (2016)</u> "Perhaps best known as home to Asia's earliest cities, the Harappan sites of Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa, Pakistan's rich history includes contributions from prominent Buddhist, Hindu, Hellenistic, Jain and Zoroastrian civilizations, as well as those connected to its Islamic heritage."
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- 62. Lapidus 2014.
- 63. Samad 2011.
- 64. Faroghi 2019.
- 65. Canfield 2002.
- 66. Chandra 2005.
- 67. Malik 2006, p. 79.
- 68. Metcalf & Metcalf 2006.
- 69. MacDonald 2017.
- 70. Simpson 2007.
- 71. Wolpert (1984, p. 17) "Barrister Jinnah of Bombay remained as remote from such feelings, as out of tune with such reasoning, as he had been in London in 1893, when Sir Sayyid first spoke of Hindus and Muslims as "different nationalities.""
- 72. <u>Sengupta (2023)</u> "Syed Ahmad Khan, the founder of the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College (which later became Aligarh Muslim University), had declared in a speech in Meerut what would become famous as the "two nation theory.""......"Is it possible that under these circumstances two nations the Mahomedans and the Hindus could sit on the same throne and remain equal in power? Most certainly not."
- 73. Holt & Curta 2016.
- 74. Wolpert 1984.
- 75. Rustomji 1952.
- 76. Walbridge 2012.
- 77. Gayer 2014.
- 78. Sharma, D'Angelo & Giri 2020.
- 79. Pirbhai 2009.
- 80. Harjani 2018.
- 81. Cook 1975.
- 82. Khan 2022, p. 119.
- 83. Cavendish 2006, p. 365.
- 84. Law 1999.
- 85. Hussain 2015.
- 86. Malleson 2016.
- 87. Hali & Akhtar 1993.
- 88. <u>Hardy (1972)</u> "Much has been made' of the failure of Congress and the Muslim parties to agree over the Nehru Report and of the rejection of Jinnah's 'Fourteen Points' as a significant milestone along the way to the partition of India. A great opportunity was lost, it is thought, for the abandonment of separate electorates by voluntary Muslim agreement."
- 89. Wuthnow (2013) "To satisfy Muslims' determination to have guaranteed rights in the future political system of India and to maintain territorial unity of the Indian state, by 1929 Jinnah produced the formula known as the Fourteen Points of Mr. Jinnah. The Fourteen Points included separate electorates for Muslims in the provinces of India, parity of electoral representation in the Punjab and Bengal, and electoral considerations for Muslims in those provinces in which they were a minority, although they would retain clear majority in the Northwest Frontier Province, Baluchistan, and Sind."

- 90. Singh & Shani (2021) "Jinnah's famous 'fourteen points' as a condition for support for India's unity, with strong provinces within a weak Indian federation, marked the parting of ways between the Congress and the Muslim national leadership (Jalal 1994, 10–11). At the 1930 session of the All-Indian Muslim Conference, Sir Mohammed Iqbal proposed a Muslim homeland that would serve 'as a symbolic cultural expression of the common striving of Muslim fulfilment a political manifestation of a common mission' (Gilmartin 1988, 167). The idea of self-determination for India's Muslims was constructed mainly in fear of the majoritarian 'secular' (Hindu) nationalism of the Congress."
- 91. Iqbal (two-nation theory): multiple sources:
 - N. Khan (2012)
 - Basu & Miroshnik (2023) "Mohammed Iqbal was credited with coming up with the two-nation theory in his speech at Allahabad in 1930 to the Muslim League in a very formal way by saying: "I would like to see the Punjab, North-West Frontier Province, Sind, and Baluchistan amalgamated into a single State. Self-government within the British Empire or without the British Empire, the formation of a consolidated North-West Indian Moslem State appears to me to be the final destiny of the Moslems, at least of NorthWest India" (Zaidi, 1993; Ahmed, 1970)."
 - Hussain (2018) "After repeated demands for stronger constitutional safeguards to protect the rights of minorities, Iqbal eventually opted for a separate Islamic Republic instead. As opposed to putting the free and rational individual at the centre of his democratic theory, Iqbal's republic primarily required Muslims endowed with a specific character and smelted together by a peculiar vision of individuality. Like a number of his contemporaries, Iqbal warmed up to the two nation-theory. Unlike the mainstream view, however, which read an eternal struggle of Hindus and Muslims back into Indian history, Iqbal's concept of the Muslim nation was something to be striven towards, not something to be replanted from the past. Iqbal believed that the best way to actualize this national sentiment in the present, was through individual political action."
- 92. Pandeya 2003.
- 93. Basu & Miroshnik 2017.
- 94. M. H. Khan 2016.
- 95. <u>Tucker (2020)</u> "Gandhi's decision played directly into the hands of Jinnah. Jinnah's Muslim League strongly supported the Allied war effort and thereby greatly advanced the possibility of the creation of a separate Muslim state in the Indian subcontinent after the war."
- 96. Chandra 2008.
- 97. Mohiuddin (2007, p. 70) "In the elections of 1946, the Muslim League won 90 percent of the legislative seats reserved for Muslims. It was the power of the big zamindars in Punjab and Sindh behind the Muslim League candidates that led to this massive landslide victory (Alavi 2002, 14). Even Congress, which had always denied the League's claim to be the only true representative of Indian Muslims had to concede the truth of that claim. The 1946 election was, in effect, a plebiscite among Muslims on Pakistan."
- 98. Mohiuddin (2007, p. 71) "Despite the League's victory in the elections, the British did not want the partition of British India. As a last attempt to avoid it, Britain put forward the Cabinet Mission Plan, according to which India would become a federation of three large, self-governing provinces and the central government would be limited to power over foreign policy and defense, implying a weak center."
- 99. Wolpert 1984, p. 309.
- 100. Markovits 2012.
- 101. Wolpert 1984, pp. 328-329.
- 102. Hasanie 2013.
- 103. Akbarzadeh 2020.
- 104. Cohen 2004, p. 6.

105. Casualties/Genocide: multiple sources:

- Sikand (2004)
- Butalia (2000)
- <u>Isaacs (1975)</u> "2,000,000 killed in the Hindu-Muslim holocaust during the partition of British-India and the creation of India and Pakistan"
- Basrur (2008) "An estimated 12–15 million people were displaced, and some 2 million died. The legacy of Partition (never without a capital P) remains strong today ..."
- <u>D'Costa (2011)</u> "Estimates of the dead vary from 200,000 (the contemporary British figure) to 2 million (a subsequent Indian speculation). Today, however, it is widely accepted that nearly a million people died during Partition (Butalia, 1997)."
- Brass (2003) "In the event, largely but not exclusively as a consequence of their efforts, the entire Muslim population of the eastern Punjab districts migrated to West Punjab and the entire Sikh and Hindu populations moved to East Punjab in the midst of widespread intimidation, terror, violence, abduction, rape, and murder."

106. Rape figures: multiple sources:

- Visweswaran (2011)
- <u>Daiya (2011)</u> "The official estimate of the number of abducted women during Partition was placed at 33,000 non-Muslim (Hindu or Sikh predominantly) women in Pakistan, and 50,000 Muslim women in India."
- Abraham (2002) "In addition thousands of women on both sides of the newly formed borders (estimated range from 29,000 to 50,000 Muslim women and 15,000 to 35,000 Hindu and Sikh women) were abducted, raped, forced to convert, forced into marriage, forced back into what the two States defined as 'their proper homes', torn apart from their families once during partition by those who abducted them, and again, after partition, by the State which tried to 'recover' and 'rehabilitate' them."
- Singh, Iyer & Gairola (2016) "The horrific statistics that surround women refugees-between 75,000—100,000 Hindu, Muslim and Sikh women who were abducted by men of the other communities, subjected to multiple rapes, mutilations, and, for some, forced marriages and conversions-is matched by the treatment of the abducted women in the hands of the nation-state. In the Constituent Assembly in 1949 it was recorded that of the 50,000 Muslim women abducted in India, 8,000 of then were recovered, and of the 33,000 Hindu and Sikh women abducted, 12,000 were recovered."
- 107. <u>Hasan & Raza (2009</u>, p. 12) "When the British Indian Empire was partitioned in 1947, 4.7 million Sikhs and Hindus left what is today Pakistan for India, and 6.5 million Muslims migrated from India to Pakistan."
- 108. Riggs 2024.
- 109. Bhaumik 1996.
- 110. Kazmi 2003.
- 111. Tucker 2017.
- 112. Akbar 2018.
- 113. Kumarasingham (2013) "Few today, including those who work on the subcontinent, recollect that India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka did not become republics the day British rule ended. Even distinguished scholars of Empire like Perry Anderson and A. G. Hopkins have made the common assumption that India naturally became a republic upon independence on 15 August 1947. Instead, all three of these South Asian states began their independent life as Realms within the British Commonwealth and mirrored the style and institutions of the Dominions of Canada, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand. Though their sovereignty was in no way impaired by this seemingly ambiguous position they all held the British sovereign as their head of state who was represented in each capital by a governor-general appointed on the advice of the local prime minister. India, Pakistan and Ceylon were Realms from 1947 to 1950, 1947 to 1956 and 1948 to 1972 respectively."
- 114. McGrath (1996) "Undivided India, their magnificent imperial trophy, was besmirched by the creation of Pakistan, and the division of India was never emotionally accepted by many British leaders, Mountbatten among them."
- 115. Ahmed (1997) "Mountbatten's partiality was apparent in his own statements. He tilted openly and heavily towards Congress. While doing so he clearly expressed his lack of support and faith in the Muslim League and its Pakistan idea."

- 116. Wolpert (2009) "Mountbatten tried to convince Jinnah of the value of accepting him, Mountbatten, as Pakistan's first governor-general, but Jinnah refused to be moved from his determination to take that job himself."
- 117. Lapierre & Collins (2015) "Not only was I not aware, but nobody was aware. Nobody had a clue. I'm glad I didn't because I just don't know what I would have done if I'd known that. You see, Jinnah was so much of a one-man band. If somebody had told me he's going to be dead in x months would I then -I am asking myself this question now-would I have said, Let's hold India together and not divide it? Would I have put back the clock, and held the position? Most probably. I have a feeling Jinnah may not have known himself he had tuberculosis. He was a very severe, cold and repressed person. Nothing would have surprised me about him. He was an extraordinary creature."
- 118. Wilson 2009.
- 119. Hussain (2008) "Mawlānā Shabbīr Ahmad Usmānī, a respected Deobandī ʿālim (scholar) who was appointed to the prestigious position of Shaykh al-Islām of Pakistan in 1949, was the first to demand that Pakistan become an Islamic state. But Mawdūdī and his Jamāʿat-i Islāmī played the central part in the demand for an Islamic constitution. Mawdūdī demanded that the Constituent Assembly make an unequivocal declaration affirming the "supreme sovereignty of God" and the supremacy of the sharīʿah as the basic law of Pakistan."
- 120. Hussain (2008) "The first important result of the combined efforts of the Jamāʿat-i Islāmī and the ʿulamāʿ was the passage of the Objectives Resolution in March 1949, whose formulation reflected compromise between traditionalists and modernists. The resolution embodied "the main principles on which the constitution of Pakistan is to be based". It declared that "sovereignty over the entire universe belongs to God Almighty alone and the authority which He has delegated to the State of Pakistan through its people for being exercised within the limits prescribed by Him is a sacred trust", that "the principles of democracy, freedom, equality, tolerance and social justice, as enunciated by Islam shall be fully observed", and that "the Muslims shall be enabled to order their lives in the individual and collective spheres in accord with the teaching and requirements of Islam as set out in the Holy Qurʿan and Sunna". The Objectives Resolution has been reproduced as a preamble to the constitutions of 1956, 1962, and 1973."
- 121. Wynbrandt 2009, p. 190-197.
- 122. Chowdhury & Mahmud 2008.
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- 124. Koumar 2023.
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- 126. Bose 2005.
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- 147. Yap & Abeyratne 2023, p. 68.
- 148. Khan 2012.
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- 157. Mohiuddin 2007, p. 219.
- 158. Martini, Ford & Jackson 2020.
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- 161. Jaffrelot 2015, p. 261.
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- 183. Cavendish 2006, p. 297.
- 184. Blood 1996, p. 82.
- 185. Jiwani 2021.
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- 189. Hasan & Raza 2009, p. 10.
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- 249. Oberst 2018.
- 250. Ejaz 2022.
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- 252. <u>Dhulipala (2015</u>, p. 496) "The idea of Pakistan may have had its share of ambiguities, but its dismissal as a vague emotive symbol hardly illuminates the reasons as to why it received such overwhelmingly popular support among Indian Muslims, especially those in the 'minority provinces' of British India such as U.P."
- 253. <u>Dhulipala (2015</u>, p. 497) "As the book has demonstrated, local ML functionaries, (U.P.) ML leadership, Muslim modernists at Aligarh, the ulama and even Jinnah at times articulated their vision of Pakistan in terms of an Islamic state."
- 254. Dhulipala (2015, p. 489) "But what is undeniable is the close association he developed with the ulama, for when he died a little over a year after Pakistan was born, Maulana Shabbir Ahmad Usmani, in his funeral oration, described Jinnah as the greatest Muslim after the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb."....."Similarly, Usmani asked Pakistanis to remember the Qaid's ceaseless message of Unity, Faith and Discipline and work to fulfil his dream to create a solid bloc of all Muslim states from Karachi to Ankara, from Pakistan to Morocco. He [Jinnah] wanted to see the Muslims of the world united under the banner of Islam as an effective check against the aggressive designs of their enemies."
- 255. <u>Haqqani (2010</u>, p. 16) "The first formal step toward transforming Pakistan into an Islamic ideological state was taken in March 1949 when the country's first prime minister, Liaquat Ali Khan, presented the Objectives Resolution in the constituent assembly."
- 256. <u>Dhulipala (2015</u>, p. 491) "Khaliq drew a sharp distinction between this Islamic state and a Muslim state. He claimed that as of now Pakistan was only a Muslim state in view of the majority of its population being Muslim, and indeed could never be an Islamic state by itself. It could certainly fulfill its promise and destiny by bringing together all the believers of Islam into one political unit and it is only then that an Islamic state would be achieved."
- 257. <u>Haqqani (2010</u>, p. 18) "One of the earliest Western scholars of Pakistani politics, Keith Callard, observed that Pakistanis seemed to believe in the essential unity of purpose and outlook in the Muslim world: Pakistan was founded to advance the cause of Muslims. Other Muslims might have been expected to be sympathetic, even enthusiastic. But this assumed that other Muslim states would take the same view of the relation between religion and nationality."
- 258. <u>Haqqani (2010</u>, p. 18) "Pakistan's pan-Islamic aspirations, however, were neither shared nor supported by the Muslim governments of the time. Nationalism in other parts of the Muslim world was based on ethnicity, language, or territory."
- 259. <u>Haqqani (2010</u>, p. 19) "Although Muslim governments were initially unsympathetic to Pakistan's pan-Islamic aspirations, Islamists from the world over were drawn to Pakistan. Controversial figures such as the pro-Nazi former grand mufti of Palestine, Al-Haj Amin al-Husseini, and leaders of Islamist political movements like the Arab Muslim Brotherhood became frequent visitors to the country."
- 260. Haggani 2010, p. 19.
- 261. Cochrane (2009) "The social scientist, Nasim Ahmad Jawed has conducted a survey of nationalism in pre-divided Pakistan and identifies the links between religion, politics and nationalism in both wings of Pakistan. His findings are fascinating and go some way to explain the differing attitudes of West and East Pakistan to the relationship between Islam and Pakistani nationalism and how this affected the views of people in both wings, especially the views of the peoples of both wings towards each other. In 1969, Jawed conducted a survey on the type of national identity that was used by educated professional people. He found that just over 60% in the East wing professed to have a secular national identity. However, in the West wing, the same figure professed an Islamic and not a secular identity. Furthermore, the same figure in the East wing described their identity in terms of their ethnicity and not in terms of Islam. He found that the opposite was the case in the West wing where Islam was stated to be more important than ethnicity."
- 262. Lintner 2002.

- 263. <u>Diamantides & Gearey (2011</u>, p. 196) "The Constitution of 1973 was created by a parliament that was elected in the 1970 elections. In this first ever general elections ..."
- 264. Igbal 2009.
- 265. <u>Diamantides & Gearey (2011</u>, p. 198) "The 1973 constitution also created certain institutions to channel the application and interpretation of Islam: the Council of Islamic Ideology and the Shariat Court."
- 266. Nasr 1996.
- 267. Kepel 2006.
- 268. <u>Diamantides & Gearey (2011</u>, p. 198) "The Shariat judicial courts were not present in the original Constitution of 1973 and were later inserted in 1979 by General Zia-ul Hag ..."
- 269. Haggani 2010, p. 400.
- 270. Asia Watch Committee (U.S.) 1992.
- 271. Wynbrandt (2009, pp. 216–217) "Zia, however, tried to bolster the influence of Islamic parties and the ulama on government and society."
- 272. Syed et al. (2016, p. 379) "... the military dictator Zia ul Haq (1977–1988) forged a strong alliance between the military and Deobani institutions and movements (e.g. the TJ)."
- 273. Syed et al. (2016, p. 346) "The grave impact of that legacy was compunded by the Iranian Revolution, and Zia-ul Haq's anti-Shia policies, which added the violence and regimentation of the organization."
- 274. Ziegfeld 2016.
- 275. PRC 2011.
- 276. Nee 2013.
- 277. Wasti 2009.
- 278. Schuurmans 2023, p. 63.
- 279. Fischer-Tahir & Naumann 2013.
- 280. PBS 2023.
- 281. Hussain 2020.
- 282. Davis 2023.
- 283. Adibelli et al. 2022.
- 284. Jan 2015.
- 285. Lansford & Muller 2012.
- 286. Berman & Sabharwal 2017.
- 287. Lodhi 2022.
- 288. Hamid et al. 2023.
- 289. Rizvi 2004.
- 290. Stewart-Ingersoll & Frazier 2012.
- 291. Anwar 2006.
- 292. Pande 2011, p. 167.
- 293. Chakma 2012.
- 294. Kmentt 2021.
- 295. Izuyama & Ogawa 2003.
- 296. Noor 2023.
- 297. Embassy of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Malta 2022.
- 298. Shah 1997.
- 299. Wasi 2005.
- 300. Zahra et al. 2022.
- 301. Turner 2016.
- 302. Kemal 2004.
- 303. Hoekman & Kostecki 2009.
- 304. Picone 2020.
- 305. Qingyan 2021.
- 306. Clary 2022.
- 307. Karat 2007.

- 308. Mazzetti 2013.
- 309. Zaidi & Ahmad 2021.
- 310. Yousafzai 2021.
- 311. Zelnick 2013.
- 312. van Tonder 2018.
- 313. Schuurmans 2023, p. 73.
- 314. Cohen 2011.
- 315. Schwinghammer 2018.
- 316. Afridi & Bajoria 2010.
- 317. Roos 2024.
- 318. Lord et al. 2022.
- 319. Raju 2021.
- 320. Rimmer 2020.
- 321. Zreik 2024.
- 322. Dorsey 2018.
- 323. Shih 2022.
- 324. Pant 2011.
- 325. <u>Pasha (2005</u>, p. 225) "Pakistan's expression of solidarity was followed, after Independence, by a vigorous pursuit of bilateral relations with Muslim countries like Iran and Turkey."
- 326. <u>Pasha (2005</u>, p. 226) "Following Khaliquzzaman, the Ali brothers had sought to project Pakistan, with its comparatively larger manpower and military strength, as the natural leader of the Islamic world."
- 327. <u>Dhulipala (2015</u>, p. 18) "As a top ranking ML leader Khaliquzzaman declared, 'Pakistan would bring all Muslim countries together into Islamistan a pan-Islamic entity'."
- 328. <u>Haqqani (2013</u>, pp. 20–21) "Within a few years the president of the Muslim League, Chaudhry Khaliquz-Zaman, announced that Pakistan would bring all Muslim countries together into Islamistan a pan-Islamic entity. None of these developments within the new country elicited approval among Americans for the idea of India's partition ... British Prime Minister Clement Attlee voiced the international consensus at the time when he told the House of Commons of his hope that 'this severance may not endure.' He hoped that the proposed dominions of India and Pakistan would in course of time, come together to form one great Member State of the British Commonwealth of Nations."
- 329. <u>Haqqani (2013</u>, p. 22) "During this time most of the Arab world was going through a nationalist awakening. Pan-Islamic dreams involving the unification of Muslim countries, possibly under Pakistani leadership, had little attraction."
- 330. Roberts (2003) "The following year, Choudhry Khaliquzzaman toured the Middle East, pleading for the formation of an alliance or confederation of Muslim states. The Arab states, often citing Pakistan's inability to solve its problems with Muslim neighbor Afghanistan, showed little enthusiasm ... Some saw the effort to form 'Islamistan' as a Pakistani attempt to dominate other Muslim states."
- 331. Jafri, Sultana & Ijaz 2021.
- 332. Arora & Grover 1995.
- 333. <u>Hunter (2010)</u> "Since then, Pakistan's sectarian tensions have been a major irritant in Iranian-Pakistan relations."
- 334. Pande (2011, p. 159) "Both Saudi Arabia and Iran used Pakistan as a battleground for their proxy war for the 'hearts and minds' of Pakistani Sunnis and Shias with the resultant rise in sectarian tensions in Pakistan. The rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan in the 1990s further strained Pakistan-Iran relations. Pakistan's support of the Sunni Pashtun organization created problems for Shia Iran for whom a Taliban-controlled Afghanistan was a nightmare."
- 335. Talbot 2020.
- 336. Rose & Husain 1985.
- 337. Halladay, Matei & Bruneau 2021.
- 338. Panda 2019.
- 339. Basharat 2023.
- 340. Riedel 2010.
- 341. Visoka & Richmond 2022.
- 342. Maizland 2023.

- 343. Pande (2011, p. 178) "The belief that the creation of Pakistan made Pakistan the true leader of Muslim causes around the world led Pakistan's diplomats to vigorously champion the cause of self-determination for fellow Muslims at the United Nations. Pakistan's founders, including Jinnah, supported anti-colonial movements: "Our heart and soul go out in sympathy with those who are struggling for their freedom ... If subjugation and exploitation are carried on, there will be no peace and there will be no end to wars." Pakistani efforts on behalf of Indonesia (1948), Algeria (1948–1949), Tunisia (1948–1949), Morocco (1948–1956) and Eritrea (1960–1991) were significant and initially led to close ties between these countries and Pakistan."
- 344. Berg & Kursani 2021.
- 345. Babayev, Schoch & Spanger 2019.
- 346. Ahmed & Zahoor 2019.
- 347. Pande 2011.
- 348. CIA 1988.
- 349. Kudaisya & Yong 2004.
- 350. Zahoor & Rumi 2020.
- 351. Bhattacharyya 2023.
- 352. Raghavan 2012.
- 353. Stone 2017.
- 354. Endrst (1965) "Former Indian Defense Minister Krishna Menon who for years influenced the decisions of late Prime Minister Nehru himself a Kashmiri-put it bluntly last March in an interview with an American newsman when he said India could never agree to a U.N. sponsored plebiscite because 'Kashmir would vote to join Pakistan, and no Indian government responsible for agreeing to the plebiscite could survive."
- 355. Ganguly 2019.
- 356. Khurshid 2016.
- 357. Oldenburg 2019.
- 358. IISS 2024.
- 359. Bartholomees 2008.
- 360. DeRouen & Heo 2005.
- 361. Blood 1996, p. 287.
- 362. Military relations: multiple sources:
 - Yadav (2024)
 - Lalwani (2023)
 - Kronstadt (2023)
 - Bruno & Bajoria (2008)
- 363. Wezeman et al. 2024.
- 364. Gates & Roy 2016.
- 365. Oetzel & Ting-Toomey 2006.
- 366. Center for Preventive Action 2024.
- 367. Busch 2014.
- 368. Rupert 1989.
- 369. Withington 2005.
- 370. de Coning, Aoi & Karlsrud 2017.
- 371. Stewart 2002.
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 - "Pakistan's peacekeeping role highlighted" (http://www.dawn.com/news/1215166). *Dawn*. 24 October 2015. Retrieved 26 December 2016. "Pakistan has contributed more than 160,000 troops to-date in 41 missions spread over 23 countries in almost all continents, it said. The country has remained one of the largest troop contributing countries consistently for many years."

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 - Valentine, Simon Ross (2015). Force and Fanaticism: Wahhabism in Saudi Arabia and Beyond (https://books.google.com/books?id=Rl9eCwAAQBAJ&pg=PT219). Oxford University Press. p. 219. ISBN 978-1-84904-616-9.
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