

Course Code: MGT-121
Bangladesh Studies

**Chapter 01: The Origin Name of
Bangladesh, The People and Language**

World Map

- <https://www.google.com/earth/index.html>

The world's age:

- The Earth formed about 4.56 billion years ago from the collapse of a giant cloud of gas and dust. The first life appeared on Earth about 3.8 billion years ago.

Human beings' history:

- The first human beings evolved in Africa about 300,000 years ago. They were hunter-gatherers who lived in small groups. About 12,000 years ago, humans began to domesticate plants and animals, which led to the development of agriculture. Agriculture allowed humans to produce more food, which led to population growth and the rise of civilizations.

Civilization history:

- The first civilizations emerged in Mesopotamia, Egypt, and the Indus Valley about 5,000 years ago. These civilizations were characterized by complex social structures, cities, and writing systems. They also developed advanced technologies, such as irrigation and metallurgy.

Industrial history:

- The Industrial Revolution began in Great Britain in the late 18th century and spread to other parts of the world in the 19th century. The Industrial Revolution was a period of rapid economic and social change that was driven by the development of new technologies, such as the steam engine and the factory system. The Industrial Revolution led to the growth of cities, the rise of the middle class, and the improvement of living standards for many people.

Countries:

- There are 195 countries in the world today. These countries are divided into sovereign states, which are independent political entities that have their own government and laws. The history of each country is unique, but many countries share common experiences, such as colonialism, war, and economic development.

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Introduction to Bangladesh

- Officially it is known as the ***People's Republic of Bangladesh***.
- It is bordered by India on three sides and Myanmar to southeast.
- The Bay of Bengal forms the southern coastline.
- The borders of Bangladesh were set by the partition of India in 1947.

Introduction to Bangladesh

- At that time it was known as eastern wing of Pakistan (East Pakistan), separated from the western wing by 1600km (1000 miles).
- Despite their common *religion, the ethnic and linguistic* gulf between two wings was compounded by an apathetic government based in West Pakistan.
- This resulted in the independence of Bangladesh in 1971 after a bloody war.

Introduction to Bangladesh

- So the history of Bangladesh as *Nation State* began in 1971.
- Prior to creation of Pakistan in 1947, modern-day Bangladesh was the part of:
 - ancient,
 - classical,
 - medieval and
 - colonial India.

Introduction to Bangladesh

- This area's early history was featured by:
 - A succession of Indian empires
 - Internal squabbling and
 - A tussle between Hinduism and Buddhism for dominance.
- Islam made its first appearance between 8th-10th centuries when Muslim missionaries arrived.

Origin of Bengal

- Bengal is a historical and geographical region in the east region of the Indian subcontinent at the apex of the Bay of Bengal.
- Today it is mainly divided between the country of Bangladesh and the state of West Bengal.
- The majority of Bengal is inhabited by Bengali people who speak the Bengali language.

Origin of Bengal

- Vanga (also known as Bongo) was a kingdom located in the eastern part of the subcontinent, comprising part of:
 - West Bengal in India and
 - Present-day modern Bangladesh
- The exact origin of Bangla or Bengal is unknown.

Origin of Bengal

- According to Mahabharata, Harivamsha and purana, 'Vanga' was one of the adopted sons of King Vali who founded the Vanga Kingdom.
- The Vanga Kingdom (also known as Banga) was located in the eastern part of the Indian subcontinent comprising of:
 - West bengal in India and
 - Present-day modern Bangladesh

Origin of Bengali People

- Dravidians migrated to Bengal from the south, while
- Tibeto-Burman people migrated from the Himalayas, followed by
- The Indo-Aryans from the north-western India.
- The modern Bengali people are a blend of these people.
- Smaller numbers of Pathans, Persians, Arabs and Turks also migrated to the region in the late middle ages while spreading Islam.

Origin of Bengali Language

- Linguistically, the oldest population may be speakers of *Dravidian language*, such as the *Kurux*, or
- Perhaps of *Austroasiatic language* such as the *Santals*.