[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Pp-semi-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-semi-indef) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country) **Pakistan** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en) or [Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en)), officially the **Islamic Republic of Pakistan**, is a country in [South Asia](/wiki/South_Asia). It is the [sixth-most populous](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_population) country with a population exceeding [199 million people](/wiki/Demographics_of_Pakistan).[[1]](#cite_note-1) It is the 36th largest country in the world in terms of area with an area covering 881,913 km2 ([Template:Nowrap](/wiki/Template:Nowrap)). Pakistan has a [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) [coastline](/wiki/Coastline) along the [Arabian Sea](/wiki/Arabian_Sea) and the [Gulf of Oman](/wiki/Gulf_of_Oman) in the south and is bordered by [India](/wiki/India) to the east, [Afghanistan](/wiki/Afghanistan) to the west, [Iran](/wiki/Iran) to the southwest and [China](/wiki/China) in the far northeast respectively. It is separated from [Tajikistan](/wiki/Tajikistan) by Afghanistan's narrow [Wakhan Corridor](/wiki/Wakhan_Corridor) in the north, and also shares a [maritime border](/wiki/Maritime_border) with [Oman](/wiki/Oman).

The territory that now constitutes Pakistan is considered a [cradle of civilization](/wiki/Cradle_of_civilization)[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)[[2]](#cite_note-2)[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[4]](#cite_note-4)[[5]](#cite_note-5)[[6]](#cite_note-6)[[7]](#cite_note-7) which was previously home to several [ancient cultures](/wiki/Prehistory_of_Pakistan), including the [Mehrgarh](/wiki/Mehrgarh) of the [Neolithic](/wiki/Neolithic) and the Bronze Age [Indus Valley Civilisation](/wiki/Indus_Valley_Civilisation), and was later home to kingdoms ruled by people of different faiths and cultures, including [Hindus](/wiki/Hindu), [Indo-Greeks](/wiki/Indo-Greek_Kingdom), [Muslims](/wiki/Muslim_conquest_in_the_Indian_subcontinent), [Turco-Mongols](/wiki/Timurid_dynasty), [Afghans](/wiki/Afghan_(ethnonym)) and [Sikhs](/wiki/Sikh). The area has been ruled by numerous empires and dynasties, including the Indian [Mauryan Empire](/wiki/Mauryan_Empire), the Persian [Achaemenid Empire](/wiki/Achaemenid_Empire), [Alexander of Macedonia](/wiki/Alexander_the_Great), the Arab [Umayyad Caliphate](/wiki/Umayyad_Caliphate), the [Delhi Sultanate](/wiki/Delhi_Sultanate), the [Mongol Empire](/wiki/Mongol_Empire), the [Mughal Empire](/wiki/Mughal_Empire), the [Durrani Empire](/wiki/Durrani_Empire), the [Sikh Empire](/wiki/Sikh_Empire) and the [British Empire](/wiki/British_Raj).

Pakistan is unique among Muslim countries as it is the only country to have been created in the name of Islam.[[8]](#cite_note-8) As a result of the [Pakistan Movement](/wiki/Pakistan_Movement) led by [Muhammad Ali Jinnah](/wiki/Muhammad_Ali_Jinnah) and the [subcontinent's](/wiki/Indian_Subcontinent) struggle for independence, Pakistan was created in 1947 as an independent nation for [Muslims](/wiki/Muslim) from the regions in the east and west of the Subcontinent where there was a Muslim majority. Initially a [dominion](/wiki/Dominion_of_Pakistan), Pakistan adopted a [new constitution](/wiki/Constitution_of_Pakistan) in 1956, becoming an Islamic republic. A [civil war](/wiki/Bangladesh_Liberation_War) in 1971 resulted in the secession of [East Pakistan](/wiki/East_Pakistan) as the new country of [Bangladesh](/wiki/Bangladesh).

Pakistan is a [federal](/wiki/Federation) [parliamentary republic](/wiki/Parliamentary_republic) consisting of [four provinces and four federal territories](/wiki/Administrative_units_of_Pakistan). It is an [ethnically](/wiki/Ethnic_groups_in_Pakistan) and [linguistically](/wiki/Languages_of_Pakistan) diverse country, with a similar variation in its [geography](/wiki/Geography_of_Pakistan) and [wildlife](/wiki/Fauna_of_Pakistan). A [regional](/wiki/Regional_power) and [middle power](/wiki/Middle_power),[[9]](#cite_note-9)[[10]](#cite_note-10) Pakistan has the [seventh largest standing armed forces](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_number_of_troops) in the world and is also a [nuclear power](/wiki/Nuclear_power_in_Pakistan) as well as a declared [nuclear-weapons](/wiki/List_of_states_with_nuclear_weapons) state, being the only nation in the [Muslim world](/wiki/Muslim_world), and the second in [South Asia](/wiki/South_Asia), to have that status. It has a semi-industrialised [economy](/wiki/Economy_of_Pakistan) with a well-integrated [agriculture sector](/wiki/Agriculture_in_Pakistan), its [economy](/wiki/Economy) is the [26th largest](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(PPP)) in the world in terms of purchasing power and [45th largest](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(nominal)) in terms of nominal GDP and is also characterized among the [emerging and growth-leading economies](/wiki/Emerging_and_growth-leading_economies) of the world.[[11]](#cite_note-11)[[12]](#cite_note-12) The post-independence history of Pakistan has been characterised by periods of military rule, political instability and [conflicts with neighbouring India](/wiki/Indo-Pakistani_wars_and_conflicts). The country continues to face challenging problems, including [overpopulation](/wiki/Human_overpopulation), [terrorism](/wiki/Terrorism_in_Pakistan), [poverty](/wiki/Poverty_in_Pakistan), [illiteracy](/wiki/Education_in_Pakistan#Literacy_rate), and [corruption](/wiki/Corruption_in_Pakistan). Despite these factors it maintains strategic endowments and development potential while it has made substantial progress in reducing poverty giving it the second lowest headcount poverty rate in [South Asia](/wiki/South_Asia).[[13]](#cite_note-13) The nation has recently witnessed a rapid expansion of its prosperous middle class, the 18th largest worldwide.[[14]](#cite_note-14) Pakistan's [stock exchange](/wiki/Pakistan_Stock_Exchange) is Asia's highest performing stock market and, as of 2016, is part of the [MSCI's](/wiki/MSCI) emerging markets index.[[15]](#cite_note-15)[[16]](#cite_note-16) It is a member of the [United Nations](/wiki/United_Nations), the [Commonwealth of Nations](/wiki/Commonwealth_of_Nations), the [Next Eleven Economies](/wiki/Next_Eleven), [Shanghai Cooperation Organisation](/wiki/Shanghai_Cooperation_Organisation), [ECO](/wiki/Economic_Cooperation_Organisation), [UfC](/wiki/Uniting_for_Consensus), [D8](/wiki/Developing_Eight), [Cairns Group](/wiki/Cairns_Group), [Kyoto Protocol](/wiki/Kyoto_Protocol), [ICCPR](/wiki/International_Covenant_on_Civil_and_Political_Rights), [RCD](/wiki/Regional_Cooperation_for_Development), [UNCHR](/wiki/UNCHR), [Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank](/wiki/Asian_Infrastructure_Investment_Bank), [Group of Eleven](/wiki/Group_of_Eleven), [CPFTA](/wiki/China–Pakistan_Free_Trade_Agreement), [Group of 24](/wiki/Group_of_24), the [G20 developing nations](/wiki/G20_developing_nations), [ECOSOC](/wiki/ECOSOC), founding member of the [Organisation of Islamic Cooperation](/wiki/Organisation_of_Islamic_Cooperation), [SAARC](/wiki/South_Asian_Association_for_Regional_Cooperation) and [CERN](/wiki/CERN).[[17]](#cite_note-17)

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## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

The name [*Pakistan*](/wiki/Wikt:Pakistan) literally means "[Land of](/wiki/-stan) the Pure" in [Urdu](/wiki/Urdu) and [Persian](/wiki/Persian_language). It comes from the word [*pāk*](/wiki/Wikt:پاک) meaning *pure* in [Persian](/wiki/Persian_language) and [Pashto](/wiki/Pashto_language)[[18]](#cite_note-18) while the word [*istān*](/wiki/-stan) is a Persian word meaning *place of*; it is a cognate of the [Sanskrit](/wiki/Sanskrit) word [*sthāna*](/wiki/Wikt:स्थान) ([Devanagari](/wiki/Devanagari): [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang) [Template:IPA-sa](/wiki/Template:IPA-sa)).[[19]](#cite_note-19) It was coined in 1933 as *Pakstan* by [Choudhry Rahmat Ali](/wiki/Choudhry_Rahmat_Ali), a [Pakistan Movement](/wiki/Pakistan_Movement) activist, who published it in his pamphlet [*Now or Never*](/wiki/Pakistan_Declaration),[[20]](#cite_note-20) using it as an [acronym](/wiki/Acronym) ("thirty million Muslim brethren who live in PAKSTAN") referring to the names of the five northern regions of the [British Raj](/wiki/British_Raj): [**P**unjab](/wiki/Punjab,_Pakistan), [**A**fghania](/wiki/Khyber_Pakhtunkhwa), [**K**ashmir](/wiki/Kashmir), [**S**indh](/wiki/Sindh), and [Baluchis**tan**](/wiki/Balochistan,_Pakistan).[[21]](#cite_note-21)[[22]](#cite_note-22)[[23]](#cite_note-23) The letter *i* was incorporated to ease pronunciation and form the linguistically correct and meaningful name.[[24]](#cite_note-24)

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

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### Early and medieval age[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|150px|right|](/wiki/File:TNMStandingBuddha.jpg)[Standing Buddha](/wiki/Standing_Buddha) from [Gandhara](/wiki/Gandhara) Some of the earliest ancient human civilisations in South Asia originated from areas encompassing present-day Pakistan.[[25]](#cite_note-25) The earliest known inhabitants in the region were [Soanian](/wiki/Soanian) during the [Lower Paleolithic](/wiki/Lower_Paleolithic), of whom stone tools have been found in the [Soan Valley](/wiki/Soan_Valley) of [Punjab](/wiki/Punjab,_Pakistan).[[26]](#cite_note-26) The [Indus region](/wiki/Indus_River), which covers most of present day Pakistan, was the site of several successive ancient cultures including the Neolithic [Mehrgarh](/wiki/Mehrgarh)[[27]](#cite_note-27) and the Bronze Age [Indus Valley Civilisation](/wiki/Indus_Valley_Civilisation) (2800–1800 BCE) at [Harappa](/wiki/Harappa) and [Mohenjo-Daro](/wiki/Mohenjo-Daro).[[28]](#cite_note-28)[[29]](#cite_note-29) The [Vedic Civilization](/wiki/Vedic_period) (1500–500 BCE), characterised by [Indo-Aryan](/wiki/Indo-Aryan_peoples) culture, laid the foundations of [Hinduism](/wiki/Hinduism), which would become well established in the region.[[30]](#cite_note-30)[[31]](#cite_note-31) [Multan](/wiki/Multan) was an important Hindu pilgrimage centre.[[32]](#cite_note-32) The Vedic civilisation flourished in the ancient [Gandhāran](/wiki/Gandhara) city of Takṣaśilā, now [Taxila](/wiki/Taxila) in Punjab.[[27]](#cite_note-27) Successive ancient empires and kingdoms ruled the region: the Persian [Achaemenid Empire](/wiki/Achaemenid_Empire) around 519 BCE, [Alexander the Great's](/wiki/Alexander_the_Great) empire in 326 BCE[[33]](#cite_note-33) and the [Maurya Empire](/wiki/Maurya_Empire) founded by [Chandragupta Maurya](/wiki/Chandragupta_Maurya) and extended by [Ashoka the Great](/wiki/Ashoka_the_Great) until 185 BCE.[[27]](#cite_note-27) The [Indo-Greek Kingdom](/wiki/Indo-Greek_Kingdom) founded by [Demetrius of Bactria](/wiki/Demetrius_I_of_Bactria) (180–165 BCE) included Gandhara and Punjab and reached its greatest extent under [Menander](/wiki/Menander_I) (165–150 BCE), prospering the [Greco-Buddhist](/wiki/Greco-Buddhism) culture in the region.[[27]](#cite_note-27)[[34]](#cite_note-34) Taxila had one of the earliest universities and centres of higher education in the world.[[35]](#cite_note-35)[[36]](#cite_note-36)[[37]](#cite_note-37)[[38]](#cite_note-38) The Medieval period (642–1219 CE) is defined by the spread of [Islam](/wiki/Islam) in the region. During this period, [Sufi](/wiki/Sufi) [missionaries](/wiki/Dawah) played a pivotal role in converting a majority of the regional Buddhist and Hindu population to Islam.[[39]](#cite_note-39) The [Rai Dynasty](/wiki/Rai_Dynasty) (489–632 CE) of [Sindh](/wiki/Sindh), at its zenith, ruled this region and the surrounding territories.[[40]](#cite_note-40) The [Pala Dynasty](/wiki/Pala_Dynasty) was the last Buddhist empire that under [Dharampala](/wiki/Dharmapala_(emperor)) and [Devapala](/wiki/Devapala_(Pala_dynasty)) stretched across [South Asia](/wiki/South_Asia) from what is now [Bangladesh](/wiki/Bangladesh) through [Northern India](/wiki/Northern_India) to Pakistan.

The Arab conqueror [Muhammad bin Qasim](/wiki/Muhammad_bin_Qasim) conquered [Indus valley](/wiki/Indus_valley) from [Sindh](/wiki/Sindh) to [Multan](/wiki/Multan) in southern [Punjab](/wiki/Punjab_(Pakistan)) in 711 CE.[[41]](#cite_note-41)[[42]](#cite_note-42)[[43]](#cite_note-43)[[44]](#cite_note-44)[[45]](#cite_note-45) The Pakistan government's official chronology identifies this as the point where the "foundation" of Pakistan was laid.[[41]](#cite_note-41)[[46]](#cite_note-46)[[47]](#cite_note-47) This conquest set the stage for the [rule of several successive Muslim empires](/wiki/Muslim_conquest_in_the_Indian_subcontinent) in the region, including the [Ghaznavid Empire](/wiki/Ghaznavid_Empire) (975–1187 CE), the [Ghorid](/wiki/Ghorid) Kingdom and the [Delhi Sultanate](/wiki/Delhi_Sultanate) (1206–1526 CE). The [Lodi dynasty](/wiki/Lodi_dynasty), the last of the Delhi Sultanate, was replaced by the [Mughal Empire](/wiki/Mughal_Empire) (1526–1857 CE). The Mughals introduced Persian literature and high culture, establishing the roots of [Indo-Persian culture](/wiki/Indo-Persian_culture) in the region.[[48]](#cite_note-48) In the early 16th century, the region remained under the [Mughal Empire](/wiki/Mughal_Empire) ruled by [Muslim emperors](/wiki/Indian_Emperor).[[49]](#cite_note-49) By the early 18th century, the increasing European influence slowly disintegrated the [empire](/wiki/Mughal_Empire) as the lines between commercial and political dominance were increasingly blurred.[[49]](#cite_note-49) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Weeks_Edwin_Lord_An_Open-Air_Restaurant_Lahore.jpg)[Edwin Lord Weeks](/wiki/Edwin_Lord_Weeks) illustration of an open-air restaurant near [Wazir Khan Mosque](/wiki/Wazir_Khan_Mosque), [Lahore](/wiki/Lahore). During this time, the English [East India Company](/wiki/East_India_Company) had established coastal outposts.[[49]](#cite_note-49) Control over the seas, greater resources, technology, and military [force projection](/wiki/Force_protection) by [East India Company](/wiki/East_India_Company) of [British Empire](/wiki/British_Empire) led it to increasingly flex its military muscle; a factor that was crucial in allowing the [Company to gain control](/wiki/Company_rule_in_India) over the [subcontinent](/wiki/Indian_Subcontinent) by 1765 and sidelining the European competitors.[[50]](#cite_note-50) Expanding access beyond [Bengal](/wiki/Bengal) and the subsequent increased strength and size of its [army](/wiki/British_Army) enabled it to annex or subdue most of region by the 1820s.[[49]](#cite_note-49) To many historians, this marked the starting of region's colonial period.[[49]](#cite_note-49) By this time, with its economic power severely curtailed by the [British parliament](/wiki/British_parliament) and itself effectively made an arm of British administration, the [Company](/wiki/Company_rule_in_India) began to more consciously enter non-economic arenas such as education, social reform, and culture.[[49]](#cite_note-49) Such reforms included the enforcement of [English Education Act](/wiki/English_Education_Act_1835) in 1835 and the introduction of the [Indian Civil Service](/wiki/Indian_Civil_Service_(British_India)) (ICS).[[51]](#cite_note-51) Traditional [*madrasahs*](/wiki/Madrasa) – primary institutions of higher learning for [Muslims](/wiki/Indian_Muslims) in the [subcontinent](/wiki/Indian_Subcontinent) – were no longer supported by the [English Crown](/wiki/English_rule_of_India), and nearly all of the [*madrasahs*](/wiki/Madrasa) lost their financial endowment.[[52]](#cite_note-52)

### Colonial period[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

[Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image) The gradual decline of the [Mughal Empire](/wiki/Mughal_Empire) in the early 18th century enabled the [Sikh Empire's](/wiki/Sikh_Empire) influence to control larger areas until the [British](/wiki/United_Kingdom) [East-India Company](/wiki/British_East_India_Company) gained ascendancy over the [Indian subcontinent](/wiki/Indian_subcontinent).[[53]](#cite_note-53) The [rebellion](/wiki/Indian_Rebellion_of_1857) in 1857 (or [Sepoy mutiny](/wiki/Sepoy_mutiny)) was the region's major armed struggle against the [British Empire](/wiki/British_Empire) and [Queen Victoria](/wiki/Queen_Victoria).[[54]](#cite_note-54) Divergence in the [relationship](/wiki/Hindu–Islamic_relations) between [Hinduism](/wiki/Hinduism) and [Islam](/wiki/Islam) created a major rift in [British India](/wiki/British_Indian_Empire); thus instigating racially motivated [religious violence in India](/wiki/Violence_against_Muslims_in_India).[[55]](#cite_note-55) The [language controversy](/wiki/Hindi–Urdu_controversy) further escalated the tensions between Hindus and Muslims.[[56]](#cite_note-56) The [Hindu renaissance](/wiki/Bengali_Renaissance) witnessed the awakening of intellectualism in traditional [Hinduism](/wiki/Hinduism) and saw the emergence of more assertive influence in the social and political spheres in British India.[[57]](#cite_note-57)[[58]](#cite_note-58) [Intellectual movement](/wiki/Aligarh_Movement) to counter the [Hindu renaissance](/wiki/Bengali_Renaissance) was led by Sir [Syed Ahmad Khan](/wiki/Sir_Syed_Ahmed_Khan) who helped founding the [All-India Muslim League](/wiki/All-India_Muslim_League) in 1901 and envisioned as well as advocated for the [two-nation theory](/wiki/Two-nation_theory).[[53]](#cite_note-53) In contrast to the [Indian Congress's](/wiki/Indian_National_Congress) [anti-British](/wiki/Anti-British_sentiment) efforts, the [Muslim League](/wiki/All-India_Muslim_League) was a [pro-British](/wiki/Anglomania) whose political program [inherited the British values](/wiki/British_heritage_of_Pakistan) that would shape Pakistan's future [civil society](/wiki/Pakistani_society).[[59]](#cite_note-59)[[60]](#cite_note-60) In events during [World War I](/wiki/World_War_I), [British Intelligence](/wiki/British_Intelligence) foiled an [anti-English](/wiki/Anti-English) [conspiracy](/wiki/Hindu–German_Conspiracy) involving the nexus of [Congress](/wiki/Indian_National_Congress) and the [German Empire](/wiki/German_Empire).[[61]](#cite_note-61) The largely non-violent independence struggle led by the Indian Congress engaged millions of protesters in mass campaigns of [civil disobedience](/wiki/Quit_India_Movement) in the 1920s and 1930s against the [British Empire](/wiki/British_Empire).[[62]](#cite_note-62)[[63]](#cite_note-63)[[64]](#cite_note-64) [thumb|left|250px|Over 10 million people were uprooted from their homeland and travelled on foot, bullock carts and trains to their promised new home during the](/wiki/File:Old-sikh-man-carrying-wife1947.jpg) [Partition of India](/wiki/Partition_of_India). During the partition between 200,000 to 500,000 people were killed in the retributive genocide.[[65]](#cite_note-65) The [Muslim League](/wiki/All-India_Muslim_League) slowly rose to mass popularity in the 1930s amid fears of under-representation and neglect of [Muslims](/wiki/Indian_Muslims) in [politics](/wiki/Indian_politics). In his presidential address of 29 December 1930, [Allama Iqbal](/wiki/Muhammad_Iqbal) called for "the amalgamation of [North-West](/wiki/Northwestern_India) Muslim-majority Indian states" consisting of [Punjab](/wiki/Punjab,_Pakistan), [North-West Frontier Province](/wiki/North-West_Frontier_Province_(1901–55)), [Sind](/wiki/Sindh) and [Baluchistan](/wiki/Baluchistan,_Pakistan).[[66]](#cite_note-66) [Muhammad Ali Jinnah](/wiki/Muhammad_Ali_Jinnah), the [founder of Pakistan](/wiki/Founder_of_Pakistan), greatly espoused the [two-nation theory](/wiki/Two-nation_theory) and led the Muslim League to adopt the [Lahore Resolution](/wiki/Lahore_Resolution) of 1940, popularly known as the Pakistan Resolution.[[53]](#cite_note-53) In [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II), [Jinnah](/wiki/Muhammad_Ali_Jinnah) and [British educated](/wiki/British_education) [founding fathers](/wiki/Founding_Fathers_of_Pakistan) in the [Muslim League](/wiki/All-India_Muslim_League) supported the [United Kingdom's](/wiki/United_Kingdom) [war efforts](/wiki/United_Kingdom_in_World_War_II), countering opposition against it whilst working towards [Sir Syed's](/wiki/Sir_Syed) [vision](/wiki/Two-nation_theory).[[67]](#cite_note-67) As the [cabinet mission](/wiki/1946_Cabinet_Mission_to_India) failed in India, the [Great Britain](/wiki/United_Kingdom) announced the intentions to end its [*raj*](/wiki/British_Raj) in India in 1946–47.[[68]](#cite_note-68) [Nationalists](/wiki/Indian_nationalism) in British India – including [Jawaharlal Nehru](/wiki/Jawaharlal_Nehru) and [Abul Kalam Azad](/wiki/Abul_Kalam_Azad) of [Congress](/wiki/Indian_National_Congress), [Jinnah](/wiki/Muhammad_Ali_Jinnah) of [Muslim League](/wiki/All-India_Muslim_League), and [Master Tara Singh](/wiki/Master_Tara_Singh) representing the Sikhs—agreed to the proposed terms of transfer of power and independence in June 1947.[[69]](#cite_note-69) As the [United Kingdom](/wiki/United_Kingdom) agreed upon [partitioning of India](/wiki/Partition_of_India) in 1947, the modern state of Pakistan was established on [14 August 1947](/wiki/Fourteenth_of_August) [Template:Small](/wiki/Template:Small) in amalgamating the [Muslim-majority](/wiki/Islam_in_India) eastern and northwestern regions of [British India](/wiki/British_India).[[64]](#cite_note-64) It comprised the provinces of [Balochistan](/wiki/Balochistan_(Pakistan)), [East Bengal](/wiki/East_Bengal), the [North-West Frontier Province](/wiki/North-West_Frontier_Province_(1901–1955)), [West Punjab](/wiki/Punjab_(Pakistan)) and [Sindh](/wiki/Sindh); thus forming Pakistan.[[53]](#cite_note-53)[[69]](#cite_note-69) The [partitioning](/wiki/Partition_of_India) of [Punjab](/wiki/Punjab_region) and [Bengal](/wiki/Bengal) led to the series of violent communal riots across [India and Pakistan](/wiki/India_and_Pakistan); millions of Muslims moved to Pakistan and millions of Hindus and Sikhs moved to India.[[70]](#cite_note-70) Dispute over [Jammu and Kashmir](/wiki/Jammu_and_Kashmir_(princely_state)) led to the [First Kashmir War](/wiki/First_Kashmir_War) in 1948.[[71]](#cite_note-71)[[72]](#cite_note-72)

### Independence and modern Pakistan[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|The](/wiki/File:Pakistan.ogv) [American](/wiki/United_States) [CIA](/wiki/Central_Intelligence_Agency) film on Pakistan made in 1950 examines the history and geography of Pakistan. [Template:Quote box](/wiki/Template:Quote_box) After [independence](/wiki/Creation_of_Pakistan) and the [partition](/wiki/Partition_of_India) of [India](/wiki/Presidencies_and_provinces_of_British_India) in 1947, [Muhammad Ali Jinnah](/wiki/Muhammad_Ali_Jinnah), the [President](/wiki/Party_chair) of [Muslim League](/wiki/All-India_Muslim_League), became nation's first [Governor-General](/wiki/Governor-General_of_Pakistan) as well as first [President-Speaker](/wiki/Speaker_of_the_National_Assembly_of_Pakistan) of the [Parliament](/wiki/Parliament_of_Pakistan).[[73]](#cite_note-73) Meanwhile, Pakistan's [founding fathers](/wiki/Founding_Fathers_of_Pakistan) agreed upon appointing [Liaquat Ali Khan](/wiki/Liaquat_Ali_Khan), the [secretary-general](/wiki/Secretary_General) of the [party](/wiki/All-India_Muslim_League), the nation's [first](/wiki/List_of_Prime_Ministers_of_Pakistan) [Prime Minister](/wiki/Prime_Ministers_of_Pakistan). With [dominion status](/wiki/Dominion_of_Pakistan) in the [Commonwealth of Nations](/wiki/Commonwealth_of_Nations), independent Pakistan had two [British monarchs](/wiki/British_Monarchy) before it became a republic.[[73]](#cite_note-73) Maulānā [Shabbīr Ahmad Usmān](/wiki/Shabbir_Ahmad_Usmani)ī, a respected Deobandī ʿ*ālim* (scholar) who occupied the position of Shaykh al-Islām in Pakistan in 1949, and [Maulana Mawdud](/wiki/Abul_A'la_Maududi)i of [Jamāʿat-i Islāmī](/wiki/Jamaat-e-Islami) played a pivotal role in the demand for an Islamic constitution. [Mawdūdī](/wiki/Abul_A'la_Maududi) demanded that the Constituent Assembly make an explicit declaration affirming the "supreme sovereignty of God" and the supremacy of the *sharīʿah* in Pakistan.[[74]](#cite_note-74) A significant result of the efforts of the Jamāʿat-i Islāmī and the ʿ*ulamāʿ* was the passage of the [Objectives Resolution](/wiki/Objectives_Resolution) in March 1949. The Objectives Resolution, which [Liaquat Ali Khan](/wiki/Liaquat_Ali_Khan) called the second most important step in Pakistan's history, 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". The Objectives Resolution has been incorporated as a preamble to the constitutions of 1956, 1962, and 1973.[[74]](#cite_note-74) [Democracy](/wiki/Democracy_in_Pakistan) was stalled by the [martial law](/wiki/1958_Pakistani_coup_d'état) enforced by [President](/wiki/President_of_Pakistan) [Iskander Mirza](/wiki/Iskander_Mirza) who was [replaced](/wiki/Two_man_rule) by [army chief](/wiki/Army_Chief_of_Staff_(Pakistan)), General [Ayub Khan](/wiki/Ayub_Khan_(President_of_Pakistan)). Forming [presidential system](/wiki/Constitution_of_Pakistan_of_1962) in 1962, the country experienced [exceptional growth](/wiki/Economic_boom) until a [second war](/wiki/Indo-Pakistani_War_of_1965) with [India](/wiki/India) in 1965 which led to economic downfall and wide-scale [public disapproval](/wiki/Tashkent_Agreement) in 1967.[[75]](#cite_note-75)[[76]](#cite_note-76) [Consolidating](/wiki/Legal_Framework_Order,_1970) the control from [Ayub Khan](/wiki/Ayub_Khan_(President_of_Pakistan)) in 1969, President [Yahya Khan](/wiki/Yahya_Khan) had to deal with a devastating [cyclone](/wiki/1970_Bhola_cyclone) which caused 500,000 deaths in [East Pakistan](/wiki/East_Pakistan).[[77]](#cite_note-77)[thumb|upright|Signing of](/wiki/File:Ayubkhanandbhutto.jpg) [Tashkent Declaration](/wiki/Tashkent_Declaration) to end [hostilities](/wiki/Indo-Pakistani_War_of_1965) with [India](/wiki/India) in 1965 in [Tashkent](/wiki/Tashkent), [USSR](/wiki/Union_of_Soviet_Socialist_Republics_(USSR)), by President [Ayub](/wiki/Field_Marshal_Ayub_Khan) alongside [Bhutto](/wiki/Zulfikar_Ali_Bhutto) (center) and [Aziz Ahmed](/wiki/Aziz_Ahmed) (left).

In 1970, Pakistan held its [first democratic elections](/wiki/Pakistani_general_election,_1970) since independence, that were meant to mark a transition from [military rule](/wiki/Legal_Framework_Order,_1970) to democracy, but after the East Pakistani [Awami League](/wiki/Awami_League) won against [Pakistan Peoples Party](/wiki/Pakistan_Peoples_Party) (PPP); Yahya Khan and [military establishment](/wiki/Establishment_(Pakistan)) refused to hand over power.[[78][78]](#cite_note-78)[[79][79]](#cite_note-79) [Operation Searchlight](/wiki/Operation_Searchlight), a military crackdown on the Bengali nationalist movement, led to a declaration of independence and the waging of [a war of liberation](/wiki/Bangladesh_Liberation_War) by the Bengali [Mukti Bahini](/wiki/Mukti_Bahini) forces in East Pakistan, with support from India.[[79]](#cite_note-79)[[80]](#cite_note-80) However, in West Pakistan the conflict was described as a [civil war](/wiki/Civil_war) as opposed to War of Liberation.[[81]](#cite_note-81) Independent researchers think that between 300,000 and 500,000 civilians died during this period while the Bangladesh government puts the figure of dead at three million,[[82]](#cite_note-82) a number which is now universally regarded as excessively inflated.[[83]](#cite_note-83) Some academics such as Rudolph Russel and Rounaq Jahan accused both sides[[84]](#cite_note-84) of genocide whereas others such as Richard Sisson and Leo E. Rose believe there was no genocide.[[85]](#cite_note-85) [Preemptive strikes](/wiki/Preemptive_strikes) on [India](/wiki/India) by the Pakistan's [air force](/wiki/Pakistan_Air_Force), [navy](/wiki/Pakistan_Navy), and [marines](/wiki/Pakistan_Marines), in response to India's support for the insurgency in East Pakistan, sparked the [conventional war](/wiki/Indo-Pakistani_War_of_1971) in 1971 which witnessed the Indian victory and [East Pakistan](/wiki/East_Pakistan) gaining [independence](/wiki/Independence_of_Bangladesh) as [Bangladesh](/wiki/Bangladesh).[[79]](#cite_note-79) With Pakistan [surrendering](/wiki/Instrument_of_Surrender_(1971)) in the war, Yahya Khan was replaced by [Zulfikar Ali Bhutto](/wiki/Zulfikar_Ali_Bhutto) as [President](/wiki/President_of_Pakistan); the country worked towards promulgating [constitution](/wiki/Constitution_of_Pakistan) and putting the country on roads of [democracy](/wiki/Democracy_in_Pakistan). [Democratic](/wiki/Democracy_in_Pakistan) rule resumed from 1972 to 1977– an era of self-[consciousness](/wiki/Consciousness), intellectual [leftism](/wiki/Socialism_in_Pakistan), [nationalism](/wiki/Nationalism_in_Pakistan), and nationwide reconstruction.[[86]](#cite_note-86) During this period, Pakistan embarked on ambitiously developing the [nuclear deterrence](/wiki/Pakistan_and_its_Nuclear_Detterent_Program) in 1972 in [a view to prevent](/wiki/Mutually_assured_destruction) any [foreign invasion](/wiki/Foreign_interventionism); the country's [first](/wiki/KANUPP) [nuclear power plant](/wiki/Nuclear_power_plant) was inaugurated, also the same year.[[87]](#cite_note-87)[[88]](#cite_note-88) Accelerated in response to [first nuclear test](/wiki/Smiling_Buddha) by [India](/wiki/India) in 1974, this [crash program](/wiki/Pakistan_and_Nuclear_Weapons) completed in 1979.[[88]](#cite_note-88) [Democracy](/wiki/Democracy_in_Pakistan) ended with [a military coup](/wiki/Operation_Fair_Play) in 1977 against the [leftist](/wiki/Socialism_in_Pakistan) [PPP](/wiki/Pakistan_Peoples_Party), which saw General [Zia-ul-Haq](/wiki/General_Zia-ul-Haq) become the [president](/wiki/President_of_Pakistan) in 1978. From 1977 to 1988, President [Zia's](/wiki/General_Zia-ul-Haq) [corporatisation](/wiki/Corporate_sector_of_Pakistan) and [economic Islamisation](/wiki/Islamization_of_Economy) initiatives led to Pakistan becoming one of the fastest-growing economies in South Asia.[[89]](#cite_note-89) While consolidating the [nuclear development](/wiki/Pakistan_and_its_Nuclear_Detterent_Program), increasing [Islamization](/wiki/Zia-ul-Haq's_Islamization),[[90]](#cite_note-90) and the rise of homegrown [conservative](/wiki/Conservatism_in_Pakistan) [philosophy](/wiki/Philosophy), Pakistan helped subsidize and distribute U.S. [resources to factions](/wiki/Operation_Cyclone) of the [mujahideen](/wiki/Afghan_mujahideen) against the [USSR's](/wiki/Soviet_Union) [intervention](/wiki/Soviet_war_in_Afghanistan) in [communist](/wiki/Communist_Afghanistan) [Afghanistan](/wiki/Afghanistan).[[91]](#cite_note-91)[[92]](#cite_note-92) [President Zia died](/wiki/Death_of_Muhammad_Zia-ul-Haq) in a [plane crash](/wiki/Plane_crash) in 1988, and [Benazir Bhutto](/wiki/Benazir_Bhutto), daughter of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was elected as the country's [first female](/wiki/Women_in_Muslim_societies) [Prime Minister](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Pakistan). The [Pakistan Peoples Party](/wiki/Pakistan_Peoples_Party) followed by conservative [Pakistan Muslim League (N)](/wiki/Pakistan_Muslim_League_(N)), and over the next decade whose two leaders fought for power, alternating in office while the country's situation worsened; economic indicators fell sharply, in contrast to the 1980s. This period is marked by prolonged [stagflation](/wiki/Periods_of_stagflation_in_Pakistan), instability, [corruption](/wiki/Corruption_in_Pakistan), [nationalism](/wiki/Nationalism_in_Pakistan), [geopolitical](/wiki/Geostrategy) rivalry with [India](/wiki/India), and the clash of [left wing](/wiki/Socialism_in_Pakistan)-[right wing](/wiki/Conservatism_in_Pakistan) ideologies.[[93]](#cite_note-93)[[94]](#cite_note-94) As [PML(N)](/wiki/Pakistan_Muslim_League_(N)) secured a [supermajority](/wiki/Supermajority) in [elections](/wiki/Pakistani_general_election,_1997) in 1997, Sharif authorised the [nuclear testings](/wiki/List_of_nuclear_weapons_tests_of_Pakistan) (See:[*Chagai-I*](/wiki/Chagai-I) and [*Chagai-II*](/wiki/Chagai-II)), as a [retaliation](/wiki/Tit-for-tat) to [second nuclear tests](/wiki/Pokhran-II) ordered by [India](/wiki/India), led by [Prime Minister](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_India) [Atal Bihari Vajpayee](/wiki/Atal_Bihari_Vajpayee) in May 1998.[[95]](#cite_note-95) [left|thumb|](/wiki/File:Musharaff_and_Bush_in_Islamabad.jpeg)[President](/wiki/President_of_the_United_States) [Bush](/wiki/George_W._Bush) meets with President [Musharraf](/wiki/Pervez_Musharraf) in [Islamabad](/wiki/Islamabad) during his 2006 visit to Pakistan. Military tension between the two countries in the [Kargil district](/wiki/Kargil_district) led to the [Kargil War](/wiki/Kargil_War) of 1999, and a turbulence in [civic-military relations](/wiki/Civil-military_relations) allowed General [Pervez Musharraf](/wiki/Pervez_Musharraf) took over through a [bloodless coup d'état](/wiki/1999_Pakistani_coup_d'état).[[96]](#cite_note-96)[[97]](#cite_note-97) Musharraf governed Pakistan as [chief executive](/wiki/Head_of_government) from 1999 to 2001 and as President from 2001 to 2008— a period of [enlightenment](/wiki/Enlightened_moderation), social [liberalism](/wiki/Liberal_islam), extensive [economic reforms](/wiki/Economic_reforms_in_Pakistan),[[98]](#cite_note-98) and [direct involvement](/wiki/Pakistan's_role_in_the_War_on_Terror) in the U.S.-led [war on terrorism](/wiki/War_on_Terrorism). When the [National Assembly](/wiki/National_Assembly_(Pakistan)) historically completed its first full five-year term on 15 November 2007, the new elections were called by the [Election Commission](/wiki/Election_Commission_of_Pakistan).[[99]](#cite_note-99) After the [assassination](/wiki/Assassination_of_Benazir_Bhutto) of [Benazir Bhutto](/wiki/Benazir_Bhutto) in 2007, the [PPP](/wiki/Pakistan_Peoples_Party) secured [largest votes](/wiki/Majority) in the [elections](/wiki/Pakistani_general_election,_2008) of 2008, appointing party member [Yousaf Raza Gillani](/wiki/Yousaf_Raza_Gillani) as Prime Minister.[[100]](#cite_note-100) Threatened with facing [impeachment](/wiki/Movement_to_impeach_Pervez_Musharraf), President Musharraf resigned on 18 August 2008, and was succeeded by [Asif Ali Zardari](/wiki/Asif_Ali_Zardari).[[101]](#cite_note-101)[[102]](#cite_note-102)[[103]](#cite_note-103) Clashes with the [judicature](/wiki/Judiciary_of_Pakistan) prompted [Gillani's](/wiki/Yousaf_Raza_Gillani) disqualification from the [Parliament](/wiki/Parliament_of_Pakistan) and as the [Prime Minister](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Pakistan) in June 2012.[[104]](#cite_note-104) By its own financial calculations, Pakistan's [involvement](/wiki/Pakistan's_role_in_the_War_on_Terror) in the [war on terrorism](/wiki/War_on_terrorism) has cost up to ~$67.93 billion,[[105]](#cite_note-105)[[106]](#cite_note-106) [thousands of casualties](/wiki/List_of_terrorist_incidents_in_Pakistan_since_2001) and nearly 3 million displaced civilians.[[107]](#cite_note-107) The [general election](/wiki/Pakistani_general_election,_2013) held in 2013 saw the [PML(N)](/wiki/Pakistan_Muslim_League_(N)) almost achieve a [supermajority](/wiki/Supermajority), following which [Nawaz Sharif](/wiki/Nawaz_Sharif) became elected as the [Prime Minister](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Pakistan), returning to the post for the third time after fourteen years, in a democratic transition.[[108]](#cite_note-108)

## Government and politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|220px|right|](/wiki/File:Parliament_House,Islamabad_by_Usman_Ghani.jpg)[Parliament House](/wiki/Parliament_of_Pakistan) Pakistan is a [democratic](/wiki/Democracy_in_Pakistan) [parliamentary](/wiki/Parliamentary_republic) [federal republic](/wiki/Federal_parliamentary_republic) with [Islam](/wiki/Islam) as the [state religion](/wiki/State_religion).[[109]](#cite_note-109) The [first set](/wiki/Constitution_of_Pakistan_of_1956) was adopted in 1956 but suspended by Ayub Khan in 1958 who replaced it with the [second set](/wiki/Constitution_of_Pakistan_of_1962) in 1962.[[64]](#cite_note-64) Complete and comprehensive [Constitution](/wiki/Constitution_of_Pakistan) was adopted in 1973—suspended by [Zia-ul-Haq](/wiki/Zia-ul-Haq) in 1977 but reinstated in 1985—is the country's most important document, laying the foundations of the current government.[[110]](#cite_note-110) The Pakistani [military establishment](/wiki/Establishment_(Pakistan)) has played an influential role in mainstream politics throughout [Pakistan's political history](/wiki/Political_history_of_Pakistan).[[64]](#cite_note-64) There were [military coups](/wiki/Military_coups_in_Pakistan) which resulted in imposition of [martial law](/wiki/Martial_law_in_Pakistan) and military commanders continued governing as de-facto presidents from [1958–1971](/wiki/1958_Pakistani_coup_d'état), [1977–1988](/wiki/1977_Pakistani_coup_d'état), and [1999–2008](/wiki/1999_Pakistani_coup_d'état).[[111]](#cite_note-111) As of now, Pakistan has a [multi-party](/wiki/Multi-party_system) [parliamentary system](/wiki/Parliamentary_system) with clear [division of powers](/wiki/Separation_of_powers) and [responsibilities between branches of government](/wiki/Check_and_balance). The first successful [demonstrative transaction](/wiki/Pakistani_general_election,_2013) was held in May 2013. [Politics](/wiki/Politics_in_Pakistan) in Pakistan is centered and dominated by the homegrown conceive [social philosophy](/wiki/Social_philosophy), consisting the ideas of [socialism](/wiki/Socialism_in_Pakistan), [conservatism](/wiki/Conservatism_in_Pakistan), and the [third way](/wiki/Third_Way). As of the [general elections](/wiki/Pakistani_general_election,_2013) held in 2013, the three main dominated political parties in the country: the [centre-right](/wiki/Centre-right_politics) [conservative](/wiki/Conservatism_in_Pakistan) [Pakistan Muslim League-N](/wiki/Pakistan_Muslim_League_(N)) (PML-N); the [centre-left](/wiki/Centre-left_politics) [socialist](/wiki/Socialism_in_Pakistan) [Pakistan Peoples Party](/wiki/Pakistan_Peoples_Party) (PPP); and the [centrist](/wiki/Centre_politics) and [third-way](/wiki/Third_way_politics) [Pakistan Movement for Justice](/wiki/Pakistan_Tehreek-e-Insaf) (PTI) led by [cricketer](/wiki/Cricket) [Imran Khan](/wiki/Imran_Khan).

* [Head of State](/wiki/Head_of_State): The [President](/wiki/President_of_Pakistan) who is elected by an [Electoral College](/wiki/Electoral_College_of_Pakistan) is the ceremonial head of the state and is the civilian [commander-in-chief](/wiki/Commander-in-chief) of the [Pakistan Armed Forces](/wiki/Pakistan_Armed_Forces) (with [Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee](/wiki/Chairman_Joint_Chiefs_of_Staff_Committee) as its principal military adviser), but military appointments and key confirmations in the armed forces are made by the [Prime Minister](/wiki/Prime_minister_of_Pakistan) after reviewing the reports on their merit and performances. Almost all appointed officers in the [judicature](/wiki/Judiciary_of_Pakistan), [military](/wiki/Pakistani_military), [chairman joint chiefs](/wiki/Chairman_Joint_Chiefs_of_Staff_Committee) and [joint staff](/wiki/Joint_Chiefs_of_Staff_Committee), and legislatures require the executive confirmation from the [Prime Minister](/wiki/Prime_minister_of_Pakistan), whom the President must consult, by law. However, the powers to pardon and grant clemency vest with the [President of Pakistan](/wiki/President_of_Pakistan).
* [Legislative](/wiki/Legislative): The [bicameral](/wiki/Bicameral) legislature comprises a 100-member [Senate](/wiki/Senate_of_Pakistan) ([upper house](/wiki/Upper_House)) and a 342-member [National Assembly](/wiki/National_Assembly_of_Pakistan) ([lower house](/wiki/Lower_House)). [Members](/wiki/Member_of_the_National_Assembly_of_Pakistan) of the [National Assembly](/wiki/National_Assembly_(Pakistan)) are elected through the [first-past-the-post](/wiki/First-past-the-post) system under [universal adult suffrage](/wiki/Universal_adult_suffrage), representing electoral districts known as National Assembly [constituencies](/wiki/Constituencies_of_Pakistan). According to the constitution, the 70 seats reserved for women and religious minorities are allocated to the political parties according to their proportional representation. Senate members are elected by provincial legislators, with all of provinces have equal representation.

[thumb|220px|left|](/wiki/File:A_night_side_view_of_Prime_Minister's_Secretariat_Building.jpg)[Prime Minister's Secretariat](/wiki/Prime_Minister's_Secretariat_(Pakistan))

* [Executive](/wiki/Executive_(government)): The [Prime Minister](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Pakistan) is usually the leader of the [majority rule party](/wiki/Majority_rule) or a coalition in the [National Assembly](/wiki/National_Assembly_(Pakistan))— the [lower house](/wiki/Lower_house). The [Prime Minister](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Pakistan) serves as the [head of government](/wiki/Head_of_government) and is designated to exercise as the country's [chief executive](/wiki/Chief_executive). The [Prime Minister](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Pakistan) is responsible for appointing a [cabinet](/wiki/Cabinet_of_Pakistan) consisting of ministers and advisers as well as running the government operations, taking and authorizing executive decisions, appointments and recommendations that require executive confirmation of the Prime Minister.
* [Provincial governments](/wiki/List_of_provincial_governments_of_Pakistan): Each of the [four province](/wiki/Four_Provinces_(Pakistan)) has a similar [system of government](/wiki/List_of_Chief_Ministers_in_Pakistan), with a [directly elected](/wiki/Elections_in_Pakistan) [Provincial Assembly](/wiki/Category:Provincial_Assemblies_of_Pakistan) in which the leader of the largest party or coalition is elected [Chief Minister](/wiki/Chief_Minister_(Pakistan)). Chief Ministers oversees the [provincial governments](/wiki/List_of_provincial_governments_of_Pakistan) and head the provincial cabinet, it is common in Pakistan to have different ruling parties or coalitions in each provinces. The provincial assemblies have power to make laws and approve provincial budget which is commonly presented by the provincial finance minister every fiscal year. [Provincial governors](/wiki/List_of_Governors_of_Pakistan) who play role as the ceremonial head of province are appointed by the [President](/wiki/President_of_Pakistan).[[110]](#cite_note-110)[thumb|220px|right|](/wiki/File:Supreme_Court_of_Pakistan,Islamabad_by_Usman_Ghani.jpg)[Supreme Court of Pakistan](/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_Pakistan)
* [Judicature](/wiki/Judiciary_of_Pakistan): The [judiciary](/wiki/Court_system_of_Pakistan) of Pakistan is a hierarchical system with two classes of courts: the superior (or higher) judiciary and the subordinate (or lower) judiciary. The [Chief Justice](/wiki/Chief_Justice_of_Pakistan) of Pakistan is the [chief judge](/wiki/Chief_judge) who oversees the judicature's [court system](/wiki/Court_system_of_Pakistan) at all levels of command. The superior judiciary is composed of the [Supreme Court](/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_Pakistan) of Pakistan, the [Federal Shariat Court](/wiki/Federal_Shariat_Court) and five [High Courts](/wiki/High_Courts_of_Pakistan), with the Supreme Court at the apex. The [Constitution of Pakistan](/wiki/Constitution_of_Pakistan) entrusts the superior judiciary with the obligation to preserve, protect and defend the constitution. Neither the Supreme Court nor a High Court may exercise jurisdiction in relation to Tribal Areas, except otherwise provided for. The disputed regions of [Azad Kashmir](/wiki/Azad_Kashmir) and Gilgit–Baltistan have separate court systems.

### Foreign relations of Pakistan[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|200px|alt=(L-R) English: Motorcade for President Mohammad Ayub Khan of Pakistan. In open car (Lincoln-Mercury Continental with bubble top): Secret Service agent William Greer (driving); Military Aide to the President General Chester V. Clifton (front seat, center); Secret Service Agent Gerald "Jerry" Behn (front seat, right; partially hidden); President Mohammad Ayub Khan (standing); President John F. Kennedy (standing). Crowd watching. 14th Street, Washington, D.C.|](/wiki/File:Motorcade_in_Arrival_Ceremonies_for_Muhammad_Ayub_Khan,_President_of_Pakistan_use.jpg) [Ayub Khan (President of Pakistan)](/wiki/Ayub_Khan_(President_of_Pakistan)) with US President [John F. Kennedy](/wiki/John_F._Kennedy) in 1961.

As the [Muslim world's](/wiki/Muslim_world) second [most populous](/wiki/Muslim_population_growth) [nation-state](/wiki/Nation-state) (after [Indonesia](/wiki/Indonesia)) and its only [nuclear power](/wiki/List_of_states_with_nuclear_weapons) state, Pakistan has an important role in the [international community](/wiki/International_community).[[112]](#cite_note-112)[[113]](#cite_note-113) With a [semi-agricultural](/wiki/Agriculture_in_Pakistan) and [semi-industrialized](/wiki/Industry_of_Pakistan) [economy](/wiki/Economy_of_Pakistan), its [foreign policy](/wiki/Foreign_policy_of_Pakistan) determines its standard of interactions for its organizations, corporations and individual citizens.[[114]](#cite_note-114)[[115]](#cite_note-115) Its [geostrategic intentions](/wiki/Pakistani_geostrategy) were explained by Jinnah in a broadcast message in 1947, which is featured in a prominent quotation on the homepage of Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs website: "The foundation of our foreign policy is friendship with all nations across the globe."[[116]](#cite_note-116) Since then, Pakistan has attempted to balance its relations with foreign nations.[[117]](#cite_note-117)[[118]](#cite_note-118)[[119]](#cite_note-119) A non-[signatory party](/wiki/Treaty_on_the_Non-Proliferation_of_Nuclear_Weapons) of the [Treaty on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation](/wiki/Treaty_on_the_Non-Proliferation_of_Nuclear_Weapons), Pakistan is an influential member of the [IAEA](/wiki/IAEA).[[120]](#cite_note-120) In recent events, Pakistan has blocked an [international treaty](/wiki/Fissile_Material_Cut-off_Treaty) to limit [fissile material](/wiki/Fissile_material), arguing that the "treaty would target Pakistan specifically."[[121]](#cite_note-121) In the 20th century, Pakistan's [nuclear deterrence](/wiki/Pakistan_and_weapons_of_mass_destruction) program focused on countering India's nuclear ambitions in the [region](/wiki/South_Asia), and [nuclear tests](/wiki/Pokhran-II) by [India](/wiki/India) eventually led Pakistan to [reciprocate](/wiki/Pakistan's_nuclear_testing_series) the event to maintain geopolitical balance as becoming a [nuclear power](/wiki/Nuclear_power_in_Pakistan).[[122]](#cite_note-122) Currently, Pakistan maintains a policy of [credible minimum deterrence](/wiki/N-deterrence), calling its program vital [nuclear deterrence](/wiki/Pakistan_and_its_Nuclear_Detterent_Program) against foreign aggression.[[123]](#cite_note-123)[[124]](#cite_note-124) [thumb|200px|left|](/wiki/File:Hassan_Rouhani_in_meeting_with_Pakistani_Prime_Minister_Nawaz_Sharif_in_Saadabad_Palace_05_(cropped).jpg)[President of Iran](/wiki/President_of_Iran) [Hassan Rouhani](/wiki/Hassan_Rouhani) in conversation with [Prime Minister](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Pakistan) [Nawaz Sharif](/wiki/Nawaz_Sharif) in January 2016. Located in strategic and geopolitical corridor of the world's major maritime [oil supply lines](/wiki/Oil_supplies), communication [fiber optics](/wiki/Fiber-optic_communication), Pakistan has proximity to the natural resources of [Central Asian](/wiki/Central_Asia) countries.[[125]](#cite_note-125) Pakistan is an influential and founding member of the [Organisation of Islamic Cooperation](/wiki/Organisation_of_Islamic_Cooperation) (OIC) and is a major [non-NATO ally](/wiki/Major_non-NATO_ally) of the [United States](/wiki/United_States) in the [war against terrorism](/wiki/War_against_terrorism)— a status achieved in 2004.[[126]](#cite_note-126) Pakistan's [foreign policy](/wiki/Foreign_policy_of_Pakistan) and [geostrategy](/wiki/Pakistani_geostrategy) mainly focus on economy and security against threats to its [national identity](/wiki/Nationalism_in_Pakistan) and territorial integrity, and on the cultivation of close relations with other Muslim countries.[[127]](#cite_note-127) Briefing on country's foreign policy in 2004, the [Pakistani senator](/wiki/Pakistan_Senate) reportedly explains: "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."[[128]](#cite_note-128) Pakistan is an active member of the [United Nations](/wiki/United_Nations) and has a [Permanent Representative](/wiki/Permanent_Representative_of_Pakistan_to_the_United_Nations) to represent Pakistan's policy in international politics.[[129]](#cite_note-129) Pakistan has lobbied for the concept of "[Enlightened Moderation](/wiki/Enlightened_Moderation)" in the [Muslim world](/wiki/Muslim_world).[[130]](#cite_note-130)[[131]](#cite_note-131) Pakistan is also a member of [Commonwealth of Nations](/wiki/Commonwealth_of_Nations),[[132]](#cite_note-132) the [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation](/wiki/South_Asian_Association_for_Regional_Cooperation) (SAARC), the [Economic Cooperation Organisation](/wiki/Economic_Cooperation_Organisation) (ECO)[[133]](#cite_note-133)[[134]](#cite_note-134) and the [G20 developing nations](/wiki/G20_developing_nations).[[135]](#cite_note-135) Pakistan does not have [diplomatic relations](/wiki/Pakistan-Israel_relations) with [Israel](/wiki/Israel);[[136]](#cite_note-136) nonetheless some Israeli citizens have visited the country on a tourist visas.[[137]](#cite_note-137) Based on mutual cooperation, the security exchange have taken place between [two countries](/wiki/Pakistan-Israel_relations) using [Turkey](/wiki/Turkey) as a communication conduit.[[138]](#cite_note-138) Despite Pakistan being the only country in the world that has not established a [diplomatic relations](/wiki/Armenia–Pakistan_relations) with [Armenia](/wiki/Armenia), the [Armenian community](/wiki/Armenians_in_Pakistan) still resides in Pakistan.[[139]](#cite_note-139) [200px|thumb|Pakistan PM](/wiki/File:Huseyn_Shaheed_Suhrawardy_and_Zhou_Enlai_signing_the_Treaty_of_Friendship_Between_China_and_Pakistan_in_Beijing.jpg) [Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy](/wiki/Huseyn_Shaheed_Suhrawardy) with Chinese Premier [Zhou Enlai](/wiki/Zhou_Enlai) signing the Treaty of Friendship Between China and Pakistan. Pakistan, today, hosts China's largest embassy.[[140]](#cite_note-140) Maintaining cultural, political, social, and economic relations with the [Arab world](/wiki/Arab_World) and other countries in the [Muslim World](/wiki/Muslim_World) is a vital factor in Pakistan's foreign policy.[[141]](#cite_note-141) Pakistan was the first country to have established diplomatic relations with [China](/wiki/Peoples_Republic_of_China) and relations continues to be warm since China's [war with](/wiki/Sino-Indian_War) [India](/wiki/India) in 1962.[[142]](#cite_note-142) In the 1960s–1980s, Pakistan greatly helped [China](/wiki/Peoples_Republic_of_China) in reaching out to the world's major countries and helped facilitate [U.S. President](/wiki/President_of_the_United_States) [Nixon's](/wiki/Richard_Nixon) [state visit](/wiki/1972_Nixon_visit_to_China) to [China](/wiki/Peoples_Republic_of_China).[[142]](#cite_note-142) Despite the change of [governments](/wiki/GoP) in Pakistan, variations in the regional and global situation, China policy in Pakistan continues to be dominant factor at all time.[[142]](#cite_note-142) In return, China is Pakistan's largest trading partner and economic cooperation have reached high points, with substantial Chinese investment in Pakistan's infrastructural expansion including the Pakistani deep-water port at [Gwadar](/wiki/Gwadar). Sino-Pak friendly relations touched new heights as both the countries signed 51 agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) in 2015 for cooperation in different fields.[[143]](#cite_note-143)[[144]](#cite_note-144)[[145]](#cite_note-145)[[146]](#cite_note-146) Both countries have signed the [Free Trade Agreement](/wiki/China–Pakistan_Free_Trade_Agreement) in the 2000s, and Pakistan continues to serve as [China's](/wiki/Peoples_Republic_of_China) communication bridge in the [Muslim World](/wiki/Muslim_World).[[147]](#cite_note-147) Because of difficulties in relations with its geopolitical rival [India](/wiki/India), Pakistan maintains close political relations with [Turkey](/wiki/Turkey) and [Iran](/wiki/Iran).[[148]](#cite_note-148) [Saudi Arabia](/wiki/Saudi_Arabia) also maintains a respected position in Pakistan's foreign policy, and both countries has been a focal point in Pakistan's foreign policy.[[148]](#cite_note-148) The [Kashmir conflict](/wiki/Kashmir_conflict) remains the major point of rift; three of [their four wars](/wiki/Indo-Pakistani_wars_and_conflicts) were over this territory.[[149]](#cite_note-149) Due to ideological differences, Pakistan opposed the [Soviet Union](/wiki/Soviet_Union) in the 1950s and during [Soviet-Afghan War](/wiki/Soviet-Afghan_War) in the 1980s, Pakistan was one of the closest allies of the United States.[[128]](#cite_note-128)[[150]](#cite_note-150) Relations with [Russia](/wiki/Russia) have greatly improved since 1999 and cooperation with various sectors have increased between Russia and Pakistan.[[151]](#cite_note-151) Pakistan has had "on-and-off" relations with the United States. A close ally of the United States in the [Cold war](/wiki/Cold_war), Pakistan's relation with the United States relations soured in the 1990s when the U.S. [imposed sanctions](/wiki/Pressler_amendment) because of Pakistan's secretive nuclear development.[[152]](#cite_note-152) Since [9/11](/wiki/September_11_attacks), Pakistan has been a close ally with the United States on the issue of [counter-terrorism](/wiki/Counter-terrorism) in the regions of the [Middle East](/wiki/Middle_East) and [South Asia](/wiki/South_Asia), with the US supporting the latter with aid money and weapons.[[153]](#cite_note-153)[[154]](#cite_note-154) The United States-led [war on terrorism](/wiki/War_on_terrorism) led initially to an improvement in the relationship, but it was strained by a divergence of interests and resulting mistrust during the [war in Afghanistan](/wiki/War_in_Afghanistan_(2001-present)) and by issues related to terrorism.[[155]](#cite_note-155)[[156]](#cite_note-156)[[157]](#cite_note-157)[[158]](#cite_note-158) Since 1948, there has been an ongoing, and at times fluctuating, [violent conflict](/wiki/Balochistan_conflict) in the southwestern province of [Balochistan](/wiki/Balochistan) between various Baloch separatist groups, who seek greater political autonomy, and the central government of Pakistan.[[159]](#cite_note-159)

### Administrative divisions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Administrative Division** | **Capital** | **Population** |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Quetta](/wiki/Quetta) | 7,914,000 |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Lahore](/wiki/Lahore) | 101,000,000 |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Karachi](/wiki/Karachi) | 42,400,000 |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Peshawar](/wiki/Peshawar) | 28,000,000 |
| [20px](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Gilgit_Baltistan.svg) [Gilgit–Baltistan](/wiki/Gilgit–Baltistan) | [Gilgit](/wiki/Gilgit) | 1,800,000 |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) |  | 3,176,331 |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Muzaffarabad](/wiki/Muzaffarabad) | 4,567,982 |
| [20px](/wiki/File:Proposed_Flag_of_Islamabad_Capital_Territory.svg) [Islamabad Capital Territory](/wiki/Islamabad_Capital_Territory) | [Islamabad](/wiki/Islamabad) | 1,151,868 |

A [federal parliamentary republic](/wiki/Federal_parliamentary_republic) state, Pakistan is a federation that comprises [four provinces](/wiki/Four_Provinces_(Pakistan)): [Punjab](/wiki/Punjab,_Pakistan), [Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa](/wiki/Khyber_Pakhtunkhwa), [Sindh](/wiki/Sindh), and [Balochistan](/wiki/Balochistan,_Pakistan).[[160]](#cite_note-160) and four [territories](/wiki/Administrative_units_of_Pakistan): the [Tribal belt](/wiki/Federally_Administered_Tribal_Areas), [Gilgit–Baltistan](/wiki/Gilgit–Baltistan), [Islamabad Capital Territory](/wiki/Islamabad_Capital_Territory), and [Kashmir](/wiki/Azad_Kashmir). The [Government of Pakistan](/wiki/Government_of_Pakistan) exercises the [*de facto*](/wiki/De_facto_standard) jurisdiction over the [Frontier Regions](/wiki/Frontier_Regions) and the [western parts](/wiki/Western_Kashmir) of the [Kashmir Regions](/wiki/Kashmir_Region), which are organised into the separate political entities [Azad Kashmir](/wiki/Azad_Kashmir) and [Gilgit–Baltistan](/wiki/Gilgit–Baltistan) (formerly Northern Areas). In 2009, the [constitutional assignment](/wiki/Constitution_of_Pakistan) ([Template:Small](/wiki/Template:Small)) awarded the [Gilgit–Baltistan](/wiki/Gilgit–Baltistan) a [semi-provincial status](/wiki/Provinces_of_Pakistan), giving it self-government.[[161]](#cite_note-161) The [local government](/wiki/Local_government_in_Pakistan) system consists of a three-tier system of [districts](/wiki/Districts_of_pakistan), [tehsils](/wiki/Tehsil) and [union councils](/wiki/Union_Councils_of_Pakistan), with an elected body at each tier.[[162]](#cite_note-162) There are about 130 districts altogether, of which Azad Kashmir has ten[[163]](#cite_note-163) and Gilgit–Baltistan seven.[[164]](#cite_note-164) The Tribal Areas comprise seven tribal agencies and six small frontier regions detached from neighbouring districts.[[165]](#cite_note-165) [Template:Pakistan Administrative Units Image Map](/wiki/Template:Pakistan_Administrative_Units_Image_Map)

[Law enforcement](/wiki/Law_enforcement_in_Pakistan) is carried out by a joint network of the [intelligence community](/wiki/Pakistan_Intelligence_Community) with jurisdiction limited to the relevant province or territory. The [National Intelligence Directorate](/wiki/National_Intelligence_Directorate) coordinates the information intelligence at both federal and provincial level; including the [FIA](/wiki/Federal_Investigation_Agency), [IB](/wiki/Intelligence_Bureau_(Pakistan)), [Motorway Police](/wiki/National_Highways_and_Motorway_Police), and [paramilitary forces](/wiki/Paramilitary_forces_of_Pakistan) such as the [Pakistan Rangers](/wiki/Pakistan_Rangers) and the [Frontier Corps](/wiki/Frontier_Corps).[[166]](#cite_note-166) Pakistan's "premier" intelligence agency, the Inter-Services Intelligene (ISI), was formed just within a year after the Independence of Pakistan in 1947.[[167]](#cite_note-167) Inter Service Intelligence Agency of Pakistan was ranked as the top intelligence agency in the world in 2011, 2014 and 2015.[[168]](#cite_note-168)[[169]](#cite_note-169) The [court system](/wiki/Court_system_of_Pakistan) is organised as a hierarchy, with the [Supreme Court](/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_Pakistan) at the apex, below which are [High Courts](/wiki/High_Courts_of_Pakistan), [Federal Shariat Courts](/wiki/Federal_Shariat_Court) (one in each province and one in the federal capital), [District Courts](/wiki/District_Courts_of_Pakistan) (one in each district), Judicial Magistrate Courts (in every town and city), Executive Magistrate Courts and civil courts. The [Penal code](/wiki/Pakistan_penal_code) has limited jurisdiction in the Tribal Areas, where law is largely derived from tribal customs.[[166]](#cite_note-166)[[170]](#cite_note-170)

### Military[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|right|The](/wiki/File:F-16_Red_Flag_2010_Pakistan_Air_Force_9_sqn_Griffins.jpg) [Pakistan Air Force](/wiki/Pakistan_Air_Force) [F16s](/wiki/General_Dynamics_F-16_Fighting_Falcon) in tight formation in [Nevada](/wiki/Nevada), U.S during a joint US-Pakistan air force exercise.

The armed forces of Pakistan are the [eighth largest](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_number_of_troops) in the world in terms of numbers in full-time service, with about 617,000 personnel on active duty and 513,000 reservists, as of tentative estimates in 2010.[[171]](#cite_note-171) They [came into existence](/wiki/Military_history_of_Pakistan) after independence in 1947, and the [military establishment](/wiki/Pakistani_military_establishment) has frequently influenced in the [national politics](/wiki/Politics_of_Pakistan) ever since.[[111]](#cite_note-111) [Chain of command](/wiki/Chain_of_command) of the military is kept under the control of the [Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee](/wiki/Joint_Chiefs_of_Staff_Committee); all of the branches joint works, coordination, military logistics, and joint missions are under the [Joint Staff HQ](/wiki/Joint_Staff_Headquarters_(Pakistan)).[[172]](#cite_note-172) The [Joint Staff HQ](/wiki/Joint_Staff_Headquarters_(Pakistan)) is composed of the [Air HQ](/wiki/AHQ_(PAF)), [Navy HQ](/wiki/NHQ_(PN)), and [Army GHQ](/wiki/General_Headquarters_(Pakistan_Army)) in the vicinity of the [Rawalpindi Military District](/wiki/Rawalpindi_Cantonment).[[173]](#cite_note-173) The [Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee](/wiki/Chairman_Joint_Chiefs_of_Staff_Committee) is the highest [principle staff officer](/wiki/Staff_Officer) in the armed forces, and the chief military adviser to the [civilian government](/wiki/GoP) though the chairman has no authority over the three branches of armed forces.[[172]](#cite_note-172) The [Chairman joint chiefs](/wiki/Chairman_Joint_Chiefs_of_Staff_Committee) controls the military from the [JS HQ](/wiki/Joint_Staff_Headquarters_(Pakistan)) and maintains strategic communications between the military and the civilian government.[[172]](#cite_note-172) As of current, the [Chairman joint chiefs](/wiki/Chairman_Joint_Chiefs_of_Staff_Committee) is General [Rashid Mahmood](/wiki/Rashad_Mahmood) alongside [chief of army staff](/wiki/Chief_of_Army_Staff_(Pakistan)) General [Raheel Sharif](/wiki/Raheel_Sharif),[[174]](#cite_note-174) [chief of naval staff](/wiki/Chief_of_Naval_Staff_(Pakistan)) [Admiral](/wiki/Admiral) [Muhammad Zaka](/wiki/Muhammad_Zakaullah),[[175]](#cite_note-175) and [chief of air staff](/wiki/Chief_of_Air_Staff_(Pakistan)) [Air Chief Marshal](/wiki/Air_Chief_Marshal) [Suhail Aman](/wiki/Suhail_Aman).[[176]](#cite_note-176) The main branches are the [Army](/wiki/Pakistan_Army)–[Air Force](/wiki/PAF)–[Navy](/wiki/Pakistan_Navy)–[Marines](/wiki/Pakistan_Marines), which are supported by the number of [paramilitary forces](/wiki/Paramilitary_forces_of_Pakistan) in the country.[[177]](#cite_note-177) Control over the [strategic arsenals](/wiki/Pakistan's_nuclear_testing_series), deployment, employment, development, [military computers](/wiki/Command,_Control,_Communications,_Computers,_Intelligence,_Surveillance,_and_Reconnaissance) and [command and control](/wiki/Nuclear_command_and_control) is a responsibility vested under the [National Command Authority](/wiki/National_Command_Authority_(Pakistan)) which oversaw the work on the [nuclear policy](/wiki/Nuclear_Doctrine_of_Pakistan) as part of the credible [minimum deterrence](/wiki/N-deterrence).[[95]](#cite_note-95) The [United States](/wiki/United_States), [Turkey](/wiki/Turkey), and [China](/wiki/Peoples_Republic_of_China) maintain close military relations and regularly export military equipment and [technology transfer](/wiki/Technology_transfer) to Pakistan.[[178]](#cite_note-178) Joint logistics and major [war games](/wiki/Military_exercise) are occasionally carried out by the militaries of [China](/wiki/Peoples_Republic_of_China) and [Turkey](/wiki/Turkey).[[177]](#cite_note-177)[[179]](#cite_note-179)[[180]](#cite_note-180) [Philosophical](/wiki/Philosophical) basis for the [military draft](/wiki/Conscription) is introduced by the [Constitution](/wiki/Constitution_of_Pakistan) in times of emergency, but it has never been imposed.[[181]](#cite_note-181) Since 1947, Pakistan has been involved in [four](/wiki/Indo-Pakistani_wars_and_conflicts) [conventional wars](/wiki/Conventional_warfare), the [first war](/wiki/Indo-Pakistani_war_of_1947) occurred in [Kashmir](/wiki/Jammu_and_Kashmir) with Pakistan gaining control of [Western Kashmir](/wiki/Western_Kashmir), ([Azad Kashmir](/wiki/Azad_Kashmir) and [Gilgit–Baltistan](/wiki/Gilgit–Baltistan)), and India capturing [Eastern Kashmir](/wiki/Eastern_Kashmir) ([Jammu and Kashmir](/wiki/Jammu_and_Kashmir)). Territorial problems eventually led to another [conventional war](/wiki/Indo-Pakistani_war_of_1965) in 1965; over the issue of [Bengali refugees](/wiki/East_Bengali_refugees) that led to [another war](/wiki/Indo-Pakistani_war_of_1971) in 1971 which resulted in Pakistan's [unconditional surrender](/wiki/Instrument_of_Surrender_(1971)) of [East Pakistan](/wiki/East_Pakistan).[[182]](#cite_note-182) Tensions in [Kargil](/wiki/Kargil_district) brought the two countries at the [brink of war](/wiki/Indo-Pakistani_War_of_1999).[[96]](#cite_note-96) Since 1947, the unresolved [territorial problems](/wiki/Durand_Line) with [Afghanistan](/wiki/Afghanistan) saw [border skirmishes](/wiki/Afghanistan–Pakistan_skirmishes) which was kept mostly at the [mountainous border](/wiki/Afghanistan_Pakistan_border). In 1961, the military and [intelligence community](/wiki/Pakistani_intelligence_community) repelled the [Afghan incursion](/wiki/Military_history_of_Pakistan#Pakistan-Afghanistan_border_clash_of_1961) in the [Bajaur Agency](/wiki/Bajaur_Agency) near the [Durand Line](/wiki/Durand_Line) border.[[183]](#cite_note-183)[[184]](#cite_note-184) Rising tensions with neighboring [USSR](/wiki/Soviet_Union) in [their involvement](/wiki/Soviet_war_in_Afghanistan) in [Afghanistan](/wiki/Afghanistan), Pakistani [intelligence community](/wiki/Pakistani_intelligence_community), mostly the [ISI](/wiki/Inter-Services_Intelligence), [systematically coordinated](/wiki/Operation_Cyclone) the [U.S. resources](/wiki/United_States_involvement_in_regime_change) to the [Afghan mujahideen](/wiki/Afghan_mujahideen) and [foreign fighters](/wiki/Afghan_Arabs) against the [Soviet Union's](/wiki/Union_of_Soviet_Socialist_Republics_(USSR)) presence in the region. Military reports indicated that the [PAF](/wiki/Pakistan_Air_Force) was in engagement with the [Soviet Air Force](/wiki/Soviet_Air_Forces), supported by the [Afghan Air Force](/wiki/Afghan_Air_Force) during the course of the [conflict](/wiki/Russian_war_in_afghanistan);[[185]](#cite_note-185) one of which belonged to [Alexander Rutskoy](/wiki/Alexander_Rutskoy).[[185]](#cite_note-185) [thumb|left| Pakistani Navy sailors in the](/wiki/File:Pakistan_Navy_Ships2.jpeg) [Arabian Sea](/wiki/Arabian_Sea). Apart from its own conflicts, Pakistan has been an active [participant in United Nations peacekeeping missions](/wiki/United_Nations_peacekeeping_missions_involving_Pakistan). It played a major role in rescuing trapped American soldiers from [Mogadishu](/wiki/Mogadishu), Somalia, in 1993 in [Operation Gothic Serpent](/wiki/Operation_Gothic_Serpent).[[186]](#cite_note-186)[[187]](#cite_note-187)[[188]](#cite_note-188) According to [UN](/wiki/United_Nations) reports, the Pakistani military are the largest troop contributors to UN [peacekeeping missions](/wiki/UN_peacekeeping_missions_involving_Pakistan).[[189]](#cite_note-189) Pakistan sent UN Peacekeeping forces to the former Yugoslavia during the Yugoslav wars. During the war, Pakistan supported Bosnia while providing technical and military support. Approximately 90,000 Pakistani people went to Bosnia during the Yugoslav wars, accounting for 20% of the volunteer military force. The [**Inter-Services Intelligence**](/wiki/Inter-Services_Intelligence) (ISI) allegedly ran an active [military intelligence](/wiki/Military_intelligence) program during the [Bosnian War](/wiki/Bosnian_War) which started in 1992 lasting until 1995. Allegedly executed and supervised by [General](/wiki/Lieutenant-General) [Javed Nasir](/wiki/Javed_Nasir), the program distributed and coordinated the systematic supply of arms to various groups of [Bosnian mujahideen](/wiki/Bosnian_mujahideen) during the war.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) The ISI Bosnian contingent was organized with [financial assistance provided by Saudi Arabia](/wiki/Saudi_foreign_assistance), according to the British historian [Mark Curtis](/wiki/Mark_Curtis_(British_author)).[[190]](#cite_note-190) Despite the [UN](/wiki/United_Nations) arms embargo in [Bosnia](/wiki/Bosnia), Nasir later confessed that the ISI airlifted anti-tank weapons and missiles to Bosnian mujahideen which turned the tide in favor of Bosnian Muslims and forced the Serbs to lift the siege.[[191]](#cite_note-191)[[192]](#cite_note-192) Pakistan has [deployed its military](/wiki/Pakistan_Armed_Forces_deployments) in some [Arab countries](/wiki/Arab_world), providing defence, training, and playing advisory roles.[[193]](#cite_note-193)[[194]](#cite_note-194) The [PAF](/wiki/Pakistan_Air_Force) and [Navy's](/wiki/Pakistan_Navy) [fighter pilots](/wiki/Fighter_pilot) have voluntarily served in [Arab nations'](/wiki/Middle_East) militaries against [Israel](/wiki/Israel) in [the Six-Day War](/wiki/Six-Day_War) (1967) and in the [Yom Kippur War](/wiki/Yom_Kippur_War) (1973). Pakistan's [fighter pilots](/wiki/Fighter_pilot) shot down ten Israeli planes in the Six-Day War.[[186]](#cite_note-186) In the 1973 war one of the PAF pilots, Flt. Lt. [Sattar Alvi](/wiki/Sattar_Alvi) flying a MiG-21 shot down an Israeli Air Force Mirage and was honoured by the Syrian government.[[195]](#cite_note-195)[[196]](#cite_note-196)[[197]](#cite_note-197) Requested by the [Saudi monarchy](/wiki/Government_of_Saudi_Arabia) in 1979, the [special forces](/wiki/Special_Service_Group) units, operatives, and commandos were rushed to assist [Saudi forces](/wiki/Saudi_forces) in [Mecca](/wiki/Mecca) to [lead the operation](/wiki/Grand_Mosque_Seizure) of the [Grand Mosque](/wiki/Masjid_al-Haram).[[198]](#cite_note-198) In 1991 Pakistan got involved with the [Gulf War](/wiki/Gulf_War) and sent 5,000 troops as part of a US-led coalition, specifically for the defence of [Saudi Arabia](/wiki/Saudi_Arabia).[[199]](#cite_note-199) Since 2004, the military has been engaged in a [war in North-West Pakistan](/wiki/War_in_North-West_Pakistan), mainly against the homegrown [Taliban factions](/wiki/Tehrik-i-Taliban_Pakistan).[[200]](#cite_note-200)[[201]](#cite_note-201) Major operations undertaken by the Army include [Operation Black Thunderstorm](/wiki/Operation_Black_Thunderstorm) and [Operation Rah-e-Nijat](/wiki/Operation_Rah-e-Nijat).[[202]](#cite_note-202)[[203]](#cite_note-203)

### Kashmir conflict[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) The [Kashmir](/wiki/Kashmir_region)– the most northwesterly region of [South Asia](/wiki/South_Asia)– is a primary [territorial dispute](/wiki/Kashmir_problem) that hindered the [relations](/wiki/India_Pakistan_relations) between [India](/wiki/India) and Pakistan. [Two nations](/wiki/India_and_Pakistan) have fought at least [three large-scale](/wiki/India_Pakistan_Wars) [conventional wars](/wiki/Conventional_warfare) in successive years of [1947](/wiki/Indo-Pakistani_War_of_1947), [1965](/wiki/Indo-Pakistani_War_of_1965), and [1971](/wiki/Indo-Pakistani_War_of_1971). The [conflict](/wiki/Indo-Pakistani_War_of_1971) in 1971 witnessed Pakistan's unconditional [surrender](/wiki/Instrument_of_Surrender_(1971)) and a [treaty](/wiki/Simla_Agreement) that subsequently led to the [independence](/wiki/Independence_of_Bangladesh) of [Bangladesh](/wiki/Bangladesh).[[204]](#cite_note-204) Other serious military engagements and skirmishes included the armed contacts in [Siachen Glacier](/wiki/Siachen_conflict) (1984) and [Kargil](/wiki/Kargil_War) (1999).[[149]](#cite_note-149) Approximately 45.1% of the [Kashmir region](/wiki/Kashmir_region) is [controlled](/wiki/Indian_controlled_Kashmir) by [India](/wiki/India) while claiming the entire state of [Jammu and Kashmir](/wiki/Kashmir_and_Jammu_(princely_state)), including most of [Jammu](/wiki/Jammu), the [Kashmir Valley](/wiki/Kashmir_Valley), [Ladakh](/wiki/Ladakh), and the [Siachen](/wiki/Siachen_Glacier).[[149]](#cite_note-149) The claim is contested by Pakistan, which approximately [controls](/wiki/Pakistani_Controlled_Kashmir) the 38.2% of the [Kashmir region](/wiki/Kashmir_region), known as the [Azad Kashmir](/wiki/Azad_Kashmir) and [Gilgit–Baltistan](/wiki/Gilgit–Baltistan).[[149]](#cite_note-149)[[205]](#cite_note-205)[thumb|230px|left|Shangrila Resort,](/wiki/File:Shangrila_Resorts.jpg) [Skardu](/wiki/Skardu), Gilgit-Baltistan India claims the [Kashmir](/wiki/Kashmir) on the basis of the [Instrument of Accession](/wiki/Instrument_of_Accession_(Jammu_and_Kashmir))— a legal agreement with Kashmir's leaders executed by [*Maharaja*](/wiki/Ruler_of_Kashmir) [Hari Singh](/wiki/Maharaja_Hari_Singh) who agreed to accede the area to India.[[206]](#cite_note-206) Pakistan claims [Kashmir](/wiki/Kashmir) on the basis of a Muslim majority and of geography, the same principles that were applied for the creation of the two independent states.[[207]](#cite_note-207)[[208]](#cite_note-208) India referred the dispute to the United Nations on 1 January 1948.[[209]](#cite_note-209) A [resolution](/wiki/United_Nations_Security_Council_Resolution_38) passed in 1948, the [UN's](/wiki/United_Nations) [General Assembly](/wiki/Un_security_council) asked Pakistan to remove most of its troops as a [*plebiscite*](/wiki/Plebiscite_in_Kashmir) would then be held. However, Pakistan failed to vacate the region and a [ceasefire](/wiki/Ceasefire) was reached in 1949 with the [Line of Control](/wiki/Line_of_Control) (LoC) was established, dividing Kashmir between the [two nations](/wiki/India_and_Pakistan).[[210]](#cite_note-210) India, fearful that the Muslim majority populace of Kashmir would secede from India, did not allow a plebiscite to take place in the region. This was confirmed in a statement by India's Defense Minister, Kirshnan Menon, who said: "Kashmir would vote to join Pakistan and no Indian Government responsible for agreeing to plebiscite would survive.''[[211]](#cite_note-211) Pakistan claims that its position is for the right of the [people](/wiki/Kashmiri_people) of [Jammu and Kashmir](/wiki/Jammu_and_Kashmir) to determine their future through impartial elections as mandated by the [United Nations](/wiki/United_Nations),[[212]](#cite_note-212) while India has stated that [Kashmir](/wiki/Kashmir) is an [integral part](/wiki/Akhand_Bharat) of India, referring to the [Simla Agreement](/wiki/Simla_Agreement)(1972) and to the fact that [elections](/wiki/Elections_in_India) take place regularly.[[213]](#cite_note-213) In recent developments, certain Kashmiri [independence groups](/wiki/Kashmir_independence_movement) believe that Kashmir should be independent of both [India and Pakistan](/wiki/India_and_Pakistan).[[149]](#cite_note-149)

### Law enforcement[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

The [law enforcement](/wiki/Law_enforcement_in_Pakistan) in Pakistan is carried out by joint network of several federal and provincial police agencies. The [four provinces](/wiki/Administrative_units_of_Pakistan) and the [Islamabad Capital Territory](/wiki/Islamabad_Capital_Territory) each have a civilian police force with jurisdiction extending only to the relevant province or territory.[[110]](#cite_note-110) At the federal level, there are a number of civilian [intelligence agencies](/wiki/Pakistan_Intelligence_Community) with nationwide jurisdictions including the [Federal Investigation Agency](/wiki/Federal_Investigation_Agency) (FIA), [Intelligence Bureau](/wiki/Intelligence_Bureau_(Pakistan)) (IB), and the [Motoway Patrol](/wiki/National_Highways_and_Motorway_Police), as well as several [paramilitary forces](/wiki/Paramilitary_forces_of_Pakistan) such as the [National Guards](/wiki/National_Guard_of_Pakistan) ([Northern Areas](/wiki/Northern_Areas_of_Pakistan)), the [Rangers](/wiki/Pakistan_Rangers) ([Punjab](/wiki/Punjab,_Pakistan) and [Sindh](/wiki/Sindh)), and the [Frontier Corps](/wiki/Frontier_Corps) ([Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa](/wiki/Khyber_Pakhtunkhwa) and [Balochistan](/wiki/Balochistan,_Pakistan)).

The most senior officers of all the civilian police forces also form part of the [Police Service](/wiki/Police_Service_of_Pakistan), which is a component of the [civil service](/wiki/Central_Superior_Services_of_Pakistan) of Pakistan. Namely, there are [four provincial](/wiki/Administrative_units_of_Pakistan) [police service](/wiki/Police_Service_of_Pakistan) including the [Punjab Police](/wiki/Punjab_Police_(Pakistan)), [Sindh Police](/wiki/Sindh_Police), [Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Police](/wiki/Khyber_Pakhtunkhwa_Police), and the [Balochistan Police](/wiki/Balochistan_Police); all headed by the appointed senior [Inspector-Generals](/wiki/Inspector_general). The [Islamabad](/wiki/Islamabad_Capital_Territory) has its own police component, the [Capital Police](/wiki/Capital_Territory_Police), to maintain [law and order](/wiki/Law_and_order_(politics)) in the capital. The [CID](/wiki/Crime_Investigation_Department_(Pakistan)) bureaus are the [crime investigation](/wiki/Crime_investigation) unit and forms a vital part in each provincial [police service](/wiki/Police_Service_of_Pakistan).

The [law enforcement](/wiki/Law_enforcement_in_Pakistan) in Pakistan also has a [Motorway Patrol](/wiki/National_Highways_&_Motorway_Police) which is responsible for enforcement of traffic and safety laws, security and recovery on Pakistan's inter-provincial [motorway network](/wiki/Motorways_of_Pakistan). In each of provincial [Police Service](/wiki/Police_Service_of_Pakistan), it also maintains a respective [Elite Police](/wiki/Elite_Police) units led by the [NACTA](/wiki/National_Counter_Terrorism_Authority)– a counter-terrorism police unit as well as providing [VIP escorts](/wiki/Very_Important_Person). In [Punjab](/wiki/Punjab,_Pakistan) and [Sindh](/wiki/Sindh), the [Pakistan Rangers](/wiki/Pakistan_Rangers) are an internal security force with the prime objective to provide and maintain security in war zones and areas of conflict as well as maintaining law and order which includes providing assistance to the police.[[214]](#cite_note-214) The [Frontier Corps](/wiki/Frontier_Corps) serves the similar purpose in [Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa](/wiki/Khyber_Pakhtunkhwa), and the [Balochistan](/wiki/Balochistan,_Pakistan).[[214]](#cite_note-214)

## Geography, environment and climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|300px|Pakistan map of Köppen climate classification.](/wiki/File:Pakistan_map_of_Köppen_climate_classification.svg) The [geography](/wiki/Geography_of_Pakistan) and [climate](/wiki/Climate_of_Pakistan) of Pakistan are extremely diverse, and the country is home to a wide variety of [wildlife](/wiki/Wildlife).[[215]](#cite_note-215) Pakistan covers an area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), approximately equal to the combined land areas of France and the United Kingdom. It is the [36th largest nation by total area](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_area), although this ranking varies depending on how the disputed territory of Kashmir is counted. Pakistan has a [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) coastline along the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman in the south[[216]](#cite_note-216) and land borders of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in total: [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) with Afghanistan, [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) with China, [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) with India and [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) with Iran.[[110]](#cite_note-110) It shares a marine border with Oman,[[217]](#cite_note-217) and is separated from Tajikistan by the cold, narrow [Wakhan Corridor](/wiki/Wakhan_Corridor).[[218]](#cite_note-218) Pakistan occupies a geopolitically important location at the crossroads of South Asia, the Middle East and Central Asia.[[219]](#cite_note-219) Geologically, Pakistan is located in the Indus-Tsangpo Suture Zone and overlaps the [Indian tectonic plate](/wiki/Indian_plate) in its Sindh and Punjab provinces; Balochistan and most of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are within the [Eurasian plate](/wiki/Eurasian_plate), mainly on the [Iranian plateau](/wiki/Iranian_plateau). Gilgit–Baltistan and Azad Kashmir lie along the edge of the Indian plate and hence are [prone to violent earthquakes](/wiki/List_of_earthquakes_in_Pakistan). This region has the highest rates of seismicity and largest earthquakes in the Himalaya region.[[220]](#cite_note-220) Ranging from the coastal areas of the south to the glaciated mountains of the north, Pakistan's landscapes vary from plains to deserts, forests, hills and plateaus .[[221]](#cite_note-221) Pakistan is divided into three major geographic areas: the northern highlands, the [Indus River](/wiki/Indus_River) plain and the Balochistan Plateau.[[222]](#cite_note-222) The northern highlands contain the [Karakoram](/wiki/Karakoram), [Hindu Kush](/wiki/Hindu_Kush) and [Pamir](/wiki/Pamir_Mountains) mountain ranges (see [mountains of Pakistan](/wiki/Mountains_of_Pakistan)), which contain some of the world's highest peaks, including five of the fourteen [eight-thousanders](/wiki/Eight-thousanders) (mountain peaks over [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)), which attract adventurers and mountaineers from all over the world, notably [K2](/wiki/K2) ([Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)) and [Nanga Parbat](/wiki/Nanga_Parbat) ([Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)).[[223]](#cite_note-223) The Balochistan Plateau lies in the west and the [Thar Desert](/wiki/Thar_Desert) in the east. The [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) Indus River and its tributaries flow through the country from the Kashmir region to the Arabian Sea. There is an expanse of alluvial plains along it in Punjab and Sindh.[[224]](#cite_note-224) The climate varies from tropical to temperate, with arid conditions in the coastal south. There is a [monsoon](/wiki/Monsoon) season with frequent flooding due to heavy rainfall, and a dry season with significantly less rainfall or none at all. There are 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.[[53]](#cite_note-53) Rainfall varies greatly from year to year, and patterns of alternate flooding and drought are common.[[225]](#cite_note-225)<gallery mode="packed" heights="120px" widths="px"> File:K2 2006b.jpg|[K2](/wiki/K2) is the [second-highest mountain on Earth](/wiki/List_of_highest_mountains) File:Lake Swatvalley x100.JPG|[Swat District](/wiki/Swat_District) File:Thar Khuri.jpg|[Thar Desert](/wiki/Thar_Desert) forms a natural boundary between India and Pakistan File:Bueatyfull site.jpg|[Naran, Kaghan Valley](/wiki/Naran,_Kaghan_Valley) File:Astola Island 2.jpg|[Astola Island](/wiki/Astola_Island) File:Dudiptsar Lake.jpg|[Lulusar-Dudipatsar National Park](/wiki/Lulusar-Dudipatsar_National_Park) File:Clifton Beach 5.jpg|[Clifton Beach](/wiki/Clifton_Beach) File:Desan, Utror Kalam Swat valley.jpg|[Gilgit-Baltistan](/wiki/Gilgit-Baltistan) File:SHIGAR.jpg|[Cold Desert, Skardu](/wiki/Cold_Desert,_Skardu) is world's highest desert </gallery>

### Flora and fauna[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Pedrengo_cedro_nel_parco_Frizzoni.jpg)[Deodar](/wiki/Cedrus_deodara),[Template:Efn](/wiki/Template:Efn) Pakistan's national tree. The diversity of landscapes and climates in Pakistan allows a wide variety of trees and plants to flourish. The forests range from coniferous [alpine](/wiki/Alpine_plant) and [subalpine](/wiki/Subalpine) trees such as [spruce](/wiki/Spruce), [pine](/wiki/Pine) and [deodar cedar](/wiki/Deodar_cedar) in the extreme northern mountains, through [deciduous](/wiki/Deciduous) trees in most of the country (for example the mulberry-like [shisham](/wiki/Dalbergia_sissoo) found in the [Sulaiman Mountains](/wiki/Sulaiman_Mountains)), to palms such as [coconut](/wiki/Coconut) and [date](/wiki/Phoenix_dactylifera) in southern Punjab, southern Balochistan and all of Sindh. The western hills are home to [juniper](/wiki/Juniper), [tamarisk](/wiki/Tamarisk), coarse grasses and scrub plants. [Mangrove](/wiki/Mangrove) forests form much of the coastal wetlands along the coast in the south.[[226]](#cite_note-226) Coniferous forests are found at altitudes ranging from 1,000 to 4,000 metres in most of the northern and northwestern highlands. In the [xeric](/wiki/Xeric) regions of Balochistan, date palm and [*Ephedra*](/wiki/Ephedra_(genus)) are common. In most of Punjab and Sindh, the Indus plains support tropical and subtropical dry and moist broadleaf forestry as well as tropical and xeric shrublands. These forests are mostly of [mulberry](/wiki/Mulberry), [acacia](/wiki/Acacia), and [eucalyptus](/wiki/Eucalyptus).[[227]](#cite_note-227) About 2.2% or [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of Pakistan was forested in 2010.[[228]](#cite_note-228) The fauna of Pakistan reflects its varied climates too. Around 668 bird species are found there:[[229]](#cite_note-229)[[230]](#cite_note-230) [crows](/wiki/Crow), [sparrows](/wiki/Sparrow), [mynas](/wiki/Acridotheres), [hawks](/wiki/Hawk), [falcons](/wiki/Falcon) and [eagles](/wiki/Eagle) commonly occur. [Palas, Kohistan](/wiki/Palas,_Kohistan), has a significant population of [western tragopan](/wiki/Western_tragopan).[[231]](#cite_note-231) Many birds sighted in Pakistan are migratory, coming from Europe, Central Asia and India.[[232]](#cite_note-232) The southern plains are home to [mongooses](/wiki/Mongoose), [civets](/wiki/Civet), hares, the [Asiatic jackal](/wiki/Asiatic_jackal), the [Indian pangolin](/wiki/Indian_pangolin), the [jungle cat](/wiki/Jungle_cat) and the [desert cat](/wiki/Desert_cat). There are [mugger crocodiles](/wiki/Mugger_crocodile) in the Indus, and [wild boar](/wiki/Wild_boar), deer, [porcupines](/wiki/Porcupine) and small rodents are common in the surrounding areas. The sandy scrublands of central Pakistan are home to Asiatic jackals, [striped hyenas](/wiki/Striped_hyena), wildcats and [leopards](/wiki/Leopards).[[233]](#cite_note-233)[[234]](#cite_note-234) The lack of vegetative cover, the severe climate and the impact of grazing on the deserts have left wild animals in a precarious position. The [chinkara](/wiki/Chinkara) is the only animal that can still be found in significant numbers in [Cholistan](/wiki/Cholistan). A small number of [nilgai](/wiki/Nilgai) are found along the Pakistan-India border and in some parts of Cholistan.[[233]](#cite_note-233)[[235]](#cite_note-235) A wide variety of animals live in the mountainous north, including the [Marco Polo sheep](/wiki/Marco_Polo_sheep), the [urial](/wiki/Urial) (a subspecies of wild sheep), [markhor](/wiki/Markhor) and [ibex](/wiki/Ibex) goats, the [Asian black bear](/wiki/Asian_black_bear) and the [Himalayan brown bear](/wiki/Himalayan_brown_bear).[[233]](#cite_note-233)[[236]](#cite_note-236)[[237]](#cite_note-237) Among the rare animals found in the area are the [snow leopard](/wiki/Snow_leopard),[[236]](#cite_note-236) the [Asiatic cheetah](/wiki/Asiatic_cheetah)[[238]](#cite_note-238) and the blind [Indus river dolphin](/wiki/Indus_river_dolphin), of which there are believed to be about 1,100 remaining, protected at the Indus River Dolphin Reserve in Sindh.[[236]](#cite_note-236)[[239]](#cite_note-239) In total, 174 mammals, 177 reptiles, 22 amphibians, 198 freshwater fish species and 5,000 species of invertebrates (including insects) have been recorded in Pakistan.[[229]](#cite_note-229)[[230]](#cite_note-230) The flora and fauna of Pakistan suffer from a number of problems. Pakistan has the second-highest rate of deforestation in the world. This, along with hunting and pollution, is causing adverse effects on the ecosystem. The government has established a large number of protected areas, wildlife sanctuaries, and game reserves to deal with these issues.[[229]](#cite_note-229)[[230]](#cite_note-230)

### National parks and wildlife sanctuaries[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|Plain of](/wiki/File:Deosai_Plateau_2.jpg) [Deosai National Park](/wiki/Deosai_National_Park). As of present, there are around 157 [protected areas](/wiki/Protected_area) in Pakistan that are recognized by [IUCN](/wiki/IUCN). According to the 'Modern Protected Areas' legislation, a national park is a protected area set aside by the [government](/wiki/Government_of_Pakistan) for the protection and conservation of its outstanding scenery and wildlife in a natural state. The oldest national park is [Lal Suhanra](/wiki/Lal_Suhanra_National_Park) in [Bahawalpur District](/wiki/Bahawalpur_District), established in 1972.[[240]](#cite_note-240) It is also the only [biosphere reserve](/wiki/Biosphere_reserve) of Pakistan. Lal Suhanra is the only national park established before the [independence](/wiki/History_of_Pakistan#Independence_of_Pakistan) of the nation in August 1947. [Central Karakoram](/wiki/Central_Karakoram_National_Park) in [Gilgit Baltistan](/wiki/Gilgit_Baltistan) is currently the largest national park in the country, spanning over a total approximate area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). The smallest national park is the [Ayub](/wiki/Ayub_National_Park), covering a total approximate area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).

## Infrastructure[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

### Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

#### Overview[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[thumb|right|250px|](/wiki/File:Long_Exposure_of_Blue_Area_Islamabad.JPG)[Islamabad](/wiki/Islamabad), the capital city of Pakistan.

Economists estimate that Pakistan has been part of the wealthiest [region](/wiki/Indian_subcontinent) of the world throughout the first millennium CE having the largest economy by GDP. This advantage was lost in the 18th century as other regions edged forward such as China and Western Europe.[[241]](#cite_note-241) Pakistan is considered as a [developing country](/wiki/Developing_country)[[242]](#cite_note-242)[[243]](#cite_note-243)[[244]](#cite_note-244) and is one of the [Next Eleven](/wiki/Next_Eleven), the eleven countries that, along with the [BRICs](/wiki/BRIC), have a high potential to become the world's largest economies in the 21st century.[[245]](#cite_note-245) However, after decades of social instability, [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), serious deficiencies in [macromangament](/wiki/Macromanagement) and unbalanced [macroeconomics](/wiki/Macroeconomics) in basic services such as [train transportation](/wiki/Railways_in_Pakistan) and [electrical energy](/wiki/Electricity_in_Pakistan) generation had developed.[[246]](#cite_note-246) The economy is considered to be semi-industrialized, with centres of growth along the [Indus River](/wiki/Indus_River).[[247]](#cite_note-247)[[248]](#cite_note-248)[[249]](#cite_note-249) The diversified economies of [Karachi](/wiki/Economy_of_Karachi) and [Punjab's urban centres](/wiki/Economy_of_Punjab,_Pakistan) coexist with less developed areas in other parts of the country particularly in [Balochistan](/wiki/Balochistan,_Pakistan).[[248]](#cite_note-248) Pakistan is the 70th largest export economy in the world and the 89th most complex economy according to the [Economic complexity index](/wiki/Economic_complexity_index) (ECI). In 2013, Pakistan exported $28.2B and imported $44.8B, resulting in a negative trade balance of $16.6B.[[250]](#cite_note-250) Pakistan's estimated [nominal GDP](/wiki/Nominal_GDP) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of) is US$271 billion making it the 41st largest in the world and second largest in South Asia representing about 15.0% of [regional GDP](/wiki/South_Asia).[[249]](#cite_note-249)[[251]](#cite_note-251)[[252]](#cite_note-252) The [GDP](/wiki/GDP) by [PPP](/wiki/Purchasing_power_parity) is [US$](/wiki/US_dollar)838,164 million.[[253]](#cite_note-253) The estimated nominal [per capita GDP](/wiki/Per_capita_GDP) is [US$](/wiki/US_dollar)1,197, [GDP (PPP)/capita](/wiki/GDP_(PPP)_per_capita) is [US$](/wiki/US_dollar)4,602 ([international dollars](/wiki/International_dollar)), and [debt-to-GDP ratio](/wiki/Debt-to-GDP_ratio) is 55.5%.[[254]](#cite_note-254)[[255]](#cite_note-255) According to the [World Bank](/wiki/World_Bank), Pakistan has important strategic endowments and development potential. The increasing proportion of Pakistan's youth provides the country with a potential demographic dividend and a challenge to provide adequate services and employment.[[13]](#cite_note-13) 21.04% of the population live below the international poverty line of US$1.25 a day. Unemployment rate among aged 15 and over population is 5.5%.[[256]](#cite_note-256) Pakistan has an estimated of 40 million [middle class](/wiki/Middle_class) citizens which are projected to increase to 100 million people by 2050.[[257]](#cite_note-257) A 2013 report published by the [World Bank](/wiki/World_Bank) positioned Pakistan's economy at 24th largest in the world by purchasing power and 45th largest in absolute dollars.[[249]](#cite_note-249) It is South Asia's second largest economy, representing about 15.0% of [regional GDP](/wiki/South_Asia).[[251]](#cite_note-251)[[252]](#cite_note-252){| class="wikitable sortable infobox" !Fiscal Year!!GDP growth!!Inflation rate |- |2013–14[[258]](#cite_note-258)||[Template:Increase](/wiki/Template:Increase)4.14%[[259]](#cite_note-259)|| [Template:Decrease](/wiki/Template:Decrease)8.5% |[[260]](#cite_note-260)|- |2014–15||[Template:Increase](/wiki/Template:Increase)4.24%||[Template:Decrease](/wiki/Template:Decrease)4.8%[[261]](#cite_note-261)|- |2015–16||[Template:Increase](/wiki/Template:Increase)4.5% [[262]](#cite_note-262)||[Template:Increase](/wiki/Template:Increase)5.1%[[261]](#cite_note-261)|- |2016–17||[Template:Increase](/wiki/Template:Increase)4.8%Projected [[263]](#cite_note-263)||[Template:Decrease](/wiki/Template:Decrease)4.5% [[263]](#cite_note-263)|} Pakistan's economic growth since its inception has been varied. It has been slow during periods of [democratic transition](/wiki/Democracy_in_Pakistan), but excellent during the three periods of [martial law](/wiki/Martial_law_in_Pakistan), although the foundation for sustainable and equitable growth was not formed.[[76]](#cite_note-76) The early to middle 2000s was a period of [rapid economic reforms](/wiki/Economic_liberalisation_in_Pakistan); the government raised development spending, which reduced poverty levels by 10% and increased GDP by 3%.[[110]](#cite_note-110)[[264]](#cite_note-264) The economy cooled again from 2007.[[110]](#cite_note-110) Inflation reached 25.0% in 2008[[265]](#cite_note-265) and Pakistan had to depend on a fiscal policy backed by the [International Monetary Fund](/wiki/International_Monetary_Fund) to avoid possible bankruptcy.[[266]](#cite_note-266)[[267]](#cite_note-267) A year later, the [Asian Development Bank](/wiki/Asian_Development_Bank) reported that Pakistan's economic crisis was easing.[[268]](#cite_note-268) The inflation rate for the fiscal year [Template:Nowrap](/wiki/Template:Nowrap) was 14.1%.[[269]](#cite_note-269) Since 2013, as part of an [International Monetary Fund](/wiki/International_Monetary_Fund) program Pakistan's economic growth has picked up. [Goldman Sachs](/wiki/Goldman_Sachs) predicted, in 2014, that Pakistan's economy would grow 15 times in the next 35 years to become 18th largest economy in the world by 2050.[[270]](#cite_note-270) On January 2014, a survey conducted by the [*Japan External Trade Organization*](/wiki/Japan_External_Trade_Organization) placed Pakistan just behind [Taiwan](/wiki/Taiwan) in terms of business generated by Japanese companies. Pakistan's data was generated from 27 Japanese firms doing business here. The results found that 74.1% of the Japanese companies estimated operating profit in 2013.[[271]](#cite_note-271)[Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image)

Pakistan is one of the largest producers of natural commodities, and [its labour market](/wiki/Labour_force_of_Pakistan) is the 10th largest in the world. The 7-million–strong [Pakistani diaspora](/wiki/Pakistani_diaspora) contributed an estimated [US$](/wiki/United_States_dollar)15 billion to the economy in [2014–15](/wiki/Fiscal_year).[[272]](#cite_note-272)[[273]](#cite_note-273) The major source countries of remittances to Pakistan are: the [UAE](/wiki/United_Arab_Emirates); United States; [Saudi Arabia](/wiki/Saudi_Arabia); the [Gulf states](/wiki/Arab_states_of_the_Persian_Gulf) ([Bahrain](/wiki/Bahrain), [Kuwait](/wiki/Kuwait), [Qatar](/wiki/Qatar), and [Oman](/wiki/Oman)); Australia; Canada; Japan; United Kingdom; [Norway](/wiki/Norway); and [Switzerland](/wiki/Switzerland).[[274]](#cite_note-274)[[275]](#cite_note-275) According to the [World Trade Organization](/wiki/World_Trade_Organization), Pakistan's share of overall world exports is declining; it contributed only 0.128% in 2007.[[276]](#cite_note-276) The trade deficit in the fiscal year 2010–11 was US$11.217 billion.[[277]](#cite_note-277)

#### Agriculture and Primary Sector[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

The structure of the Pakistani economy has changed from [a mainly agricultural](/wiki/Agriculture_in_Pakistan) to a strong service base. Agriculture [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of) accounts for only 21.2% of the GDP. Even so, according to the United Nations [Food and Agriculture Organization](/wiki/Food_and_Agriculture_Organization), Pakistan produced 21,591,400 metric tons of wheat in 2005, more than all of Africa (20,304,585 metric tons) and nearly as much as all of South America (24,557,784 metric tons).[[278]](#cite_note-278) Majority of the population, directly or indirectly, is dependent on this sector. It accounts for half of employed labour force and is the largest source of foreign exchange earnings.[[279]](#cite_note-279) A large portion of the country's manufactured exports are dependent on raw materials such as cotton and hides that are part of the agriculture sector, while supply shortages and market disruptions in farm products do push up inflationary pressures. The country is also the fifth largest producer of cotton, with cotton production of 14 million bales from a modest beginning of 1.7 million bales in the early 1950s; is self sufficient in sugarcane; and is the fourth largest producer in the world of milk. Land and water resources have not risen proportionately, but the increases have taken place mainly due to gains in labor and agriculture productivity. The major breakthrough in crop production took place in the late 1960s and 1970s due to the [Green Revolution](/wiki/Green_Revolution) that made a significant contribution to land and yield increases of wheat and rice. Private tube wells led to a 50 percent increase in the cropping intensity which was augmented by tractor cultivation. While the tube wells raised crop yields by 50 percent, the High Yielding Varieties (HYVs) of wheat and rice led to a 50–60 percent higher yield.[[280]](#cite_note-280) Meat industry accounts for 1.4 percent of overall GDP.[[281]](#cite_note-281)

#### Manufacturing[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[thumb|right|200px|A Pakistani](/wiki/File:Tv_Assembly_Line_1.jpg) [television](/wiki/Television) manufacturing factory in [Lahore](/wiki/Lahore).

[Manufacturing](/wiki/Manufacturing) is the third largest sector of the economy, accounting for 18.5 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and 13 percent of total employment. Large Scale Manufacturing (LSM), at 12.2 percent of GDP, dominates the overall sector, accounting for 66% of the sectoral share, followed by Small Scale Manufacturing, which accounts for 4.9 percent of total GDP. Pakistan's [cement](/wiki/Cement) industry is also fast growing mainly because of demand from [Afghanistan](/wiki/Afghanistan) and from the domestic real estate sector. In 2013 Pakistan exported 7,708,557 [metric tons](/wiki/Metric_tons) of cement.[[282]](#cite_note-282) Pakistan has an installed capacity of 44,768,250 metric tons of cement and 42,636,428 metric tons of clinker. In 2012 and 2013, the cement industry in Pakistan became the most profitable sector of the economy.[[283]](#cite_note-283) The [textile industry](/wiki/Textile_industry_in_Pakistan) enjoys a pivotal position in the manufacturing sector of Pakistan. Pakistan is the 8th largest exporter of textile products in Asia. This sector contributes 9.5% to the [GDP](/wiki/GDP) and provides employment to about 15 million people or roughly 30% of the 49 million workforce of the country. Pakistan is the 4th largest producer of [cotton](/wiki/Cotton) with the third largest spinning capacity in Asia after China and India, and contributes 5% to the global spinning capacity. China is the second largest buyer of Pakistani textiles, importing US$1.527 billion of textiles last fiscal. Unlike U.S. where mostly value added textiles are imported, China buys only cotton yarn and cotton fabric from Pakistan. In 2012, Pakistani textile products accounted for 3.3% or US$1.07[bn](/wiki/1,000,000,000) of total United Kingdom's textile imports, 12.4% or US$4.61[bn](/wiki/1,000,000,000) of total Chinese textile imports, 2.98% or $2.98b of total United States' textile imports, 1.6% or US$0.88[bn](/wiki/1,000,000,000) of total German textile imports and 0.7% or US$0.888[bn](/wiki/1,000,000,000) of total Indian textile imports.[[284]](#cite_note-284)

#### Services[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[thumb|right|200px|](/wiki/File:Pakistan_Chrome_Mines20120126_16100237_0003.jpg)[Surface mining](/wiki/Surface_mining) in [Sindh](/wiki/Sindh). Pakistan has been termed as the 'Saudi Arabia of Coal' by [*Forbes*](/wiki/Forbes).[[285]](#cite_note-285)

Services Sector has 57.7 percent share in GDP and has emerged as the main driver of economic growth.[[286]](#cite_note-286) Pakistani society like other developing countries is a consumption oriented society, having a high marginal propensity to consume. The growth rate of services sector is higher than the growth rate of agriculture and industrial sector. Services sector accounts for 54 percent of GDP in 2014 and little over one-third of total employment. Services sector has strong linkages with other sectors of economy; it provides essential inputs to agriculture sector and manufacturing sector.[[287]](#cite_note-287) Pakistan's I.T sector is regarded as among the fastest growing sector's in Pakistan. The [*World Economic Forum*](/wiki/World_Economic_Forum), assessing the development of Information and Communication Technology in the country ranked Pakistan 111th among 144 countries in the Global Information Technology report of 2014.[[288]](#cite_note-288) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), Pakistan has over 20 million internet users and is ranked as one of the top countries that have registered a high growth rate in internet penetration.[[289]](#cite_note-289) Overall, it has the [27th largest population](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_number_of_Internet_users) of internet users in the world. In the fiscal year 2012–2013. The current growth rate and employment trend indicate that Pakistan's Information Communication Technology (ICT) industry will exceed the $10-billion mark by 2020.[[290]](#cite_note-290) The sector employees 12,000 and count's among top 5 freelancing nations.[[291]](#cite_note-291)[[292]](#cite_note-292) The country has also improved its export performance in telecom, computer and information services, as the share of their exports surged from 8.2pc in 2005–06 to 12.6pc in 2012–13. This growth is much better than that of China, whose share in services exports was 3pc and 7.7pc for the same period respectively.[[293]](#cite_note-293){| cellpadding="1" style="float:right; margin:0 1em 1em 0; border:1px #bbb solid; border-collapse:collapse; font-size:90%;" |- style="text-align:center; background:salmon;" !colspan=3|Pakistan key economic statistics |- style="text-align:center; background:lightsalmon;" |Pakistan GDP composition by sector|| [[294]](#cite_note-294)|- style="text-align:center;" |Agriculture || 25.3% |- style="text-align:center;" |Industry || 21.6% |- style="text-align:center;" |Services || 53.1% |- style="text-align:center; background:lightsalmon;" |Employment|| [[295]](#cite_note-295)|- style="text-align:center;" |Labour force|| 59.7 million |- style="text-align:center;" |People employed|| 56.0 million |- style="text-align:center; background:lightsalmon;" |Natural Resources|| [[296]](#cite_note-296)[[297]](#cite_note-297)|- style="text-align:center;" |Copper || 12.3 million tonnes |- style="text-align:center;" |Gold || 20.9 million ounces |- style="text-align:center;" |Coal || 175 billion tonnes |- style="text-align:center;" |Shale Gas || 105 trillion cubic feet |- style="text-align:center;" |Shale Oil|| 9 billion barrels |- style="text-align:center;" |Gas production || 4.2 billion cubic feet/day |- style="text-align:center;" |Oil production|| 70,000 barrels/day |- style="text-align:center;" |Iron ore|| 500 million[[298]](#cite_note-298)|}

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Corporations** | **Headquarters** | **2012 revenue (Mil. $)**[**[299]**](#cite_note-299) | **Services** |
| [Pakistan State Oil](/wiki/Pakistan_State_Oil) | [Karachi](/wiki/Karachi) | 11,570 | [Petroleum and Gas](/wiki/Oil_and_gas_industry) |
| [Pak-Arab Refinery](/wiki/Pak-Arab_Refinery) | [Qasba Gujrat](/wiki/Qasba_Gujrat) | 3,000 | [Oil and refineries](/wiki/Oil_and_gas_industry) |
| [Sui Northern Gas Pipelines](/wiki/Sui_Northern_Gas_Pipelines_Limited) | [Lahore](/wiki/Lahore) | 2,520 | [Natural gas](/wiki/Natural_gas) |
| [Shell Pakistan](/wiki/Shell_Pakistan) | [Karachi](/wiki/Karachi) | 2,380 | [Petroleum](/wiki/Oil_and_gas_industry) |
| [Oil and Gas Development Co.](/wiki/Oil_and_Gas_Development_Company) | [Islamabad](/wiki/Islamabad) | 2,230 | [Petroleum and Gas](/wiki/Oil_and_gas_industry) |
| [National Refinery](/wiki/National_Refinery) | [Karachi](/wiki/Karachi) | 1,970 | [Oil refinery](/wiki/Oil_refinery) |
| [Hub Power Co.](/wiki/Hub_Power_Company) | [Hub, Balochistan](/wiki/Hub,_Balochistan) | 1,970 | [Energy](/wiki/Energy_in_Pakistan) |
| [K-Electric](/wiki/K-Electric) | [Karachi](/wiki/Karachi) | 1,840 | [Energy](/wiki/Energy_in_Pakistan) |
| [Attock Refinery](/wiki/Attock_Refinery) | [Rawalpindi](/wiki/Rawalpindi) | 1,740 | [Oil refinery](/wiki/Oil_refinery) |
| [Attock Petroleum](/wiki/Attock_Petroleum) | [Rawalpindi](/wiki/Rawalpindi) | 1,740 | [Petroleum](/wiki/Oil_and_gas_industry) |
| [Lahore Electric Supply Co.](/wiki/Lahore_Electric_Supply_Company) | [Lahore](/wiki/Lahore) | 1,490 | [Energy](/wiki/Energy_in_Pakistan) |
| [Pakistan Refinery](/wiki/Pakistan_Refinery) | [Karachi](/wiki/Karachi) | 1,440 | [Petroleum and Gas](/wiki/Oil_and_gas_industry) |
| [Sui Southern Gas Pipelines](/wiki/Sui_Southern_Gas_Company) | [Karachi](/wiki/Karachi) | 1,380 | [Natural gas](/wiki/Natural_gas) |
| [Pakistan International Airlines](/wiki/Pakistan_International_Airlines) | [Karachi](/wiki/Karachi) | 1,360 | [Aviation](/wiki/Pakistan_Civil_Aviation_Authority) |
| [Engro Corporation](/wiki/Engro_Corporation) | [Karachi](/wiki/Karachi) | 1,290 | [Food](/wiki/Food_industry) and [Wholesale](/wiki/Wholesale) |

### Nuclear power and energy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|250px|right|](/wiki/File:Tarbela_Dam_during_the_2010_floods.jpg)[Tarbela Dam](/wiki/Tarbela_Dam) is the largest earth filled dam in the world, was constructed in 1968. [Energy](/wiki/Energy_(physics)) from the [nuclear power](/wiki/Nuclear_power_in_Pakistan) source is provided by three licensed-commercial [nuclear power plants](/wiki/Nuclear_power_plants), [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of) data.[[300]](#cite_note-300) Pakistan is the first [Muslim country](/wiki/Muslim_world) in the world to construct and operate civil nuclear power plants.[[301]](#cite_note-301) The [Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission](/wiki/Pakistan_Atomic_Energy_Commission) (PAEC), the scientific and nuclear [governmental](/wiki/Government_of_Pakistan) authority, is solely responsible for operating these power plants, while the [Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority](/wiki/Pakistan_Nuclear_Regulatory_Authority) regulates safe usage of the nuclear energy.[[302]](#cite_note-302) The [electricity generated](/wiki/Electricity_generation) by commercial nuclear power plants constitutes roughly ~5.8% of electricity generated in Pakistan, compared to ~62% from [fossil fuel](/wiki/Fossil_fuel) ([petroleum](/wiki/Petroleum)), ~29.9% from [hydroelectric power](/wiki/Hydroelectric_power) and ~0.3% from [coal](/wiki/Coal_power_plant).[[303]](#cite_note-303)[[304]](#cite_note-304)[[305]](#cite_note-305) Pakistan is one of the four [nuclear armed states](/wiki/List_of_states_with_nuclear_weapons) (along with [India](/wiki/India), [Israel](/wiki/Israel), and [North Korea](/wiki/North_Korea)) that is not a party to the [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty](/wiki/Nuclear_Non-Proliferation_Treaty) but is a member in good standing of the [International Atomic Energy Agency](/wiki/International_Atomic_Energy_Agency).[[306]](#cite_note-306)[[307]](#cite_note-307)[[308]](#cite_note-308) For the commercial usage of the [nuclear power](/wiki/Nuclear_power_plant), [China](/wiki/People's_Republic_of_China) has provided an avid support for commercializing the nuclear power sources in Pakistan from early on, first providing the [Chashma-I](/wiki/CHASNUPP-1) reactor. The [Karachi-I](/wiki/Karachi_Nuclear_Power_Plant), a [Candu-type](/wiki/CANDU_reactor), was provided by [Canada](/wiki/Canada) in 1971– the country's first commercial [nuclear power plant](/wiki/Nuclear_power_plant). In subsequent years, [People's Republic of China](/wiki/People's_Republic_of_China) sold the [nuclear power plant](/wiki/Nuclear_power_plant) for energy and industrial growth of the country. In 2005, [both countries](/wiki/China_and_Pakistan) reached out towards working on joint energy security plan, calling for a huge increase in generating capacity to more than 160,000 [MWe](/wiki/Megawatt) by 2030. Original admissions by Pakistan, the [government](/wiki/Pakistan_Government) plans for lifting nuclear capacity to 8800 [MWe](/wiki/Megawatt), 900 [MWe](/wiki/Megawatt) of it by 2015 and a further 1500 [MWe](/wiki/Megawatt) by 2020.[[309]](#cite_note-309) In June 2008, the nuclear [commercial complex](/wiki/Chashma_Nuclear_Power_Complex) was expanded with the ground work of installing and operationalizing the [Chashma-III](/wiki/Chashma_Nuclear_Power_Complex) and [Chashma–IV](/wiki/Chashma_Nuclear_Power_Complex) nuclear power plants at [Chashma](/wiki/Chashma,_Pakistan), [Punjab Province](/wiki/Punjab_(Pakistani_province)), each with 320–340 MWe and costing [₨.](/wiki/Pakistan_Rupee) 129 billion,; from which the [₨.](/wiki/Pakistan_Rupee) 80 billion of this from international sources, principally China.

A further agreement for China's help with the project was signed in October 2008, and given prominence as a counter to the [U.S.–India agreement](/wiki/India–United_States_Civil_Nuclear_Agreement) shortly preceding it. Cost quoted then was US$1.7 billion, with a foreign loan component of $1.07 billion. In 2013, the second nuclear [commercial complex](/wiki/Karachi_Nuclear_Power_Complex) in [Karachi](/wiki/Karachi) was marginalized and expanded to additional reactors, based on the [Chashma complex](/wiki/Chashma_Nuclear_Power_Complex).[[310]](#cite_note-310)[thumb||Jhampir Wind Power Plants| Jhimpir Wind Power Projects are currently producing around 250 mega-watt, are expected produce 3200 mega-watt in near future](/wiki/File:Jhimpir_Wind_Farm_2012.jpg) The [electrical energy](/wiki/Electricity_in_Pakistan) is generated by various [energy corporations](/wiki/List_of_electric_supply_companies_in_Pakistan) and evenly distributed by the [National Electric Power Regulatory Authority](/wiki/National_Electric_Power_Regulatory_Authority) (NEPRA) among the [four provinces](/wiki/Four_Provinces_(Pakistan)). However, the [Karachi](/wiki/Karachi)-based [K-Electric](/wiki/K-Electric) and the [Water and Power Development Authority](/wiki/Water_and_Power_Development_Authority) (WAPDA) generates much of the [electrical energy](/wiki/Electricity_in_Pakistan) as well as gathering revenue nationwide.[[311]](#cite_note-311) Capacity to [generate](/wiki/Electricity_generation) ~22,797[Template:Small](/wiki/Template:Small) [electricity](/wiki/Electricity) has been installed in 2014, with the initiation of several energy projects in 2014.[[303]](#cite_note-303) Energy from the [nuclear sources](/wiki/Nuclear_power_in_Pakistan) is provided by three licensed commercial nuclear power plants operated Pakistan [Atomic Energy Commission](/wiki/Pakistan_Atomic_Energy_Commission) (PAEC) under licensed by the [Nuclear Regulatory Authority](/wiki/Pakistan_Nuclear_Regulatory_Authority).[[312]](#cite_note-312) Pakistan is the first Muslim country in the world to embark on a nuclear power program.[[313]](#cite_note-313) Commercial nuclear power plants generate roughly 5.8% of Pakistan's electricity, compared with about 64.0% from [thermal](/wiki/Thermal_power_station), 29.9% from [hydroelectric](/wiki/Hydroelectric_power) [power](/wiki/Power_(physics)), and ~0.3% from the [Coal source](/wiki/Coal_electricity).[[311]](#cite_note-311)

### Tourism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|200px|right|](/wiki/File:Design_work_of_Badshahi_Mosque_(King’s_Mosque).jpg)[Badshahi Mosque](/wiki/Badshahi_Mosque) was commissioned by the [Mughals](/wiki/Mughal_tribe) in 1671. It is listed as a [World Heritage Site](/wiki/World_Heritage_Site).

Pakistan, with its diverse cultures, people and landscapes attracted 1.1 million foreign tourists annually in 2011 and 2012 contributing [$](/wiki/$)351 million and [$](/wiki/$)369 million to Pakistan's economy respectively.[[314]](#cite_note-314) A significant decline since the 1970s when the country received unprecedented amounts of foreign tourists due to to the popular [Hippie trail](/wiki/Hippie_trail). The trail attracted thousands of Europeans and American's in 1960s and 1970s who travelled via land through [Turkey](/wiki/Turkey), [Iran](/wiki/Iran) into [India](/wiki/India) through Pakistan.[[315]](#cite_note-315) The main destinations of choice for these tourists were the [Khyber Pass](/wiki/Khyber_Pass), [Peshawar](/wiki/Peshawar), [Karachi](/wiki/Karachi), [Lahore](/wiki/Lahore), [Swat](/wiki/Swat_(Pakistan)) and [Rawalpindi](/wiki/Rawalpindi).[[316]](#cite_note-316) However, the trail declined after the [Iranian Revolution](/wiki/Iranian_Revolution) and the [Soviet–Afghan War](/wiki/Soviet–Afghan_War).[[317]](#cite_note-317) The country however continues to attract an estimated of half a million foreign tourists.[[318]](#cite_note-318) Pakistan's attraction range from the ruin of civilisation such as [Mohenjo-daro](/wiki/Mohenjo-daro), [Harappa](/wiki/Harappa) and [Taxila](/wiki/Taxila), to the Himalayan hill stations. Pakistan is home to several [mountain peaks](/wiki/Mountain_ranges_of_Pakistan) over 7000 m.[[319]](#cite_note-319)[Template:Unreliable source?](/wiki/Template:Unreliable_source?) The north part of Pakistan has many old fortresses, ancient architecture and the [Hunza](/wiki/Hunza_Valley) and Chitral valley, home to small pre-Islamic [Animist](/wiki/Animist) [Kalasha](/wiki/Kalasha) community claiming descent from [Alexander the Great](/wiki/Alexander_the_Great). Pakistan's cultural capital, Lahore, contains many examples of [Mughal architecture](/wiki/Mughal_architecture) such as [Badshahi Masjid](/wiki/Badshahi_Masjid), [Shalimar Gardens](/wiki/Shalimar_Gardens_(Lahore)), [Tomb of Jahangir](/wiki/Tomb_of_Jahangir) and the [Lahore Fort](/wiki/Lahore_Fort).[[320]](#cite_note-320) In October 2006, just one year after the [2005 Kashmir earthquake](/wiki/2005_Kashmir_earthquake), [*The Guardian*](/wiki/The_Guardian) released what it described as "The top five tourist sites in Pakistan" in order to help the country's tourism industry.[[321]](#cite_note-321) The five sites included [Taxila](/wiki/Taxila), Lahore, [The Karakoram Highway](/wiki/Karakoram_Highway), [Karimabad](/wiki/Karimabad_(Hunza)) and [Lake Saiful Muluk](/wiki/Lake_Saiful_Muluk). To promote Pakistan's unique and various cultural heritage.[[322]](#cite_note-322)[[323]](#cite_note-323) In 2009, The World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Report ranked Pakistan as one of the top 25% tourist destinations for its World Heritage sites. Tourist destinations range from mangroves in the south, to the 5,000-year-old cities of the [Indus Valley Civilization](/wiki/Indus_Valley_Civilization) which included [Mohenjo-daro](/wiki/Mohenjo-daro) and [Harappa](/wiki/Harappa).[[324]](#cite_note-324)

### Transport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [230px|thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Boeing_777-240ER_Pakistan_International_Airlines_AP-BGL.jpg)[Boeing 777](/wiki/Boeing_777) owned and operated by the [Pakistan International Airlines](/wiki/Pakistan_International_Airlines). The airline serves over 67 global destinations.

The [transport industry](/wiki/Transportation_in_Pakistan) accounts for ~10.5% of the nation's [GDP](/wiki/Gross_domestic_product).[[325]](#cite_note-325) Pakistan's [motorway infrastructure](/wiki/Motorways_of_Pakistan) is better than those of [India](/wiki/India), [Bangladesh](/wiki/Bangladesh), and [Indonesia](/wiki/Indonesia), but the [train system](/wiki/Railways_in_Pakistan) lags behind those of India and China, and aviation infrastructure also needs improvement.[[326]](#cite_note-326) There is scarcely any [inland water transportation system](/wiki/List_of_dry_ports_in_Pakistan), and coastal shipping only meets minor local requirements.[[327]](#cite_note-327) [Highways](/wiki/National_Highways_of_Pakistan) form the backbone of Pakistan's transport system; a total road length of 259,618 km accounts for 91% of passenger and 96% of freight traffic. Road transport services are largely in the hands of the [private sector](/wiki/Privatization_in_Pakistan), which handles around 95% of freight traffic. The [National Highway Authority](/wiki/National_Highway_Authority_(Pakistan)) is responsible for the maintenance of national highways and motorways. The highway and motorway system depends mainly on north–south links, connecting the southern ports to the populous provinces of [Punjab](/wiki/Punjab) and [Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa](/wiki/Khyber_Pakhtunkhwa). Although this network only accounts for 4.2% of total road length, it carries 85% of the country's traffic.[[328]](#cite_note-328)[[329]](#cite_note-329) The [Pakistan Railways](/wiki/Pakistan_Railways), under the [Ministry of Railways](/wiki/Ministry_of_Railways_(Pakistan)) (MoR), operates the railroad system. From 1947 until the 1970s, the [train system](/wiki/Pakistan_Railways) was the primary means of transport until the nationwide constructions of the [national highways](/wiki/National_Highways_of_Pakistan) and the [economic boom](/wiki/Economic_boom) of the [automotive industry](/wiki/Cars_in_Pakistan). Since the 1990s, there was a marked shift in traffic from rail to highways; dependence grew on roads after the introduction of [vehicles](/wiki/Automotive_industry_in_Pakistan) in the country. Now the railway's share of inland traffic is only 10% for passengers and 4% for freight traffic. Personal transportation dominated by the automobiles, the total rail track decreased from 8,775 km in 1990–91 to 7,791 km in 2011.[[328]](#cite_note-328)[[330]](#cite_note-330) Pakistan expects to use the rail service to boost [foreign trade](/wiki/Foreign_trade_of_Pakistan) with China, Iran and Turkey.[[331]](#cite_note-331)[[332]](#cite_note-332) Rough estimates accounts for 139 [airports](/wiki/Airfield) in Pakistan–both [military](/wiki/Military_of_Pakistan) and [civilian](/wiki/Civil_Aviation_Authority_(Panama)) airports which are [mostly publicly owned](/wiki/List_of_airports_in_Pakistan). Though the [Jinnah International Airport](/wiki/Jinnah_International_Airport) is the principal international gateway to Pakistan, the international airports in [Lahore](/wiki/Allama_Iqbal_International_Airport), [Islamabad](/wiki/Benazir_Bhutto_International_Airport), [Peshawar](/wiki/Peshawar_International_Airport), [Quetta](/wiki/Quetta_International_Airport), [Faisalabad](/wiki/Faisalabad_International_Airport), [Sialkot](/wiki/Sialkot_International_Airport) and [Multan](/wiki/Multan_International_Airport) also handle significant amounts of traffic. The [civil aviation industry](/wiki/List_of_airlines_of_Pakistan) is mixed with [public](/wiki/Nationalization_in_Pakistan) and [private](/wiki/Privatization_in_Pakistan) sectors, which has been [deregulated](/wiki/Privatization_in_Pakistan) in 1993. While the [state-owned](/wiki/State_owned_enterprises) [Pakistan International Airlines](/wiki/Pakistan_International_Airlines) (PIA) is the major and dominated air carrier that carries about 73% of domestic passengers and all domestic freight, the private airlines such as [airBlue](/wiki/Airblue), [Shaheen Air International](/wiki/Shaheen_Air), and [Air Indus](/wiki/Air_Indus), also provide the similar services with [low cost](/wiki/Low_cost_carrier) expenses. Major seaports are in [Karachi](/wiki/Karachi), [Sindh](/wiki/Sindh) (the [Karachi port](/wiki/Port_of_Karachi) and [Port Qasim](/wiki/Port_Qasim)).[[328]](#cite_note-328)[[330]](#cite_note-330) Since the 1990s, some seaport operations have been moved to [Balochistan](/wiki/Balochistan,_Pakistan) with the construction of [Gwadar Port](/wiki/Gwadar_port) and [Gadani Port](/wiki/Gadani_ship-breaking_yard).[[328]](#cite_note-328)[[330]](#cite_note-330) According to Mundi Index, quality ratings of Pakistan's seaports increased from 3.6 to 4 between 2006 and 2009.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)

### Science and technology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

[Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image)

Development on [science and technology](/wiki/Science_and_technology_in_Pakistan) plays an influential role in Pakistan's infrastructure and helped the country to reach out to the world.[[333]](#cite_note-333) Every year, scientists from around the world are invited by the [Pakistan Academy of Sciences](/wiki/Pakistan_Academy_of_Sciences) and the Pakistan Government to participate in the [International Nathiagali Summer College on Physics](/wiki/International_Nathiagali_Summer_College_on_Physics).[[334]](#cite_note-334) Pakistan hosted an international seminar on *Physics in Developing Countries* for International Year of Physics 2005.[[335]](#cite_note-335) Pakistani theoretical physicist [Abdus Salam](/wiki/Abdus_Salam) won a [Nobel Prize in Physics](/wiki/Nobel_Prize_in_Physics) for his work on the [electroweak interaction](/wiki/Electroweak_interaction).[[336]](#cite_note-336) Influential publications and the critical scientific works in the advancement of [mathematics](/wiki/Mathematics), [biology](/wiki/Biology), [economics](/wiki/Economics), [computer science](/wiki/Computer_science), and [genetics](/wiki/Genetics) have been produced by the Pakistani scientists at the domestic and international standings.[[337]](#cite_note-337) In [chemistry](/wiki/Chemistry), [Salimuzzaman Siddiqui](/wiki/Salimuzzaman_Siddiqui) was the first Pakistani scientist to bring the therapeutic constituents of the [neem](/wiki/Neem) tree to the attention of natural products chemists.[[338]](#cite_note-338)[[339]](#cite_note-339)[[340]](#cite_note-340) Pakistani neurosurgeon [Ayub Ommaya](/wiki/Ayub_K._Ommaya) invented the [Ommaya reservoir](/wiki/Ommaya_reservoir), a system for treatment of brain tumours and other brain conditions.[[341]](#cite_note-341) Scientific research and development plays a pivotal role in Pakistani [universities](/wiki/Pakistani_universities), collaboration with the government sponsored national laboratories, [science parks](/wiki/Science_park), and co-operation with the [industry](/wiki/Industry_of_Pakistan).[[342]](#cite_note-342) [Abdul Qadeer Khan](/wiki/Abdul_Qadeer_Khan) regarded as the founder of [HEU](/wiki/High-enriched_uranium)-based [Gas-centrifuge](/wiki/Zippe-type_centrifuge) [uranium enrichment](/wiki/Uranium_enrichment) program for Pakistan's integrated [atomic bomb project](/wiki/Pakistan_and_weapons_of_mass_destruction).[[343]](#cite_note-343) He founded and established the [Kahuta Research Laboratories](/wiki/Kahuta_Research_Laboratories) (KRL) in 1976, being both its senior scientist and the [Director-General](/wiki/Director-General) until his retirement in 2001, and he was an early and vital figure in other [science projects](/wiki/Integrated_Missile_Research_and_Development_Program). Apart from participating in Pakistan's [atomic bomb project](/wiki/Pakistan_and_weapons_of_mass_destruction), he made major contributions in [molecular morphology](/wiki/Morphology_(biology)), physical [martensite](/wiki/Martensite), and its integrated applications in [condensed](/wiki/Condensed_matter_physics) and [material physics](/wiki/Material_physics).[[344]](#cite_note-344)[[345]](#cite_note-345) In 2010, Pakistan was ranked 43rd in the world in terms of published scientific papers.[[346]](#cite_note-346) The Pakistan [Academy of Sciences](/wiki/Pakistan_Academy_of_Sciences), a strong scientific community, plays an influential and vital role in formulating the science policies recommendation to the government.[[347]](#cite_note-347) The 1960s era saw the emergence of the active [space program](/wiki/Asian_Space_Race) led by the [SUPARCO](/wiki/Space_and_Upper_Atmosphere_Research_Commission) that produced advances in domestic [rocketry](/wiki/Rocket), [electronics](/wiki/Electronics_Engineering), and [aeronomy](/wiki/Aeronomy).[[348]](#cite_note-348) The [space program](/wiki/Space_and_Upper_Atmosphere_Research_Commission) recorded a few notable feats and achievements. The successful launch of its [first rocket](/wiki/Rehbar-I) into space made Pakistan the first South Asian country to have achieved such a task.[[348]](#cite_note-348) Successfully producing and launching the nation's [first space satellite](/wiki/Badr-I) in 1990, Pakistan became the first Muslim country and second South Asian country to put a satellite into space.[[349]](#cite_note-349)[[350]](#cite_note-350) As an aftermath of the [1971 war with India](/wiki/Indo-Pakistani_War_of_1971), the clandestine [crash program](/wiki/Pakistan_and_weapons_of_mass_destruction) developed [atomic weapons](/wiki/Nuclear_weapon) in a fear and to prevent any [foreign intervention](/wiki/Foreign_interventionism), while ushering in the [atomic age](/wiki/Atomic_Age) in the [post cold war](/wiki/Post_Cold_War_era) era.[[123]](#cite_note-123) Competition with India and tensions eventually led Pakistan's decision of [conducting underground](/wiki/List_of_nuclear_weapons_tests_of_Pakistan) [nuclear tests](/wiki/Chagai-I) in 1998; thus becoming the [seventh country](/wiki/Nuclear_club) in the world to successfully develop [nuclear weapons](/wiki/Nuclear_weapon).[[351]](#cite_note-351) The Islamic Republic of Pakistan is the only Muslim country that maintains a research station in Antarctica and it has maintained a presence there since 1991.[[352]](#cite_note-352) After establishing an [Antarctic program](/wiki/Pakistan_Antarctic_Programme), Pakistan is one of the small number of countries that have an active research presence in [Antarctica](/wiki/Antarctica). The [Antarctic program](/wiki/Pakistan_Antarctic_Programme) oversees two summer research stations on the continent and plans to open another base, which will operate all year round.[[353]](#cite_note-353) Energy consumption by [computers](/wiki/Computer) and usage has grown since the 1990s when the [PCs](/wiki/Personal_computer) were introduced; Pakistan has over 20 million internet users and is ranked as one of the top countries that have registered a high growth rate in internet penetration, [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of).[[354]](#cite_note-354) Key publications has been produced by Pakistan, and domestic software development has gained a lot international praise.[[355]](#cite_note-355) Overall, it has the [27th largest population](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_number_of_Internet_users) of internet users in the world. Since the 2000s, Pakistan has made significant amount of progress in [supercomputing](/wiki/Supercomputing_in_Pakistan), and various institutions offers research in [parallel computing](/wiki/Parallel_computing). [Pakistan government](/wiki/Government_of_Pakistan) reportedly spends [₨.](/wiki/Pakistan_Rupee) 4.6 billion on [information technology](/wiki/Information_technology_in_Pakistan) projects, with emphasis on [e-government](/wiki/E-Government_in_Pakistan), human resource and infrastructure development.[[356]](#cite_note-356)

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| --- | --- |
| **Prominent Pakistani Inventions** | **Detail** |
| [Ommaya reservoir](/wiki/Ommaya_reservoir) | System for the delivery of drugs into the cerebrospinal fluid for treatment of patients with [brain tumours](/wiki/Brain_tumours). |
| [(c)Brain](/wiki/(c)Brain) | One of the first computer viruses in history |
| [Electroweak interaction](/wiki/Electroweak_interaction) | Discovery led [Muslim world's](/wiki/Muslim_world) first [Nobel Prize in Physics](/wiki/Nobel_Prize_in_Physics). |
| [Plastic magnet](/wiki/Plastic_magnet) | World's first workable plastic magnet at room temperature. |
| Non-lethal fertilizer | A formula to make fertilizers that cannot be converted into bomb-making materials. |
| [Non-Kink Catheter Mount](/wiki/Instruments_used_in_anesthesiology#Non-Kink_Catheter_Mount) | A crucial instrument used in [anesthesiology](/wiki/Anesthesiology). |
| [Human Development Index](/wiki/Human_Development_Index) | Devised by Pakistan's former finance minister, [Mahbub ul Haq](/wiki/Mahbub_ul_Haq).[[357]](#cite_note-357) |
| [Standard Model](/wiki/Standard_Model) | [Particle physics](/wiki/Particle_physics) theory devised part by Pakistan scientist [Abdus Salam](/wiki/Abdus_Salam) |

### Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|200px|right|](/wiki/File:Government_College_University.jpg)[Government College University](/wiki/Government_College_University_(Lahore)) is one of the oldest universities in Pakistan as well as one of the oldest institutions of higher learning in the Muslim world. The [Constitution](/wiki/Constitution_of_Pakistan) of Pakistan requires the state to provide [free](/wiki/Free_education) [primary](/wiki/Primary_education) and [secondary](/wiki/Secondary_education) [education](/wiki/Education).[[358]](#cite_note-358)[[359]](#cite_note-359) At the time of [establishment](/wiki/Creation_of_Pakistan) of Pakistan as state, the country had only one university, the [Punjab University](/wiki/University_of_the_Punjab) in [Lahore](/wiki/Lahore).[[360]](#cite_note-360) On immediate basis, the [Pakistan government](/wiki/Government_of_Pakistan) established public universities in each [four provinices](/wiki/Four_Provinces_(Pakistan)) including the [Sindh University](/wiki/Sindh_University) (1949), [Peshawar University](/wiki/University_of_Peshawar) (1950), [Karachi University](/wiki/University_of_Karachi) (1953), and [Balochistan University](/wiki/University_of_Balochistan) (1970). Pakistan has a large network of both [public](/wiki/Public_universities) and [private](/wiki/Public_universities) [universities](/wiki/Universities_in_Pakistan); a collaboration of [public-private](/wiki/Public_Private_Partnerships) [universities](/wiki/Universities_in_Pakistan) to provide research and [higher education](/wiki/Higher_education_in_Pakistan) in the country, although there is concern about the low quality of teaching in many of the newer schools.[[361]](#cite_note-361) It is estimated that there are 3193 [technical and vocational institutions](/wiki/Vocational_education) in Pakistan,[[362]](#cite_note-362) and there are also [*madrassah*s](/wiki/Madrassas_in_Pakistan) that provide free Islamic education and offer free board and lodging to students, who come mainly from the poorer strata of society.[[363]](#cite_note-363) Strongly instigated public pressure and popular criticism over the [extremists](/wiki/Pakistan_Taleban) usage of [*madrassahs*](/wiki/Madrassas) for recruitment, the [Pakistan government](/wiki/GoP) has made repeated efforts to [regulate and monitor](/wiki/Education_reform) the quality of education in the [*madrassahs*](/wiki/Madrassas).[[364]](#cite_note-364)[[365]](#cite_note-365) [Education](/wiki/Education_in_Pakistan) in Pakistan is divided into six main levels: [nursery](/wiki/Nursery_education) (preparatory classes); [primary](/wiki/Elementary_school) (grades one through five); [middle](/wiki/Middle_school) (grades six through eight); [matriculation](/wiki/High_school) (grades nine and ten, leading to the [secondary certificate](/wiki/Secondary_School_Certificate)); [intermediate](/wiki/Community_college) (grades eleven and twelve, leading to a [higher secondary certificate](/wiki/Higher_Secondary_(School)_Certificate)); and university programmes leading to graduate and postgraduate programs.[[362]](#cite_note-362) Network of Pakistani [private schools](/wiki/Schools_in_Pakistan) also operate a parallel secondary education system based on the curriculum set and administered by the [Cambridge International Examinations](/wiki/Cambridge_International_Examinations) of the [United Kingdom](/wiki/United_Kingdom). Some students choose to take the [O-level](/wiki/Ordinary_Level) and [A level](/wiki/GCE_Advanced_Level) exams conducted by the [British Council](/wiki/British_Council).[[366]](#cite_note-366) According to the International Schools Consultancy, Pakistan has 439 international schools.[[367]](#cite_note-367) [thumb|250px|left|Girls in a public school in](/wiki/File:Girls_in_school_in_Khyber_Pakhtunkhwa,_Pakistan_(7295675962).jpg) [Khyber Pakhtunkhwa](/wiki/Khyber_Pakhtunkhwa). Initiatives taken in 2007, the [English medium education](/wiki/English_medium_education) has been made compulsory to all schools across the country.[[368]](#cite_note-368)[[369]](#cite_note-369) Additional reforms taken in 2013, all educational institutions in [Sindh](/wiki/Sindh) began instructions in [Chinese language](/wiki/Chinese_language) courses, reflecting China's growing role as a superpower and [increasing influence](/wiki/People's_Republic_of_China–Pakistan_relations) in Pakistan.[[370]](#cite_note-370) The literacy rate of the population is ~58 %. Male literacy is ~70.2% while female literacy rate is 46.3%.[[269]](#cite_note-269) Literacy rates vary by region and particularly by sex; for instance, female literacy in tribal areas is 3.0%.[[371]](#cite_note-371) With the launch of the [computer literacy](/wiki/Computer_literacy) in 1995, the government launched a nationwide initiative in 1998 with the aim of eradicating [illiteracy](/wiki/Illiteracy) and providing a basic education to all children.[[372]](#cite_note-372) Through various educational reforms, by 2015 the [MoEd](/wiki/Minister_for_Education_(Pakistan)) expects to attain 100.00% enrollment levels among children of primary school age and a literacy rate of ~86% among people aged over 10.[[373]](#cite_note-373) After earning their [HSC](/wiki/Higher_Secondary_(School)_Certificate), students may study in a professional college or the university for [bachelorate program](/wiki/Bachelor's_degree) courses such as [science and engineering](/wiki/Bachelor_of_Engineering) ([BEng](/wiki/Bachelor_of_Engineering), [BS](/wiki/Bachelor_of_Science)/[BSc](/wiki/Bachelor_of_Science), [BTech](/wiki/Bachelor_of_Technology)) [surgery and medicine](/wiki/Bachelor_of_Medicine,_Bachelor_of_Surgery) ([MBBS](/wiki/Bachelor_of_Medicine,_Bachelor_of_Surgery), [MD](/wiki/Doctor_of_Medicine)), [dentistry](/wiki/Dental_degree) ([BDS](/wiki/Bachelor_of_Dentistry)), [veterinary medicine](/wiki/Veterinary_medicine) ([DVM](/wiki/Doctor_of_Veterinary_Medicine)), [criminal justice and law](/wiki/Bachelor_of_Laws) ([LLB](/wiki/Bachelor_of_Laws), [LLM](/wiki/Master_of_Laws), [JD](/wiki/Juris_Doctor)), [architecture](/wiki/Bachelor_of_Architecture) ([BArch](/wiki/Bachelor_of_Architecture)), [pharmacy](/wiki/Doctor_of_Pharmacy#Pakistan) ([Pharm D.](/wiki/Doctor_of_Pharmacy)) and [nursing](/wiki/Nursing) ([BNurs](/wiki/Bachelor_of_Nursing)). Students can also attend a university for a [bachelorate](/wiki/Bachelorate) degree for [business administration](/wiki/Business_Administration), [literature](/wiki/Literature), and [management](/wiki/Management_science) including the [BA](/wiki/Bachelor_of_Arts), [BCom](/wiki/Bachelor_of_Commerce), [BBA](/wiki/Bachelor_of_Business_Administration), and [MBA](/wiki/Master_of_Business_Administration) programs. The [higher education](/wiki/Higher_education_in_Pakistan) mainly supervises by the [Higher Education Commission](/wiki/Higher_Education_Commission) (HEC) that sets out the policies and issues rankings of the [nationwide universities](/wiki/Pakistani_universities). In October 2014, education activist [Malala Yousafzai](/wiki/Malala_Yousafzai) became by far the youngest ever person in the world to receive the [Nobel peace prize](/wiki/Nobel_peace_prize).[[374]](#cite_note-374)

### Water supply and sanitation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[Template:Main articleDespite](/wiki/Template:Main_article) high population growth the country has increased the share of the population with access to an [improved water source](/wiki/Improved_water_source) from 85% in 1990 to 92% in 2010, although this does not necessarily mean that the water from these sources is safe to drink. The share with access to [improved sanitation](/wiki/Improved_sanitation) increased from 27% to 48% during the same period, according to the [Joint Monitoring Program for Water Supply and Sanitation](/wiki/Joint_Monitoring_Program_for_Water_Supply_and_Sanitation).[[375]](#cite_note-375) There has also been considerable innovation at the grass-root level, in particular concerning sanitation. The [Orangi Pilot Project](/wiki/Orangi_Pilot_Project) in Karachi[[376]](#cite_note-376) and [community-led total sanitation](/wiki/Community-led_total_sanitation) in rural areas are two examples of such innovation.

However, the sector still faces major challenges. The quality of the services is poor, as evidenced by intermittent water supply in urban areas and limited [wastewater treatment](/wiki/Sewage_treatment). Poor drinking water quality and sanitation lead to major outbreaks of [waterborne diseases](/wiki/Waterborne_diseases).[[377]](#cite_note-377) major outbreaks of waterborne diseases swept the cities of [Faisalabad](/wiki/Faisalabad), [Karachi](/wiki/Karachi), [Lahore](/wiki/Lahore) and [Peshawar](/wiki/Peshawar) in 2006.[[377]](#cite_note-377) Estimates indicate that each year, more than three million Pakistanis become infected with waterborne diseases.[[378]](#cite_note-378)In addition, many service providers do not even cover the costs of and maintenance due to low tariffs and poor efficiency.[[379]](#cite_note-379) Consequently, the service providers strongly depend on government subsidies and external funding.[[380]](#cite_note-380)A National Sanitation Policy and a National Drinking Water Policy have been approved in 2006 and 2009 respectively with the objective to improve water and sanitation coverage and quality.[[381]](#cite_note-381)[[382]](#cite_note-382) However, the level of annual investment (US$4/capita) still remains much below what would be necessary to achieve a significant increase in access and service quality.

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Kalash_women_traditional_clothing.jpg)[Kalash people](/wiki/Kalash_people) maintain a unique identity and religion within Pakistan. As per [United States Census Bureau](/wiki/United_States_Census_Bureau) estimates the country's population is at 199,085,847 (199.1 million) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of),[[1]](#cite_note-1) which is equivalent to 2.57% of the [world population](/wiki/World_population).[[383]](#cite_note-383) Noted as the sixth [most populated](/wiki/List_of_countries_and_dependencies_by_population) country in the world, its growth rate is reported at ~2.03%, which is the highest of the [SAARC nations](/wiki/South_Asian_Association_for_Regional_Cooperation) and gives an annual increase of 3.6 million. The population is projected to reach 210.13 million by 2020 and to double by 2045.

At the time of the [partition](/wiki/Partition_of_India) in 1947, Pakistan had a population of 32.5 million,[[275]](#cite_note-275)[[384]](#cite_note-384) but the population increased by ~57.2% between the years [1990 and 2009](/wiki/Fiscal_year).[[385]](#cite_note-385) By 2030, it is expected to surpass [Indonesia](/wiki/Indonesia) as the largest Muslim-majority country in the world.[[386]](#cite_note-386)[[387]](#cite_note-387) Pakistan is classified as a "young nation" with a median age of about 22, and 104 million people under the age of 30 in 2010. Pakistan's fertility rate stands at 3.07, higher than its neighbor [India](/wiki/India) (2.57). Around 35% of the people are under 15.[[275]](#cite_note-275) Vast majority residing in [Southern Pakistan](/wiki/Southern_Pakistan) lives along the [Indus River](/wiki/Indus_River), with [Karachi](/wiki/Karachi) being its most populous commercial city.[[388]](#cite_note-388) In the eastern, [western](/wiki/Khyber_Pakhtunkhwa), and [Northern Pakistan](/wiki/Northern_Pakistan), most of the population lives in an arc formed by the cities of [Lahore](/wiki/Lahore), [Faisalabad](/wiki/Faisalabad), [Rawalpindi](/wiki/Rawalpindi), [Sargodha](/wiki/Sargodha), [Islamabad](/wiki/Islamabad), [Gujranwala](/wiki/Gujranwala), [Sialkot](/wiki/Sialkot), [Gujrat](/wiki/Gujrat_city), [Jhelum](/wiki/Jhelum), [Sheikhupura](/wiki/Sheikhupura), [Nowshera](/wiki/Nowshera,_Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa), [Mardan](/wiki/Mardan) and [Peshawar](/wiki/Peshawar).[[110]](#cite_note-110) During [1990–2008](/wiki/Fiscal_year), the city dwellers made up 36% of Pakistan's population, making it the [most urbanised nation](/wiki/Urbanisation_in_Pakistan) in [South Asia](/wiki/South_Asia) which further increased to 38% by 2013.[[110]](#cite_note-110)[[275]](#cite_note-275)[[389]](#cite_note-389) Furthermore, 50% of Pakistanis live in towns of 5,000 people or more.[[390]](#cite_note-390)

### Health[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[Expenditure](/wiki/2009–10_Pakistan_federal_budget) spend on [healthcare](/wiki/Health_care_in_Pakistan) was ~2.8% of [GDP](/wiki/GDP) in 2013. Life expectancy at birth was 67 years for females and 65 years for males in 2013.[[389]](#cite_note-389) The private sector accounts for about 80% of outpatient visits. Approximately 19% of the population and 30% of children under five are malnourished.[[249]](#cite_note-249) Mortality of the under-fives was 86 per 1,000 live births in 2012.[[389]](#cite_note-389)

### Languages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

[Template:Bar box](/wiki/Template:Bar_box) More than [sixty languages](/wiki/Languages_of_Pakistan) are spoken in Pakistan, including [a number of provincial languages](/wiki/Provincial_languages_of_Pakistan). [Urdu](/wiki/Urdu)— the [*lingua franca*](/wiki/Lingua_franca), a symbol of [Muslim identity](/wiki/Muslim_nationalism_in_South_Asia), and national unity— is the national language which is understood by over 75% of Pakistanis and the main source of [nationwide](/wiki/Communications_in_Pakistan) [communication](/wiki/Communication) but is only the primary language of 8% of Pakistan's population.[[219]](#cite_note-219)[[391]](#cite_note-391)[[392]](#cite_note-392) [Urdu](/wiki/Urdu) and [English](/wiki/English_language) are the [official languages](/wiki/Official_language) of Pakistan, however English is primarily used in official business, government, and legal contracts;[[110]](#cite_note-110) the local dialect is known as [Pakistani English](/wiki/Pakistani_English). The [Punjabi language](/wiki/Punjabi_language) is the most common in Pakistan and is mother-tongue of 66% of Pakistan's population mostly of people in [Punjab](/wiki/Punjab,_Pakistan).[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) This includes 48% of Standard Punjabi speakers[[392]](#cite_note-392) as well as regional [Punjabi dialects](/wiki/Punjabi_dialects) such as [Saraiki](/wiki/Saraiki_dialect) and [Hindko](/wiki/Hindko_dialect). Saraiki dialect is mainly spoken in [South Punjab](/wiki/South_Punjab) and counts up to 10% of Pakistan's population, while the Hindko dialect is spoken in [Khyber Pakhtunkhwa](/wiki/Khyber_Pakhtunkhwa). In [Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa](/wiki/Khyber_Pakhtunkhwa), the [Pashto](/wiki/Pashto_language) language is the provincial language and is well understood in [Sindh](/wiki/Sindh) and [Balochistan](/wiki/Balochistan,_Pakistan).[[393]](#cite_note-393) The [Sindhi](/wiki/Sindhi_language) language is the common language spoken in [Sindh](/wiki/Sindh,_Pakistan) while the [Balochi](/wiki/Balochi_language) language is dominant in [Balochistan](/wiki/Balochistan,_Pakistan).[[393]](#cite_note-393)[[53]](#cite_note-53)[[394]](#cite_note-394)

### Immigration[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

The [Pakistan Census](/wiki/Census_in_Pakistan) excludes the [immigrants](/wiki/Immigration_to_Pakistan) such as the 1.7 million registered [Afghans](/wiki/Afghans_in_Pakistan) from [Afghanistan](/wiki/Afghanistan), who are found mainly in the [Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa](/wiki/Khyber_Pakhtunkhwa) and [tribal belt](/wiki/Federally_Administered_Tribal_Areas) with small numbers residing in [Karachi](/wiki/Karachi) and [Quetta](/wiki/Quetta).[[395]](#cite_note-395)[[396]](#cite_note-396) As of 1995, there were more than 1.6 million [Bengalis](/wiki/Bangladeshis_in_Pakistan), 650,000 [Afghans](/wiki/Afghans_in_Pakistan), 200,000 [Burmese](/wiki/Burmese_people_in_Pakistan), 2,320 [Iranians](/wiki/Iranians_in_Pakistan), and [Filipinos](/wiki/Filipinos_in_Pakistan), and hundreds of [Nepalese](/wiki/Nepalis_in_Pakistan), [Sri Lankans](/wiki/Tamils_in_Pakistan), and [Indians](/wiki/Indian_Muslims_in_Pakistan) living in [Karachi](/wiki/Karachi).[[397]](#cite_note-397)[[398]](#cite_note-398) Pakistan hosts more refugees than any other country in the world.[[399]](#cite_note-399)

### Social groups[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

The population is dominated by [four main ethnic groups](/wiki/Four_Provinces_(Pakistan)): [Punjabis](/wiki/Punjabi_people), [Pashtuns](/wiki/Pashtun_people) (Pathans), [Sindhis](/wiki/Sindhi_people), and [Balochs](/wiki/Baloch_people).[[400]](#cite_note-400) Rough accounts from 2009 indicate that the [Punjabis](/wiki/Punjabi_people) dominate with 78.7 million (~45%) while the [Pashtuns](/wiki/Pashtun_people) are the second dominating group with ~29.3 million (15.42%).[[400]](#cite_note-400) The [Sindhis](/wiki/Sindhi_people) are estimated at 24.8 million (14.1%) with [Seraikis](/wiki/Saraiki_people) a sub-group of Punjabis is approximated at 14.8 million (8.4%).[[400]](#cite_note-400) The [Urdu-speaking](/wiki/Urdu_speaking) [*Muhajirs*](/wiki/Muhajir_(Pakistan)) (the [Indian emigrants](/wiki/Indian_Muslims_in_Pakistan)) stands at ~13.3 million (7.57%) while [Balochs](/wiki/Baloch_people) are accounted at 6.3 million (3.57%)– the smallest group in population terms.[[400]](#cite_note-400)[[401]](#cite_note-401) The remaining 11.1 million (4.66%) belong to various ethnic minorities such as [Hazaras](/wiki/Hazara_people) and [Kalashs](/wiki/Kalash_people).[[400]](#cite_note-400) There is also a large [Pakistani diaspora](/wiki/Pakistani_diaspora), numbering over seven million residing worldwide.[[401]](#cite_note-401)[Template:Largest cities of Pakistan](/wiki/Template:Largest_cities_of_Pakistan)

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [Template:Bar box](/wiki/Template:Bar_box) [thumb|272x272px|](/wiki/File:Faisal_Masjid.jpg)[Faisal Mosque](/wiki/Faisal_Mosque), built in 1986 by Turkish architect [Vedat Dalokay](/wiki/Vedat_Dalokay) on behalf of [King](/wiki/House_of_Saud) [Faisal bin Abdul-Aziz](/wiki/Faisal_bin_Abdul-Aziz) of Saudi Arabia. Pakistan is the second most populous [Muslim-majority country](/wiki/Islam_by_country)[[402]](#cite_note-402) and has the second largest [Shia population](/wiki/Shia_Islam_in_Pakistan) in the world after Iran.[[403]](#cite_note-403)[[404]](#cite_note-404)[[405]](#cite_note-405) About 97.0% of [Pakistanis](/wiki/Pakistanis) are Muslims. The majority are [Sunni](/wiki/Sunni_Islam), with an estimated 5–20% Shia.[[53]](#cite_note-53)[[404]](#cite_note-404)[[406]](#cite_note-406) The [Ahmadis](/wiki/Ahmadiyya_in_Pakistan), are another minority sect in Pakistan, albeit in much smaller numbers and are officially considered non-Muslims by virtue of the [constitutional amendment](/wiki/Second_Amendment_to_the_Constitution_of_Pakistan).[[407]](#cite_note-407) There are also several [Quraniyoon](/wiki/Quraniyoon) communities.[[408]](#cite_note-408)[[409]](#cite_note-409) After the [9/11 attacks](/wiki/September_11_attacks) in the [United States](/wiki/United_States), the [sectarian violence](/wiki/Sectarian_violence_in_Pakistan) among Muslim denominations has increased with [systematic targeted killings](/wiki/Targeted_killings_in_Pakistan) of both sects, Sunnis and Shias.[[410]](#cite_note-410)[[411]](#cite_note-411) In 2013, there were country-wide protests by both Shias and Sunnis calling an end to sectarian violence in the country, toughen up the [law and order](/wiki/Law_and_order_(politics)), and urging for [Shia-Sunni unity](/wiki/Shia_Sunni_relations) in the country.[[412]](#cite_note-412) The [Ahmadis](/wiki/Ahmadis) are particularly persecuted, especially since 1974 when they were [banned](/wiki/Second_Amendment_to_the_Constitution_of_Pakistan) from calling themselves Muslims. In 1984, Ahmadiyya places of worship were banned from being called "mosques".[[413]](#cite_note-413) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), 12% of Pakistani Muslims self-identify as [non-denominational Muslims](/wiki/Non-denominational_Muslims).[[414]](#cite_note-414) Islam to some extent [syncretized](/wiki/Syncretism) with pre-Islamic influences, resulting in a religion with some traditions distinct from those of the [Arab world](/wiki/Arab_world).[[415]](#cite_note-415) Two Sufis whose shrines receive much national attention are [Ali Hajweri](/wiki/Ali_Hajweri) in [Lahore](/wiki/Lahore) (c. 12th century)[[416]](#cite_note-416) and [Shahbaz Qalander](/wiki/Shahbaz_Qalander) in [Sehwan](/wiki/Sehwan), [Sindh](/wiki/Sindh) (c. 12th century).[[417]](#cite_note-417) [Sufism](/wiki/Sufism), a mystical Islamic tradition, has a long history and a large popular following in Pakistan. Popular Sufi culture is centered on Thursday night gatherings at shrines and annual festivals which feature Sufi music and dance. Contemporary Islamic fundamentalists criticize its popular character, which in their view, does not accurately reflect the teachings and practice of the Prophet and his companions.[[418]](#cite_note-418)[[419]](#cite_note-419) After Islam, [Hinduism](/wiki/Hinduism_in_Pakistan) and [Christianity](/wiki/Christianity_in_Pakistan) are the largest religions in Pakistan, with 2,800,000 (1.6%) adherents each in 2005.[[53]](#cite_note-53) In 1998 following a census, they were followed by the [Bahá'í Faith](/wiki/Bahá'í_Faith_in_Pakistan), which had a following of 30,000, then [Sikhism](/wiki/Sikhism_in_Pakistan), [Buddhism](/wiki/Buddhism_in_Pakistan) and [Zoroastrianism](/wiki/Zoroastrianism), each back then claiming 20,000 adherents,[[420]](#cite_note-420) and a very small [community of Jains](/wiki/Jainism_in_Pakistan). There is a [Roman Catholic](/wiki/Roman_Catholicism_in_Pakistan) community in [Karachi](/wiki/Karachi) which was established by [Goan](/wiki/Goa) and [Tamil](/wiki/Tamil_people) migrants when Karachi's infrastructure was being developed by the [British](/wiki/United_Kingdom) during colonial administration between [World War I](/wiki/World_War_I) and [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II). Influence of [atheism](/wiki/Irreligion_in_Pakistan) is very little with 1.0% of the population aligned as atheist in 2005.[[421]](#cite_note-421) However, the figure rose to 2.0% in 2012 according to [Gallup](/wiki/WIN/GIA).[[421]](#cite_note-421)

## Culture and society[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Culture_of_Pakistan_(cropped).jpg)[Truck art in Pakistan](/wiki/Truck_art_in_Pakistan) is a unique feature of Pakistani culture. [Civil society](/wiki/Pakistani_society) in Pakistan is largely hierarchical, emphasising [local cultural etiquettes](/wiki/Etiquette_in_Pakistan) and traditional Islamic values that govern personal and political life. The basic family unit is the [extended family](/wiki/Extended_family),[[422]](#cite_note-422) although there has been a growing trend towards [nuclear families](/wiki/Nuclear_family) for socio-economic reasons.[[423]](#cite_note-423) The traditional dress for both men and women is the [*Shalwar Kameez*](/wiki/Shalwar_Kameez); [trousers](/wiki/Trouser), [Jeans](/wiki/Jeans), and shirts are also popular among men.[[32]](#cite_note-32) The [middle class](/wiki/Middle_class) has increased to around 35 million and the upper and upper-middle classes to around 17 million in recent decades, and power is shifting from rural landowners to the urbanised elites.[[424]](#cite_note-424) Pakistani festivals such as [*Eid-ul-Fitr*](/wiki/Eid_ul-Fitr), [*Eid-ul-Azha*](/wiki/Eid_al-Adha), [*Ramazan*](/wiki/Ramadan), [Christmas](/wiki/Christmas), [Easter](/wiki/Easter), [Holi](/wiki/Holi), and [Diwali](/wiki/Diwali) are mostly religious in origin.[[422]](#cite_note-422) Increasing globalisation has resulted in Pakistan ranking 56th on the [A.T. Kearney](/wiki/A.T._Kearney)/FP [Globalization Index](/wiki/Globalization_Index).[[425]](#cite_note-425)

### Clothing, arts, and fashion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) The [*Shalwar Kameez*](/wiki/Shalwar_kameez) is the [national dress](/wiki/National_dress) of Pakistan and is worn by both men and women in all [four provinces](/wiki/Four_Provinces_(Pakistan)): [Punjab](/wiki/Punjab,_Pakistan), [Sindh](/wiki/Sindh), [Balochistan](/wiki/Balochistan,_Pakistan), and [Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa](/wiki/Khyber_Pakhtoonkhwa) as well as in [FATA](/wiki/Tribal_belt_of_Pakistan) and [Azad Kashmir](/wiki/Azad_Kashmir). Each province has its own style of wearing the *Shalwar Kameez*. Pakistanis wear clothes range from exquisite colors and designs to the type of fabric ([silk](/wiki/Silk), [chiffon](/wiki/Chiffon_(fabric)), [cotton](/wiki/Cotton), etc).[[426]](#cite_note-426) Besides the national dress, the domestically [tailored](/wiki/Tailor) [suits](/wiki/Suit_(clothing)) and [neckties](/wiki/Necktie) are often and usually worn by men in the country, and it is customary in offices, schools, and other necessary places and popular gatherings.[[426]](#cite_note-426) The [fashion industry](/wiki/Pakistani_fashion) has flourished well in the changing environment of the fashion world. Since Pakistan came into being, its fashion has historically evolved from different phases and made its unique identity apart from Indian fashion and culture. At this time, Pakistani fashion is a combination of traditional and modern dresses and it has become the cultural identification of Pakistan. Despite all modern trends, the regional and traditional dresses have developed their own significance as a symbol of native tradition. This regional fashion is not static but evolving into more modern and pure forms. The Pakistan Fashion Design Council based in [Lahore](/wiki/Lahore) organizes *Fashion Week* and Fashion Pakistan based in [Karachi](/wiki/Karachi) organizes fashion shows in that city. Pakistan's first fashion week was held in November 2009.[[427]](#cite_note-427)

### Role of women in Pakistani society[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image) The [social status](/wiki/Pakistani_cultural_influence) of [women in Pakistan](/wiki/Women_in_Pakistan) varies and considerably depends on the [social class](/wiki/Social_class), [upbringings, and regional divide](/wiki/Nature_versus_nurture) due to uneven [socioeconomic development](/wiki/Socioeconomic_development) and the [impact](/wiki/Socioeconomic_impact_of_female_education) of social formations on women's lives in the country.[[428]](#cite_note-428) Pakistan has had a long history of feminist activism since its birth.[[428]](#cite_note-428) Since 1947, the [APWA](/wiki/All_Pakistan_Women's_Association) and [Aurat Foundation](/wiki/Aurat_Foundation)– the influential feminist organizations— have played strong roles in inculcating awareness about women's rights in the country.[[428]](#cite_note-428) Personalities such as [Begum Rana'a](/wiki/Sheila_Irene_Pant), [Benazir Bhutto](/wiki/Benazir_Bhutto), [Malala Yousafzai](/wiki/Malala_Yousafzai) and [Kalsoom Nawaz](/wiki/Kalsoom_Nawaz_Sharif) have been influential in Pakistan's feminist culture.[[428]](#cite_note-428) The status of women, overall, has improved due to enhanced religious and educational knowledge. However, with regard to the global average, the situation is quite alarming. In 2014, the [World Economic Forum](/wiki/World_Economic_Forum) ranked Pakistan as the second worst country in the world in [gender equality](/wiki/Gender_equality).[[429]](#cite_note-429) The relationship of women with the opposite gender is culturally that of [gender subordination](/wiki/Gender_subordination). There are certain assumed and assigned roles of women that are related to domestic chores compared with men who are the breadwinners and professionals of the family. Contrastingly, in urban areas of the country, more and more women are assuming professional roles and are contributing to family economics but the ratio of these women compared with those in traditional roles is way less. Most favoured occupations for females accepted by society are that of [Teaching](/wiki/Teaching) and [Tutoring](/wiki/Tutoring).[[428]](#cite_note-428)[[430]](#cite_note-430) Due to heightened awareness among people, educational opportunities for Pakistani women have increased over the years.[[431]](#cite_note-431) On 24 February 2016, the elected assembly of Pakistan's Punjab province passed a new law called "Punjab Protection of Women Against Violence Bill 2015 " which provides women with protection against a multitude of crimes including: cyber crime, domestic violence, emotional, economic and psychological abuse.[[432]](#cite_note-432)

### Media and entertainment[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|180px|right|](/wiki/File:Sharmeen_Obaid_Chinoy_World_Economic_Forum_2013.jpg)[Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy](/wiki/Sharmeen_Obaid-Chinoy) have won [Oscars](/wiki/Academy_Awards) in 2012 and 2016 for her documentaries The private [print media](/wiki/Newspapers_in_Pakistan), state-owned [Pakistan Television Corporation](/wiki/Pakistan_Television_Corporation) (PTV) and [Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation](/wiki/Pakistan_Broadcasting_Corporation) (PBC) for [radio](/wiki/Radio_Pakistan) were the dominant media outlets until the 21st century. Pakistan now has a large network of domestic [private](/wiki/Privatization_in_Pakistan) [24-hour](/wiki/24_hour_news_cycle) [news media](/wiki/News_channels_in_Pakistan) and [television channels](/wiki/Television_in_Pakistan).[[433]](#cite_note-433) According to a 2016 report by the [Reporters Without Borders](/wiki/Reporters_Without_Borders) ranked Pakistan in 147th on the [Press Freedom Index](/wiki/Press_Freedom_Index), while terming the Pakistani media "among the freest in Asia when it comes to covering the squabbling among politicians."[[434]](#cite_note-434) [BBC](/wiki/BBC) term's Pakistani media as "among the most outspoken in South Asia."[[435]](#cite_note-435) The [Lollywood](/wiki/Lollywood), an Urdu, Punjabi and Pashto film industry is based in [Karachi](/wiki/Karachi), [Lahore](/wiki/Lahore), and [Peshawar](/wiki/Peshawar). While [Bollywood](/wiki/Bollywood) films were banned from public cinemas from 1965 until 2008, they have remained important in popular culture.[[436]](#cite_note-436)[[437]](#cite_note-437) Contrary to the ailing film industry, the Urdu [televised dramas](/wiki/Pakistani_dramas) and theatrical performances are popular, as many [entertainment media](/wiki/Television_in_Pakistan) air the series regularly.[[438]](#cite_note-438) [Urdu dramas](/wiki/Pakistani_dramas) dominate the [TV entertainment industry](/wiki/Television_in_Pakistan), and have debuted critically acclaimed [miniseries](/wiki/Miniseries), and have featured popular actors and actresses since the 1990s.[[439]](#cite_note-439) In the 1960s–1970s, [pop music](/wiki/Pakistani_pop_music) and [disco](/wiki/Disco_Deewane) (1970s) dominated the country's music industry. In the 1980s–1990s, [British influenced](/wiki/New_wave_of_British_heavy_metal) [rock music](/wiki/Pakistani_rock) appeared and jolted the country's entertainment industry.[[440]](#cite_note-440) In the 2000s, [heavy metal music](/wiki/Heavy_metal_music) gained popular and critical acclaim.[[441]](#cite_note-441) Pakistani music ranges from diverse provincial folk music and traditional styles such as [Qawwali](/wiki/Qawwali) and [Ghazal Gayaki](/wiki/Ghazal) to modern forms fusing traditional and western music.[[442]](#cite_note-442)[[443]](#cite_note-443) Pakistan has many famous folk singers. The arrival of Afghan refugees in the western provinces has stimulated interest in Pashto music, although there has been intolerance of it in some places.[[444]](#cite_note-444) Pakistan has some of the world's modern vibrant and open media.[[445]](#cite_note-445) Pakistani media has also played a vital role in exposing [corruption](/wiki/Corruption).[[446]](#cite_note-446)

### Urbanisation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|Long exposure of](/wiki/File:Empress_Market_at_Sunset.jpg) [Empress Market](/wiki/Empress_Market) in [Karachi](/wiki/Karachi). Since [achieving independence](/wiki/Independence_of_Pakistan) as a result of the [partition](/wiki/Partition_of_India) of [India](/wiki/India), the [urbanization](/wiki/Urbanisation_in_Pakistan) has exponentially increased and has several different causes for it.[[388]](#cite_note-388) Majority of [southern side population](/wiki/Southern_Pakistan) resides along the [Indus River](/wiki/Indus_River), with [Karachi](/wiki/Karachi) being its most populous commercial city.[[388]](#cite_note-388) On the [east](/wiki/Eastern_Pakistan),[west](/wiki/Khyber_Pakhtunkhwa), and [northern skirts](/wiki/Northern_Pakistan), the most of the population lives in an arc formed by the cities of [Lahore](/wiki/Lahore), [Faisalabad](/wiki/Faisalabad), [Rawalpindi](/wiki/Rawalpindi), [Islamabad](/wiki/Islamabad), [Sargodha](/wiki/Sargodha), [Gujranwala](/wiki/Gujranwala), [Sialkot](/wiki/Sialkot), [Gujrat](/wiki/Gujrat_city), [Jhelum](/wiki/Jhelum), [Sheikhupura](/wiki/Sheikhupura), [Nowshera](/wiki/Nowshera,_Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa), [Mardan](/wiki/Mardan) and [Peshawar](/wiki/Peshawar). During [1990–2008](/wiki/Fiscal_year), the city dwellers made up 36.0% of Pakistan's population, making it the most urbanised nation in [South Asia](/wiki/South_Asia). Furthermore, more than 50% of Pakistanis live in towns of 5,000 people or more.[[390]](#cite_note-390) [Immigration](/wiki/Immigration_to_Pakistan), both from within and outside the country, is regarded as one of the main factors that has contributed to urbanisation in Pakistan. One analysis of the [national census](/wiki/1998_Pakistan_Census) held in 1998 highlighted the significance of the [Partition of India](/wiki/Partition_of_India) in the 1940s in the context of understanding urban change in Pakistan.[[447]](#cite_note-447) During the independence period, Muslim [Muhajirs](/wiki/Muhajir_people) from [India](/wiki/India) migrated in large numbers and shifted their domicile to Pakistan, especially to the port city of [Karachi](/wiki/Karachi), which is today the largest metropolis in Pakistan.[[447]](#cite_note-447)[Migration from other countries](/wiki/Immigration_to_Pakistan), mainly those in the neighbourhood, has further catalysed the process of urbanisation in Pakistani cities. Of particular interest is migration that occurred in the aftermath of the independence of [Bangladesh](/wiki/Bangladesh) in 1971,[[447]](#cite_note-447) in the form of stranded [Biharis](/wiki/Stranded_Pakistanis) who were relocated to Pakistan. Smaller numbers of [Bengalis](/wiki/Bengalis_in_Pakistan) and [Burmese](/wiki/Burmese_people_in_Pakistan) immigrants followed suit much later. The [conflict](/wiki/Soviet_war_in_Afghanistan) in [Afghanistan](/wiki/Afghanistan) also forced millions of [Afghan refugees](/wiki/Afghans_in_Pakistan) into Pakistan, particularly in the northwestern regions. Inevitably, the rapid urbanisation caused by these large population movements has also brought new political and socio-economic complexities.[[447]](#cite_note-447) In addition to immigration, economic events such as the green revolution and political developments, among a host of other factors, are also important causes of urbanisation.[[447]](#cite_note-447)

### Diaspora[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)[Template:Multiple imageAccording](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image) to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Pakistan has the sixth largest diaspora in the world.[[448]](#cite_note-448) [Statistics](/wiki/Statistics) approximated by the [Pakistan government](/wiki/Government_of_Pakistan), there are around 7 million [Pakistanis](/wiki/Pakistan_people) residing abroad with vast majority living in the [Middle East](/wiki/Middle_East), [Europe](/wiki/Europe) and the [North America](/wiki/North_America).[[449]](#cite_note-449) Pakistan ranks 10th in the world for remittances sent home in 2012 at $13 billion.[[450]](#cite_note-450)[[451]](#cite_note-451) The term [*Overseas Pakistani*](/wiki/Overseas_Pakistani) is officially recognized by the [Government of Pakistan](/wiki/Government_of_Pakistan); the [Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis](/wiki/Ministry_of_Overseas_Pakistanis) was established in 2008 to exclusively deal with all the matters and affairs of the overseas Pakistanis such as attending to their needs and problems, intending schemes and projects for their welfare and working for resolution of their problems and issues. [Overseas Pakistani](/wiki/Overseas_Pakistani) workers are the second largest source of Foreign Exchange Remittances to Pakistan after exports and over the last several years, the foreign exchange remittances have maintained a steady rising trend, with a recorded increase of 150% from US$6 billion in 2009 to estimated US$15 billion during 2015.[[272]](#cite_note-272) In 2009–10, Pakistanis sent home US$9.4 billion, the eleventh-largest total remittance in the world.[[451]](#cite_note-451) By 2012, Pakistan increased its ranking to tenth in the world for remittances with a total sum of US$13 billion.[[450]](#cite_note-450)[[451]](#cite_note-451) The Overseas Pakistani Division (OPD) was created in September 2004 within the [Ministry of Labour](/wiki/Ministry_of_Labour_(Pakistan)) (MoL), and has since recognized the importance of overseas Pakistanis and their contribution to the [nation's economy](/wiki/Economy_of_Pakistan). Together with Community Welfare Attaches (CWAs) and the Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF), the OPD is improving the welfare of Pakistanis who reside abroad. The division aims to provide better services through improved facilities at [airports](/wiki/Airports), and suitable schemes for housing, [education](/wiki/Education) and [health care](/wiki/Health_care)—its largest effort is the facilitation of the rehabilitation of returning overseas Pakistanis.

### Literature and philosophy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=39)]

[thumb|right|140px|alt=Muhammad Iqbal|](/wiki/File:Iqbal.jpg)[Muhammad Iqbal](/wiki/Muhammad_Iqbal), Pakistan's national poet who conceived the [*idea*](/wiki/Conception_of_Pakistan) of Pakistan. [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

Pakistan has literature in [Urdu](/wiki/Urdu_literature), [Sindhi](/wiki/Sindhi_literature), [Punjabi](/wiki/Punjabi_literature), [Pashto](/wiki/Pashto_literature_and_poetry), [Baluchi](/wiki/Balochi_Academy), [Persian](/wiki/Persian_literature), [English](/wiki/Pakistani_English_literature) and many other languages.[[452]](#cite_note-452) The [Pakistan Academy of Letters](/wiki/Pakistan_Academy_of_Letters) is a large literary community that promotes literature and poetry in Pakistan and abroad.[[453]](#cite_note-453) The [National Library](/wiki/National_Library_of_Pakistan) publishes and promotes literature in the country. Before the 19th century, literature consisted mainly of [lyric](/wiki/Lyric_poetry) and [religious poetry](/wiki/Sufi_poetry), mystical and [folkloric](/wiki/Pop_culture#Folklore) works. During the colonial age, the native literary figures were influenced by western [literary realism](/wiki/Literary_realism) and took up increasingly varied topics and narrative forms. Prose fiction is now very popular.[[454]](#cite_note-454)[[455]](#cite_note-455) [thumb|150px|left|](/wiki/File:Tomb_of_Shah_Rukn-e-Alam,_Multan_-_Front_Courtyard.jpg)[Tomb of Shah Rukn-e-Alam](/wiki/Tomb_of_Shah_Rukn-e-Alam) is part of Pakistan's [sufi](/wiki/Sufi) heritage. The [national poet](/wiki/List_of_national_poets) of Pakistan, [Muhammad Iqbal](/wiki/Muhammad_Iqbal), wrote poetry in Urdu and Persian. He was a strong proponent of the political and spiritual revival of Islamic civilisation and encouraged Muslims binding all over the world to bring about successful revolution.[[456]](#cite_note-456)[[457]](#cite_note-457)[[458]](#cite_note-458) Well-known representatives of contemporary Pakistani Urdu literature include [Faiz Ahmed Faiz](/wiki/Faiz_Ahmed_Faiz). [Sadequain](/wiki/Sadequain) is known for his calligraphy and paintings.[[455]](#cite_note-455) Sufi poets [Shah Abdul Latif](/wiki/Shah_Abdul_Latif), [Bulleh Shah](/wiki/Bulleh_Shah), [Mian Muhammad Bakhsh](/wiki/Mian_Muhammad_Bakhsh) and [Khawaja Farid](/wiki/Khawaja_Farid) are very popular in Pakistan.[[459]](#cite_note-459) [Mirza Kalich Beg](/wiki/Mirza_Kalich_Beg) has been termed the father of modern Sindhi prose.[[460]](#cite_note-460) Historically, philosophical development in the country was dominated by [Muhammad Iqbal](/wiki/Muhammad_Iqbal), [Sir Syed](/wiki/Syed_Ahmad_Khan), [Muhammad Asad](/wiki/Muhammad_Asad), [Maududi](/wiki/Abu_Ala'_Mawdudi), and [Ali Johar](/wiki/Mohammad_Ali_Jouhar).[[461]](#cite_note-461) Ideas from [British](/wiki/British_philosophy) and [American philosophy](/wiki/American_philosophy) greatly shaped [philosophical development](/wiki/Pakistani_philosophy) in Pakistan. [Analysts](/wiki/Analytical_psychology) such as [M.M. Sharif](/wiki/M.M._Sharif) and [Zafar Hassan](/wiki/Syed_Zafarul_Hasan) established the first major Pakistani philosophical movement in 1947.[[462]](#cite_note-462) After the [1971 war](/wiki/Indo-Pakistani_war_of_1971), philosophers such as [Jalaludin Abdur Rahim](/wiki/Jalaludin_Abdur_Rahim), [Gianchandani](/wiki/Sobho_Gianchandani), and [Malik Khalid](/wiki/Malik_Meraj_Khalid) incorporated [Marxism](/wiki/Marxism) into Pakistan's [philosophical development](/wiki/Pakistani_philosophy).[[463]](#cite_note-463) Influential work by [Manzoor Ahmad](/wiki/Manzoor_Ahmad), [Jon Elia](/wiki/Jon_Elia), [Hasan Askari Rizvi](/wiki/Hasan_Askari_Rizvi), and [Abdul Khaliq](/wiki/Abdul_Khaliq_(philosopher)) brought mainstream [social](/wiki/Social_philosophy), [political](/wiki/Political_thought), and [analytical philosophy](/wiki/Analytical_philosophy) to the fore of Pakistani philosophical academia.[[463]](#cite_note-463) Global works by [Noam Chomsky](/wiki/Noam_Chomsky) have influenced [philosophical ideas](/wiki/Pakistani_philosophy) in various fields of social and political philosophy.[[464]](#cite_note-464)[[465]](#cite_note-465)

### Architecture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=40)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|150px|right|](/wiki/File:Minar-E-Pakistan_in_all_its'_splendour.JPG)[Minar-e-Pakistan](/wiki/Minar-e-Pakistan) is a public monument marking Pakistan's independence movement. Pakistani architecture has four recognised periods: [pre-Islamic](/wiki/History_of_Pakistan#Early_history), [Islamic](/wiki/History_of_Pakistan#Muslim_period), [colonial](/wiki/History_of_Pakistan#Colonial_era), and [post-colonial](/wiki/History_of_Pakistan#Independence). With the beginning of the [Indus civilisation](/wiki/Indus_civilization) around the middle of the 3rd millennium BCE,[[466]](#cite_note-466) an advanced urban culture developed for the first time in the region, with large buildings, some of which survive to this day.[[467]](#cite_note-467) [Mohenjo Daro](/wiki/Mohenjo-daro), Harappa and [Kot Diji](/wiki/Kot_Diji) are among the pre-Islamic settlements that are now tourist attractions.[[223]](#cite_note-223) The rise of [Buddhism](/wiki/Buddhism) and the [Greek](/wiki/Greeks) influence led to the development of the Greco-Buddhist style,[[468]](#cite_note-468) starting from the 1st century CE. The high point of this era was reached at the peak of the [Gandhara style](/wiki/Gandhara#Art). An example of Buddhist architecture is the ruins of the Buddhist monastery [Takht-i-Bahi](/wiki/Takht_Bhai) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.[[469]](#cite_note-469)[thumb|left|150px|The](/wiki/File:Lahore_Fort.jpg) [Lahore Fort](/wiki/Lahore_Fort), a landmark built during the Mughal era, is a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](/wiki/UNESCO_World_Heritage_Site). The arrival of Islam in today's Pakistan meant a sudden end of Buddhist architecture in the area and a smooth transition to the predominantly pictureless [Islamic architecture](/wiki/Islamic_architecture). The most important [Indo-Islamic](/wiki/Indo-Islamic_architecture)-style building still standing is the [tomb of the Shah Rukn-i-Alam](/wiki/Rukn-e-Alam) in Multan. During the Mughal era, design elements of Persian-Islamic architecture were fused with and often produced playful forms of Hindustani art. Lahore, occasional residence of Mughal rulers, exhibits many important buildings from the empire. Most prominent among them are the [Badshahi mosque](/wiki/Badshahi_mosque), the [fortress of Lahore](/wiki/Lahore_Fort) with the famous [Alamgiri Gate](/wiki/Alamgiri_Gate), the colourful, the [Mughal](/wiki/Mughal_architecture)-style [Wazir Khan Mosque](/wiki/Wazir_Khan_Mosque),[[470]](#cite_note-470) the [Shalimar Gardens](/wiki/Shalimar_Gardens_(Lahore)) in Lahore and the [Shahjahan Mosque](/wiki/Shahjahan_Mosque) in [Thatta](/wiki/Thatta). In the British colonial period, predominantly functional buildings of the Indo-European representative style developed from a mixture of European and Indian-Islamic components. Post-colonial national identity is expressed in modern structures like the [Faisal Mosque](/wiki/Faisal_Mosque), the [Minar-e-Pakistan](/wiki/Minar-e-Pakistan) and the [Mazar-e-Quaid](/wiki/Mazar-e-Quaid).[[471]](#cite_note-471) Several of the architectural infrastructure has been influenced from the [British design](/wiki/Architecture_of_the_United_Kingdom), and such [architectural designs](/wiki/Architecture_of_the_United_Kingdom) can be found in [Lahore](/wiki/Lahore), [Peshawar](/wiki/Peshawar), and [Karachi](/wiki/Karachi).[[471]](#cite_note-471)

### Food and drink[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=41)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [200px|thumbnail|left|A Pakistani dish cooked using the](/wiki/File:Chicken_Tikka.jpg) [tandoori](/wiki/Tandoori) method. Pakistani cuisine is similar to cuisine from other regions of [South Asia](/wiki/South_Asia), since much of it originated from the royal kitchens of sixteenth-century Mughal emperors. Pakistan has a greater variety of meat dishes compared to the rest of the sub-continent. Most of those dishes have their roots in [British](/wiki/British_cuisine), [Central Asian](/wiki/Central_Asian_cuisine) and [Middle Eastern cuisine](/wiki/Middle_Eastern_cuisine). Pakistani cooking uses large quantities of spices, herbs and seasoning. [Garlic](/wiki/Garlic), [ginger](/wiki/Ginger), [turmeric](/wiki/Turmeric), red [chilli](/wiki/Chilli) and [garam masala](/wiki/Garam_masala) are used in most dishes, and home cooking regularly includes curry. [Chapati](/wiki/Chapati), a thin flat bread made from wheat, is a staple food, served with curry, meat, vegetables and lentils. Rice is also common; it is served plain, fried with spices, and in sweet dishes.[[219]](#cite_note-219)[[472]](#cite_note-472)[[473]](#cite_note-473) [Lassi](/wiki/Lassi) is a traditional drink in the [Punjab region](/wiki/Punjab_region). Black tea with milk and sugar is [popular throughout Pakistan](/wiki/Pakistani_tea_culture) and is taken daily by most of the population.[[32]](#cite_note-32)[[474]](#cite_note-474) [Sohan Halwa](/wiki/Sohan_Halwa) is a popular sweet dish from the southern region of Punjab province and is enjoyed all over Pakistan.[[475]](#cite_note-475)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=42)]

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The majority of the [sports](/wiki/Sports) played in Pakistan are originated and were substantially developed from the [United Kingdom](/wiki/United_Kingdom) who introduced in the [British India](/wiki/Indian_subcontinent). [Field Hockey](/wiki/Field_hockey) is the [national sport](/wiki/National_sport) of Pakistan; it has won three [Gold medallions](/wiki/Olympic_Gold_medal) in the [Olympic Games](/wiki/Olympic_Games) held in [1960](/wiki/Field_hockey_at_the_1960_Summer_Olympics), [1968](/wiki/Field_hockey_at_the_1968_Summer_Olympics), and [1984](/wiki/Field_hockey_at_the_1984_Summer_Olympics_–_Men's_tournament).[[476]](#cite_note-476) Pakistan has also won the [Hockey World Cup](/wiki/Hockey_World_Cup) a record four times held in [1971](/wiki/1971_Men's_Hockey_World_Cup), [1978](/wiki/1978_Men's_Hockey_World_Cup), [1982](/wiki/1982_Men's_Hockey_World_Cup), and in [1994](/wiki/1994_Men's_Hockey_World_Cup).[[477]](#cite_note-477) [Cricket](/wiki/Cricket), however, is the most popular game across the country.[[478]](#cite_note-478) The [cricket team](/wiki/Pakistan_national_cricket_team) (popular as [*Shaheen*](/wiki/Shaheen_falcon)) has won the [Cricket World Cup](/wiki/Cricket_World_Cup) held in [1992](/wiki/1992_Cricket_World_Cup); it had been runners-up once, in [1999](/wiki/1999_Cricket_World_Cup), and co-hosted the tournament in [1987](/wiki/1987_Cricket_World_Cup) and [1996](/wiki/1996_Cricket_World_Cup). Pakistan were runners-up in the inaugural [World Twenty20](/wiki/2007_ICC_World_Twenty20) (2007) in [South Africa](/wiki/South_Africa) and won the [World Twenty20](/wiki/2009_ICC_World_Twenty20) in England in 2009. In March 2009, militants [attacked](/wiki/2009_attack_on_the_Sri_Lanka_national_cricket_team) the touring [Sri Lanka's](/wiki/Sri_Lanka) [cricket team](/wiki/Sri_Lankan_cricket_team),[[479]](#cite_note-479) after which no international cricket was played in Pakistan until May 2015, when [the Zimbabwean team agreed to a tour](/wiki/Zimbabwean_cricket_team_in_Pakistan_in_2015). [thumb|left|225px|The](/wiki/File:A1_Team_Pakistan_topview.JPG) [A1](/wiki/A1_Grand_Prix) car of [A1 Team Pakistan](/wiki/A1_Team_Pakistan) driven by the motorsport driver, [Adam Khan](/wiki/Adam_Khan). In athletics, [Abdul Khaliq](/wiki/Abdul_Khaliq_(athlete)) participated in [1954 Asian Games](/wiki/Athletics_at_the_1954_Asian_Games) and the [1958 Asian Games](/wiki/Athletics_at_the_1958_Asian_Games). He won 34 international gold, 15 international silver and 12 bronze medals for Pakistan.[[480]](#cite_note-480) In [squash](/wiki/Squash_(sport)), world-class players such as [Jahangir Khan](/wiki/Jahangir_Khan)[[481]](#cite_note-481) and [Jansher Khan](/wiki/Jansher_Khan) won the [World Open](/wiki/World_Open_(squash)) Squash Championship several times during their careers.[[482]](#cite_note-482) Jahangir Khan also won the [British Open](/wiki/British_Open_Squash_Championships) a record ten times.[[481]](#cite_note-481) Pakistan has competed many times at the Olympics in field hockey, boxing, athletics, swimming, and shooting.[[483]](#cite_note-483) Pakistan's Olympic medal tally stands at 10 of which 8 were earned in hockey.[[484]](#cite_note-484) The [Commonwealth Games](/wiki/Commonwealth_Games) and [Asian Games](/wiki/Asian_Games) medal tallies stand at 65 and 160 respectively.[[485]](#cite_note-485)[[486]](#cite_note-486) At national level, polo is popular, with regular national events in different parts of the country. Boxing, billiards, snooker, rowing, kayaking, caving, tennis, contract bridge, golf and volleyball are also actively pursued, and Pakistan has produced regional and international champions in these sports.[[30]](#cite_note-30)[[482]](#cite_note-482)[[483]](#cite_note-483) Basketball enjoys regional popularity especially in [Lahore](/wiki/Lahore) and [Karachi](/wiki/Karachi).[[487]](#cite_note-487)

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=43)]

* [Index of Pakistan-related articles](/wiki/Index_of_Pakistan-related_articles)
* [Outline of Pakistan](/wiki/Outline_of_Pakistan)
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## Notes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=44)]

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## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=45)]

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## Bibliography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=46)]

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* [Key Development Forecasts for Pakistan](http://www.ifs.du.edu/ifs/frm_CountryProfile.aspx?Country=PK) from [International Futures](/wiki/International_Futures)
* [Population Of Pakistan](http://www.geohive.com/earth/population_now.aspx)
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* [World Bank Pakistan Summary Trade Statistics](http://wits.worldbank.org/CountryProfile/Country/PAK/Year/2012/Summary)
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