

Thematic Section 05

Countries of Origin of Third Country Nationals





Learning Objectives

Unit 5.1 – Pakistan

Upon completion of the section referring to Pakistan, trainees will be able to:

- Acknowledge the human geography of Pakistan (population, fertility, workforce, immigration), in comparison with the EU and its countries. 1. Geography – Demography
- Learn of all the critical growth indexes of Pakistan (Gross National Product – GNP,– Income per Capita, Corruption Perception Index, Poverty, Debt as a percentage compares to GNP, Exports - Imports)
- Get acquainted with the most important World Heritage Monuments of Pakistan such as Mohenjo-daro and Lahore
- Delve into its History, International Relations and alterations of its political system though different periods of its history. Find out about its independence from Great Britain, its conflict with India, the formation of Bangladesh, the Kashmir issue, as well as the recent developments
- Become aware of the cultural and social events of Pakistan as well as the basic religious groups of the country
- To acquire deep knowledge of the current security issues of Pakistan such as religious violence, Talibanisation of Northwest Pakistan, the armed conflicts and the displacements that they induce to the local population



Keywords

Fertility indexes, workforce as a percentage of the total population, Gross National Product – GNP, Income per Capita, Corruption Perception Index, Poverty, Debt as a percentage of GNP, balance of trade, Mohenjo-daro, Lahore, independence from Great Britain, conflicts with India, formation of Bangladesh, the Kashmir issue, the Shia, the Sunni, religious violence, Talibanism.



Course Material

Abstract/ To remember:





Bibliography/ Sources/ Useful Links

Training Methodologies

METHODOLOGY	UNITS				
	5.1				
Brainstorming	x				
Roundtable	x				
Lecture (mini lesson)	x				
Work in Pairs					
Case Study					
Debate	x				
Demonstration					
Travelling					
Individual Practice					
Panel Discussion					
Discussion Group					
Dialogue Group	x				
Problem Solving					
Creating Maps / Charts / Matrixes	x				
Project	x				
Quiz / Test	x				
Role Playing	x				
Dramatization	x				
Story	x				
Diary					
Analysis					
Sparing – Partner					
Pyramid					
Reporting	x				
Presentation	x				
Questionnaire					
Overview of the material	x				
Action Plan					
Guided Fantasy					
Associations					
Mentorship					
E-Learning					
Game	x				
Double Grouping					

Unit 5.1 - Pakistan

Geography - Demography

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan, is a country in South Asia. It spans over the area where South Asia, Central Asia and the Middle East collide.

Pakistan has a 1.046-kilometre coastline along the Arabian Sea and Gulf of Oman in the south and is bordered by India to the east, Afghanistan to the west, Iran to the southwest, and China (Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region) in the northeast. It is separated narrowly from Tajikistan by Afghanistan's Wakhan Corridor in the northwest.

Its capital city today is Islamabad, while in earlier years it was Karachi.



Image 1-Pakistan and surrounding countries

Pakistan's climate is semi dry and has as a characteristic very hot summers and very cold winters. It spans over a territory of 880.940 km² with a population of 212 million people (Human Development Report, UNDP, 2019)¹, a number that is expected to rise within the coming years.

¹ <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/PAK>

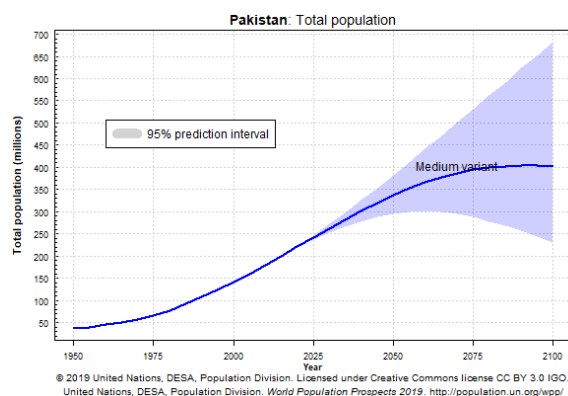


Image 2-Population of Pakistan & Predictions

The relevant predictions are further confirmed through other available data. In particular, the observed birthrate is expected to continue rising until 2026 and at the same time outnumber the death rate, contributing to a positive balance and therefore a rise of population.

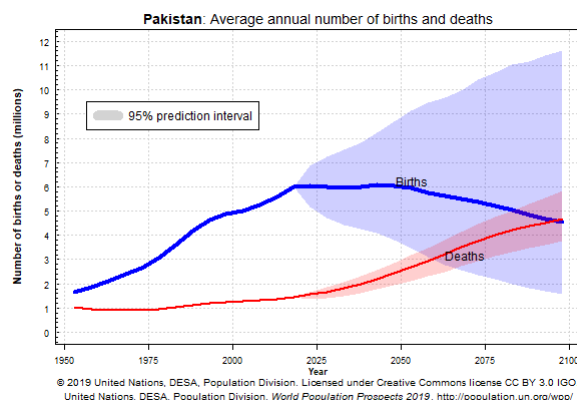
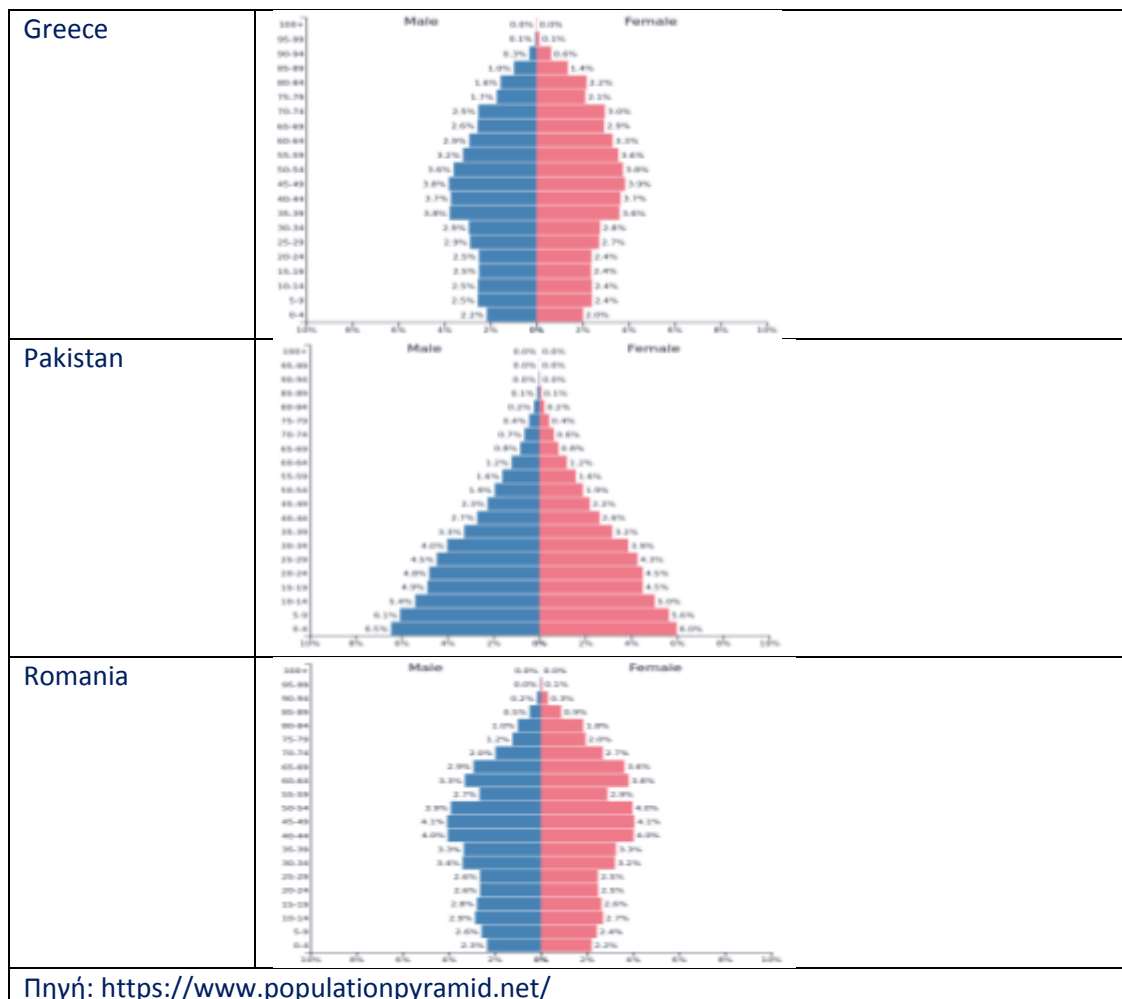


Image 3-Average Annual Birth and Death Rate

Food for Thought	Observe the age pyramids of the countries of: Belgium, Greece, Pakistan, Romania for the year 2013. What is the factor that differentiates Pakistan compared to the three (3) European Countries? Why is the European Population aging?
Belgium	



Answer – Why is the European population ageing?

During the 60ies, pure immigration(*) (**Meaning the difference between the incoming and outcoming immigrants at a certain area and a given time period**) was balanced. Since 1992 and especially after 2007, incoming immigrant population in the EU, started contributing to the rise of population of the member countries.

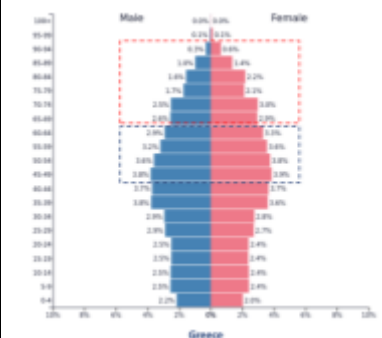
The relevant proportion of european population in relation to the world population is expected to fall from 15% that it is today to 5% in 2050. Why? Because Europe is “ageing”.²

Economic and social factors as well as scientific attainments that increase life expectancy have lead to the ageing population phenomenon. Such Examples are: low fertility rates, retirement of baby boomers, birth deficit due rates due to increased life costs, difficulty of working women to achieve work-family life balance, decrease of marriage and increase of divorce rate, contraception, mature age pregnancies etc.

Ageing of the European population though is a result of three main demographic tendencies:

- Low levels of fertility rate,
- Decrease of fertility rate and
- Increase of life expectancy rates.

² Οι πολιτικές της ΕΕ (σελ. 222)

Tendency	Rate	Result
Fertility rate (average number of births per woman)	1,57 births per woman (2011)	The minimum rate that is required to achieve population stability without the need of incoming immigrants is 2,1. The minimum rate is called “Η Ελάχιστη τιμή ονομάζεται «replacement index»
Decrease of fertility		Decrease of fertility results in: (1) increase of 45-65 age groups in the age pyramid (2) retirement of baby boomers (born after World War II) increases the rate of elderly people that need to be supported by a decreasing number of active workforce
Life Expectancy	Greece: 81,59 Belgium: 81,29 Romania: 74,96 Pakistan: 66,38	Impressive increase of the 80-90 years old age group (pensioners for many decades)

Pakistan Fertility Rate

Pakistan's fertility rate is approximately 2.5, meaning a lot bigger than the relevant rate of the European Union. The fertility rate combined with the low life expectancy and the increase of population, contributes to the increase of 25-45 age group in Pakistan that are capable to enter the workforce.

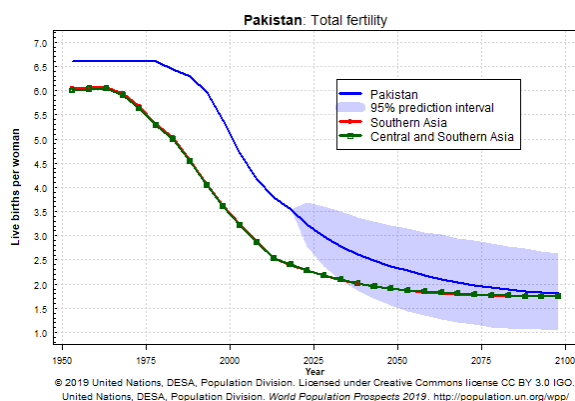
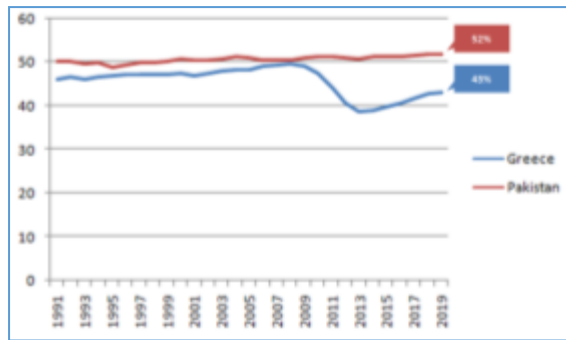


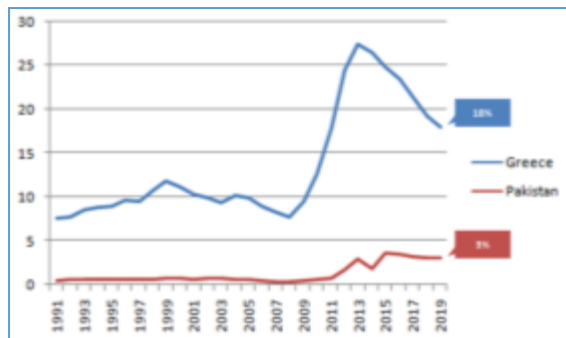
Image 4-Fertility Rate Pakistan (Πηγή: World Bank)

Workforce-Unemployment

The increased percentage of young people offers the country the necessary workforce that corresponds to 52% of the total population.



Unemployment levels in Pakistan are very low comparing to those of Greece, Romania and Belgium.



Nevertheless, approximately 21.4% of the population lives below poverty line, living on just 1.25 \$ per day.

Poverty, combined with other reasons (see relative article on multidimensional poverty) lead Pakistani people to immigration.

Pakistan and immigration

Pakistan one of the top 10 countries sending immigrants worldwide.

Directly after the country's declaration of independence, approximately 6.000.000 people relocated permanently from Pakistan to India for religious and political reasons and during the 1950s and 1970s there was a significant row of immigrants towards Europe and Middle East.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on the 31st of December 2013 there were approximately 7.600.000 Pakistani people that lived/ worked/ studied abroad.

49% of Pakistani people living abroad are located in Middle East countries; Europe follows with a percentage of 28% and the United States with 16%. Pakistani people living abroad contribute to the economic development of the country, as they send back home remittances. This is the second biggest source of incoming foreign exchange of the country after exports.

The main sources of remittances sent to Pakistan are:

- United Arab Emirates,
- The United States,
- Saudi Arabia,
- The Gulf countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman),

- Australia,
- Canada,
- Japan,
- United Kingdom,
- Norway and
- Switzerland

Pakistan also represents one of the main countries of origin of those who seek asylum. Through the submission of a total of 26.332 applications in 44 developed countries, Pakistan was 6th in a row in 2014, according to UNHCR.

Pakistani Immigrants in Greece

Incoming flow of Pakistani immigrants in Greece is significant as presented on the map below.



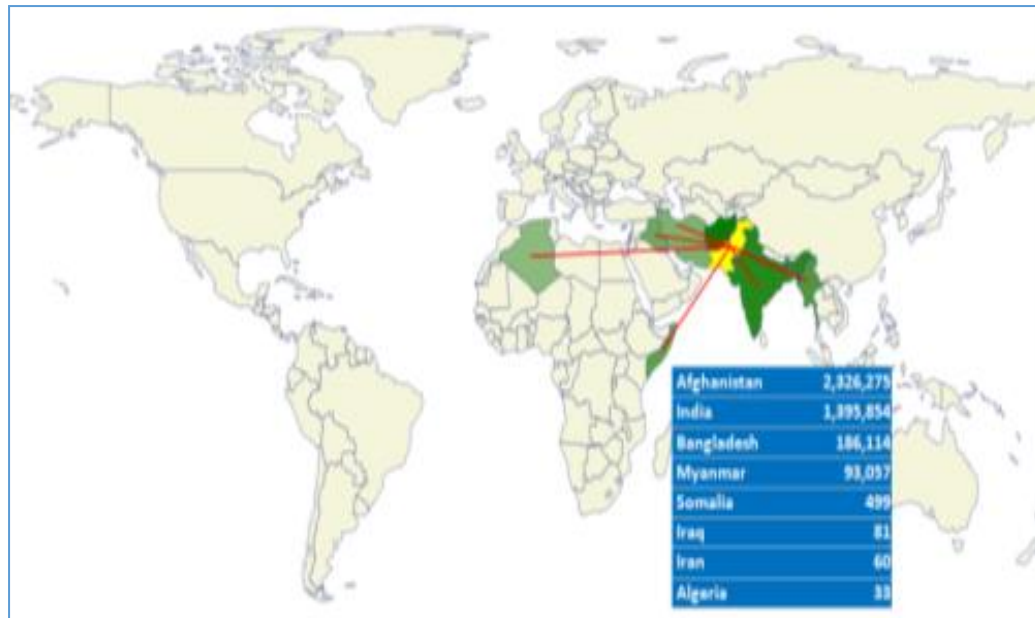
Historically, the relocation of Pakistani workers is traced back to the 1970s in the form of signing two transnational agreements:

- The transnational agreement for the temporary employment of Pakistani workers in the Skaramanga shipyard (Demertzopoulos 2009, Leghari 2009, Triantafillidou, 2010).
- The commercial agreement of the Greek Business and Industrial Association to employ specialized Pakistani workers in the field of Greek textiles. (Demertzopoulos, 2009:5).

The second wave of Pakistani immigrants coming to Greece, arrives during the 1980s (the year of the Greek accession to the EEC), because of the expectation for easy relocation to other countries of the European Economic Community through Greece (crossing point), Tonchev (2007).

Pakistan as a destination country

It is, however, worth mentioning, that Pakistan is also receiving big flows of immigrants – refugees because of war, civil strife, environmental factors and persecutions from countries such as:

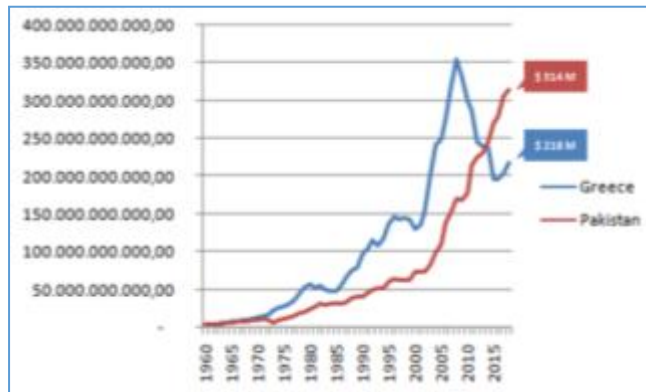


Financial Indicators

Pakistan is a developing country. It belongs amongst the rising and quickly developing countries of the world, while its middle class is one of the biggest and fast developing middle classes worldwide.

Gross National Product– GNP

The economy of Pakistan, according to the World Bank, is at the 41st place as far as the Gross National Product is concerned. Pakistan's GNP has raised significantly and in 2018 reached 218 billion dollars, transcending Greece's that is up to 218 billion dollars.



Per Capita GNP –Per Capita GNI

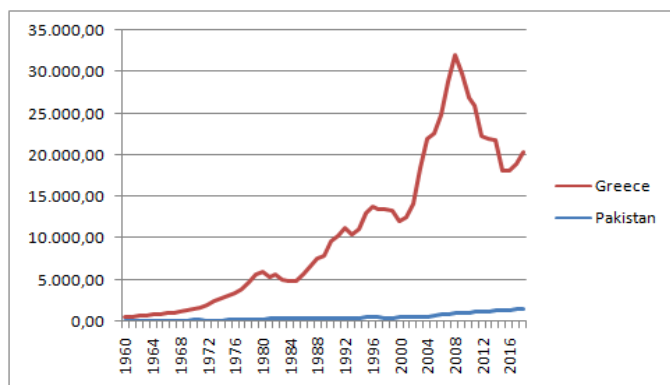
The World Bank ranks all economies in 4 groups based on income:

- low,
- lower-middle,
- upper-middle,
- high income

Based on this ranking, Pakistan belongs to the second group of countries (Lower – Middle income) with a Gross National Income – GNI ranging between \$1,006 and \$3,955.



The following diagrams picturing Pakistan's GNP per capita, further confirm this (\$1,482 annually for the year 2018) compared to the respective Greek indicator for 2018, \$20.324 annually.



Pakistan Debt as a percentage of GNP

The relevant ratio is 66.50%.

Imports - Exports

According to the Economic Complexity Index, Pakistan is the 68th biggest exporting country worldwide.

Specifically, Pakistan's exports in 2017 amounted to 24,8 billion dollars, while imports amounted to 55,6 billion dollars, resulting in a trade deficit of 30,8 billion dollars.

Source: WorldBank – WITS World Integrated Trading Solution

<https://wits.worldbank.org/CountryProfile/en/Country/PAK/Year/2017/Summary>

Observing Pakistan's export profile, it is obvious that the greatest part refers to clothing – footwear (below marked in green color).



Image 5-Pakistan Exports

Source: <https://oec.world/en/profile/country/pak/>

Supplementary to the exports, the biggest part of the imports consists of petroleum products and mechanical equipment for the clothing-footwear industry of Pakistan.



Image 6-Pakistan Imports

Source: <https://oec.world/en/profile/country/pak/>

Food for Thought	Who do you think are Pakistan's most important clients?												
USA (16.27%) UK (7.47%) China (6.89%) Afghanistan (6.35%) Germany (5.88%)	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Client</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>USA</td> <td>16.27%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UK</td> <td>7.47%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>China</td> <td>6.89%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Afghanistan</td> <td>6.35%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Germany</td> <td>5.88%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Client	Percentage	USA	16.27%	UK	7.47%	China	6.89%	Afghanistan	6.35%	Germany	5.88%
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Question	Who are the most important suppliers of Pakistan?												
China (26.78%) United Arab Emirates (13.10%) USA (4.95%) Saudi Arabia (4.75%) Indonesia (4.50%)	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Supplier</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>China</td> <td>26.78%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>United Arab Emirates</td> <td>13.10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>USA</td> <td>4.95%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Saudi Arabia</td> <td>4.75%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Indonesia</td> <td>4.50%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Supplier	Percentage	China	26.78%	United Arab Emirates	13.10%	USA	4.95%	Saudi Arabia	4.75%	Indonesia	4.50%
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Growth Indicators

It is worth mentioning that notwithstanding Pakistan's economic growth, a fact that can be proved by the annual rise of its Gross National Product, its strikingly low GNP per capita reveals significant serious development problems such as:

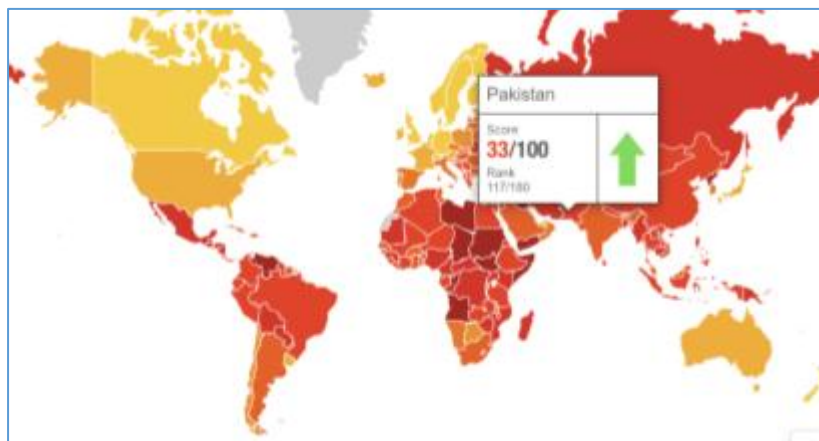
- poverty,
- corruption,
- illiteracy,
- health care
- and terrorism

Corruption Perception Index

This specific indicator ranks 189 countries and regions according to the prevailing perception amongst specialists and market people, according to corruption existing in the public sector. In order to achieve this, a scale of 0 to 100 is used, where 0 refers to the most corrupt and 100 the most corruption free countries.

What can be observed on the below map for 2019 is that:

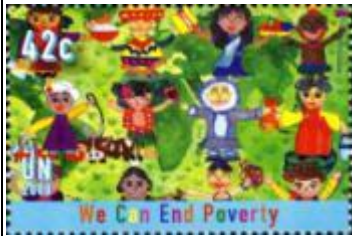
- Pakistan notes a very low grading when it comes to Corruption Perception Index and is ranked at the 117th spot between 180 countries with a grade of 33 out of 100.
- **More of the 2/3 of the total of countries, gather in 2019 an average grade of 43/100, meaning a grade below the basis which is 50/100.**



Food for thought	Answer
What does the low average of 43/100 at the Corruption Perception Index reveal?	<p>It reveals that:</p> <p>(a) Most of the countries have failed to control the corruption that exists in their public sector.</p> <p>(b) Corruption, in turn, contributes to “democracy crisis” existing in these countries.</p> <p>(c) Although there may be a few exceptions throughout the world, the facts show that most countries fail to make significant cuts against corruption.</p>

Poverty

Poverty is the number one obstacle to a country's development. Indeed, one of the Millennium Development Goals set by the UN is poverty eradication.

Question - Tip	Answer
<p>Do you know what are Millennium Development Goals –MDGs?</p> 	<p>MDGs consist of eight goals with measurable results and clear deadlines aiming to improve the lives of the world's poorest people.</p> <p>To achieve these goals and the UN mandate to eradicate poverty, leaders of 189 countries signed the historic declaration of the millennium at the 2000UN summit.</p> <p>In this regard the United Nations has developed a number of indicators - measurements.</p>

But because the phenomenon of poverty is not one-dimensional, that is to say, it is not only defined in terms of income, other ways of measuring it have been developed.

A relevant method of measurement is that of **Multidimensional Poverty**.

When it comes to Pakistan, 38% of the population (meaning 77 millions), are in a state of multi-dimensional poverty, 24% βρίσκονται σε κατάσταση πολυδιάστατης φτώχειας, το 24% lives below the national poverty line, while a percentage of 3.9% (meaning: 8.2 millions) live on just 1,99\$ a day³.

Based on the above mentioned data, Pakistan ranks 152nd out of 188 countries in terms of Human Development Index = 0,560 (UNDP, 2019)⁴.

In addition, the Multidimensional Poverty Index – MDI has three main dimensions:

- Education
- Health
- Standards of living

The contribution of each dimension to the phenomenon of multi-dimensional poverty is different. In the case of Pakistan, education contributes with 41.3%, health with 27.6% and standards of living with 31.1%. Therefore, the lack of health services, the low standard of living or the low participation of young people in education are shaping the phenomenon of multi-dimensional poverty together and with different severity.

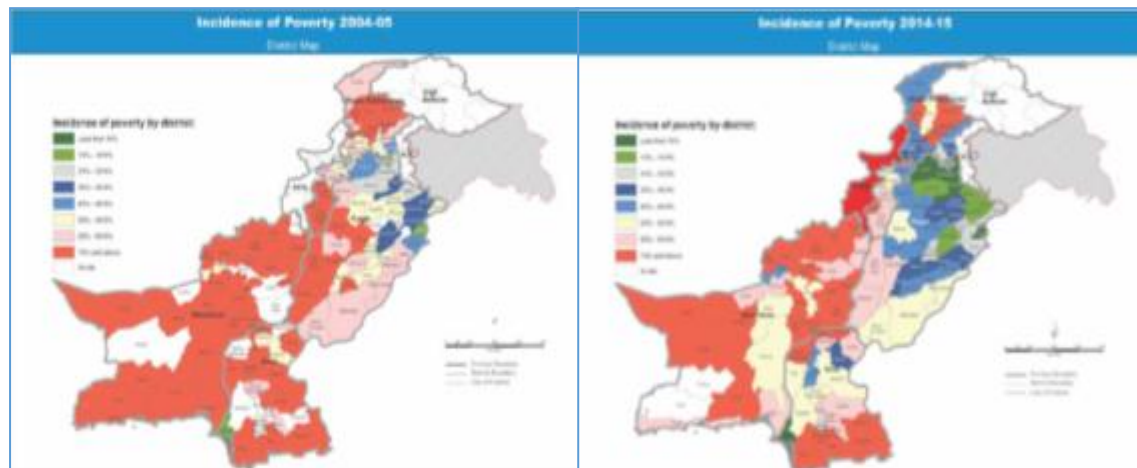
In Pakistan's case multi-dimensional poverty is much greater in rural areas and significantly lower in urban areas. Specifically, rural poor account for 54.66% of the population, while their share in urban areas stands at 9.43% for the 2014-2015 period.

³ UN, Multidimensional Poverty Index: developing countries (Table 6), 2019

⁴ <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/PAK>

Observe the areas in red. What does this graphic show us?

It indicates that in the provinces of **Balochistan, Sindh and FATA**, multi-dimensional poverty accounts for at least 70% of the population. A situation that has improved significantly since the early 2000s, but there is much room for improvement.



Civilization

Monument of Cultural Heritage UNESCO - Mohenjo-daro

The archaeological remains of Mohenjo-daro are the best preserved urban settlement of South Asia. It dates from the beginning of the 3rd millennium BC.



It has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The relevant UNESCO campaign “Save Mohenjo-daro – UNESCO campaign” imprints the monument on stamps around the world.

The ancient city is located on the right bank of the Indus river in Sindh province (510 km northeast of Karachi and 28 km from Larkana city).



Φράγμα (Magla) Ινδού Ποταμού

Μνημείου Mohenjo-daro

Ενδυμασία Sindh

The city represented the metropolis of Indian culture, one of the three most ancient civilizations in the world that flourished between 2,500-1,500 BC. in the Indus Valley.

Monument of Cultural Heritage UNESCO - Lahore Fort

On the northwest side of the city, which has a population of 200,000, is the Lahore Fort, locally known as Shahi Qila, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Πηγή: https://colnect.com/en/stamps/stamp/184880-Lahore_Fort-1st_Anniversary_of_Independence-Pakistan

Also in the area of the old town are:

- Two historical sites: Banchali and Vazir Khan and
- Datta Durbar, which is a cluster of buildings around the tomb of a famous 11th century South Asian soufflé, Ali Hatzwari.

Monument of Cultural Heritage UNESCO –Shalimar Gardens

Lahore is also known as the "Garden City".

The most famous of the Lahore gardens are the Salimar Gardens, created during the reign of Shah Jahan to imitate paradise, as presented in the Koran.

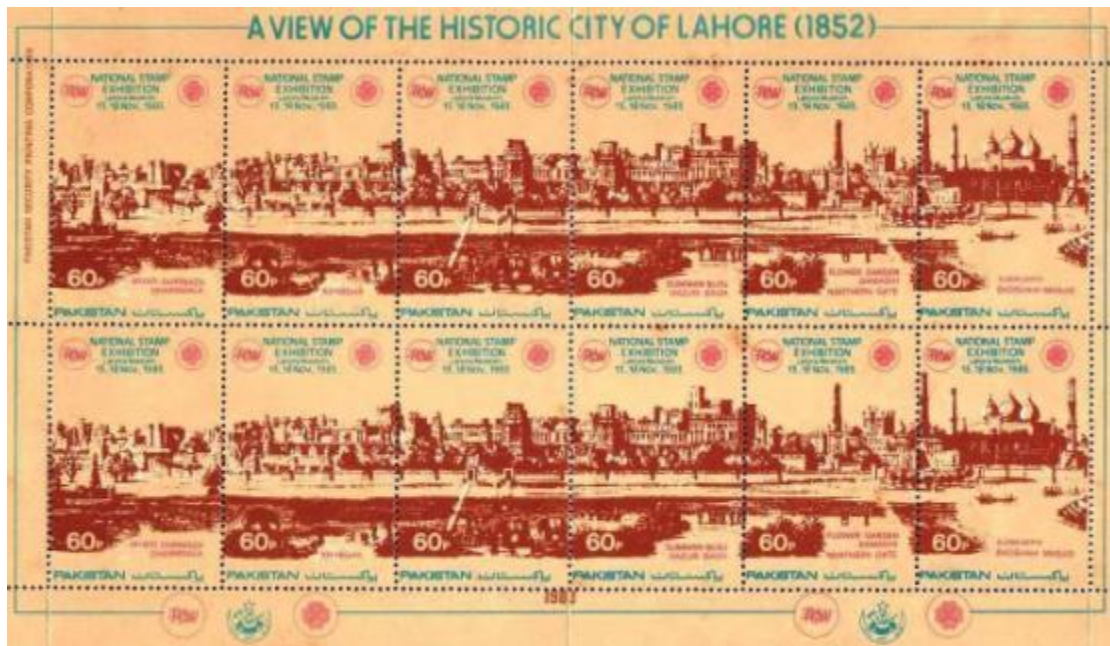


Πηγή: <http://freestampcatalog.blogspot.com/2011/03/shalimar-garden-pakistan-postage.html>

These gardens are a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

We note that both the fort and many of the Lahore gardens were created in the Mughal era and some still exist to this day.

Mughal culture is a fusion of Islamic, Persian, Hindu and Mongolian cultural influences (hence the name Mughal) and dominated the region for several centuries, strongly influencing its subsequent development⁵.



Source: <https://www.hobbyshobbys.com/2019/08/index-pakistan-postage-stamps-1972-2000.html>

History – Politics

It has an ancient history of colonization and civilization, including the Indus Valley Civilization.



Greeks, Persians, Arabs, Afghans, Turks and Mongols have invaded the area from time to time.

Before Independence

In the mid-18th century the area came under the control of the Afghan dynasty of the Durrani Pastun (now dominated by the Muslim element).

⁵ <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/171/>



Source: <https://hindu-art.com/2018/06/18/first-king-of-afghanistan/>

In the first half of the 19th century, the area of present-day India and Pakistan came under the control of the British East Indies Society.

The 20th c. was marked by the birth of the Indian independence movement.

In 1906, the All-India Muslim League of 1906 was established in Dhaka, with the most important leader being Muhammad-Ali-Jinnah, a supporter of the creation of an independent state for the Muslims of India.



To Democracy - Independence

On August 14, 1947, Pakistan was declared a sovereign state of the Commonwealth under the command of Muhammad-Ali-Jinnah.





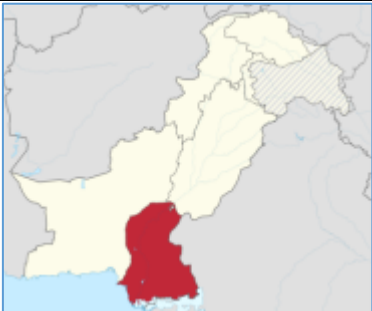



Since then, the country has been characterized by periods of economic and military development, and distinguished by its political instability.

Breaking up of British India

With the split of British India into India and Pakistan, Bengal and Punjab were divided between the two countries while the provinces of Balochistan, Sindh were annexed to Pakistan.

The Kashmir Principality was annexed to India, a development not accepted by the Muslim majority of the population (see related section)

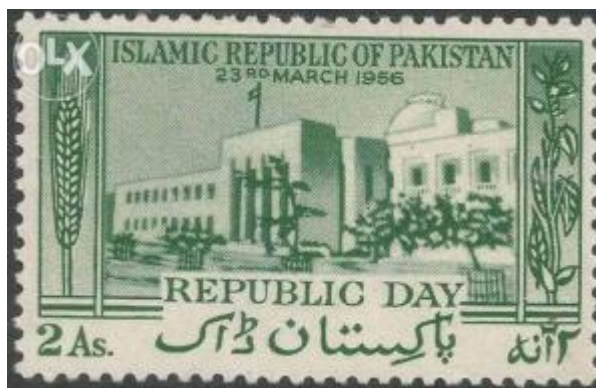
<p>Punjab Province Women's traditional clothing of the region</p> <p>https://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punjab</p>		
<p>Balochistan Province Women's traditional clothing of the region</p> <p>https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Atlas_of_Balochistan,_Pakistan</p>		
<p>Sindh Province Traditional women's clothing in the area</p> <p>https://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sind</p>		

The beginning of the conflict with India

The invasion of the Pashtuns in Kashmir gave rise to India's intervention. The first Indo-Pakistani war (22/11/1947 to 02/01/1949) ended with the demarcation of the temporary border between India and Pakistan (the "Control Line").



On March 23, 1956, a new constitution was proclaimed declaring Pakistan an Islamic democracy



1st Military Period of Governance

In October 1958 the army organized a coup. Political parties were abolished, the constitution abolished, and martial law was enforced. The Prime Minister and then President of Pakistan was declared the commander of the armed forces, General Mohammad Ayoub Khan.



During his presidency there was economic growth in the manufacturing sector, in favor of the western part of the country. As a result, poverty rates in East Pakistan have increased.

The Creation of Bangladesh

Before starting to recount the events that led to the creation of Bangladesh, we note that two events have had a decisive impact on the increase of political competition between West (present-day Pakistan) and East Pakistan (present-day Bangladesh):

(a) In September 1948, Jinnah dies and (b) six years after the Muslim League suffers an electoral defeat in Bengal (East Pakistan).

1965 is a critical year because in addition to the brief war with India over the Kashmir region, at the same time, in Bengal (in East Pakistan), a new nationalist formation emerged, the Awami League, which emerged as a dominant political force, preparing its forces for the 1970 election.

In 1969, a year before the election, Ayub Khan hands over the presidency to also General Agha Muhammad Yahya Khan.

This is how we get to the 1970 elections, in which the Awami League, led by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, garnered the majority of the Assembly's seats (167 in 300 seats).



Source: UPU, <https://www.wnsstamps.post/en/stamps/BD014.09>

At the same time, in the western part of the country, the People's Party of Pakistan (PPP) led by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto occupied 83 seats.



Based on the election results, Mujibur Rahman claimed widespread autonomy for East Pakistan, a request that could not be accepted by General Yahya Khan.

The result was an army invasion of eastern Pakistan, where widespread clashes broke out between the army and Awami League followers.

In December 1971, after India's armed intervention, the war ended and Islamabad was forced to recognize the independence of the new democracy of Bangladesh.



Source: <https://vk.com/@bdbangladesh-postal-history-of-bangladesh>

The governance of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto

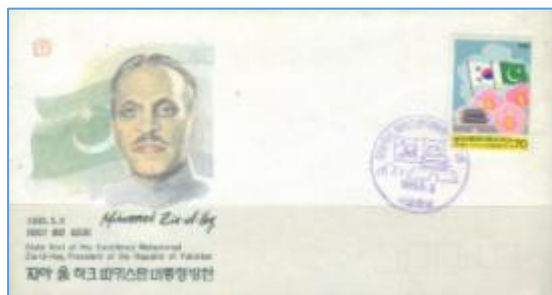
Assuming responsibility for the defeat and division of Pakistan, President Yahya resigned, leaving Bhutto the undisputed leader of the former West Pakistan.



In 1973 a new constitution was adopted and Bhutto became prime minister of Pakistan.

Second military period

On July 5, 1977, the commander of the armed forces, General Muhammad Zia Ul Haq, imposed martial law and assumed the presidency by ordering Bhutto's death sentence.



Source: <http://pakistanrelatedstamps.blogspot.com/2010/08/visit-of-president-of-pakistan-mohammad.html>

Zia joined the ranks of Islamists and introduced a new code based on Islamic law to ensure more popular support for his leadership. The 1979 elections were postponed indefinitely, political parties and strikes abolished, and severe media censorship was imposed.

The Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 had a serious impact on Pakistan. Pakistan (Zia), with the support of the US and several Muslim countries, supported the Mujahideen Afghans who resisted Soviet influence and advocated a broader policy of Islamization.

Due to the conflict, millions of Afghan refugees fled to Pakistan.

In August 1988, President Zia was killed when his plane crashed (Bahawalpur).

A decade of political governance

The first free national elections in Pakistan were held in November 1988 after more than 10 years. The PPP, led by Benazir Bhutto, the daughter of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was the major winner.



Bhutto formed a coalition government and became prime minister.

Economically, Pakistan has entered a period of stagnation.

The PPP was defeated in the 1990 election by the right-wing conservative coalition led by Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

Sharif implemented a liberal economic policy, but without restoring the country's economy.

So Benazir Bhutto returned to power after the 1992 elections and launched a nationalization program. In the mid-1990s, Pakistan began to support the Taliban, a fundamentalist Pakistani movement that had infiltrated Afghanistan.

Eventually, Pakistan became one of the three countries in the world that recognized Mullah Mohammed Omar as the legitimate leader of Afghanistan.

Bhutto's party (PPP) lost in the 1997 elections and Sharif again assumed the post of prime minister. However, two years later, in 1999, an incident⁶ that shortly led to a generalized conflict with India caused tension in Sharif's relations with the military leadership.

⁶ Groups of Pakistan-backed militants have been heavily involved in clashes with Indian troops at Kharthil on the "Control Line".

Third coup

When on 12 October 1999 Sharif attempted to oust General Pervez Musharraf from military leadership, he was overthrown by the military in a coup, arrested, and expelled to Saudi Arabia.

General Musharraf, self-proclaimed president of the country (3rd period of military rule), pursued a liberal economic policy with privatizations, expanding his powers, and breaking the country's ties with the West.

The isolation was brief and contributed to this:

- (a) the attacks of September 11, 2001, when President Musharraf backed US military operations in Afghanistan
- (b) the US diplomatic intervention to prevent the risk of a nuclear conflict between India and Pakistan in 2002 due to the crisis in Kashmir.

But support for the US campaign in Afghanistan has sparked fierce reactions from far-right religious groups.

President Musharraf's position was further weakened in 2007 because of his protracted clash with Supreme Court President Iftihar Chodri and the return of Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif, who began organizing their 2008 supporters.

Benazir Bhutto was assassinated on December 27, 2007 during her pre-election rally in Rawalpindi. Two months later, her party, the People's Party of Pakistan, emerged victorious.



Recent Political Developments

Yousuf Raza Gilani, a top PPP official, was elected prime minister in early 2008 and in the months that followed he worked for President Musharraf's dismissal. Finally, in August 2008, Musharraf resigned.

Asif Zardari, husband of assassinated Benazir Bhutto, succeeded her as president. The power was again transferred from the president to the prime minister by the 18th revision of the constitution, which was unanimously voted by parliament.

The new government has been called upon to tackle many problems on multiple fronts. In Baluchistan, a breakaway uprising took place following the violent death of guard Nawab Akbar Bugti. Even more aggravating was the situation in the eastern tribal areas, where the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) managed to occupy large tracts of land.

The counter-offensive by the Pakistani army aimed at pushing them out of the KP province and recapturing the territories has caused widespread disaster and created a wave of refugees. The Taliban have also launched terrorist attacks inside Pakistan.

At the same time, the country was being plagued by ever-increasing religious violence.

In November 2008, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), an extremist organization affiliated with Pakistan's military intelligence, carried out a large-scale coordinated terrorist attack in Mumbai, India.

In May 2011, US special forces killed al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden during a raid on Abbottabad, without informing Islamabad in advance. At the same time, the US has increased the number of unmanned aerial attacks aimed at killing terrorists in Pakistani tribal areas.

In April 2012, Prime Minister Gilani resigned under charges of corruption. In the May 11, 2013 elections, the Conservative Party PML (N) won the parliamentary majority.

Nawaz Sharif was elected prime minister for the third time.

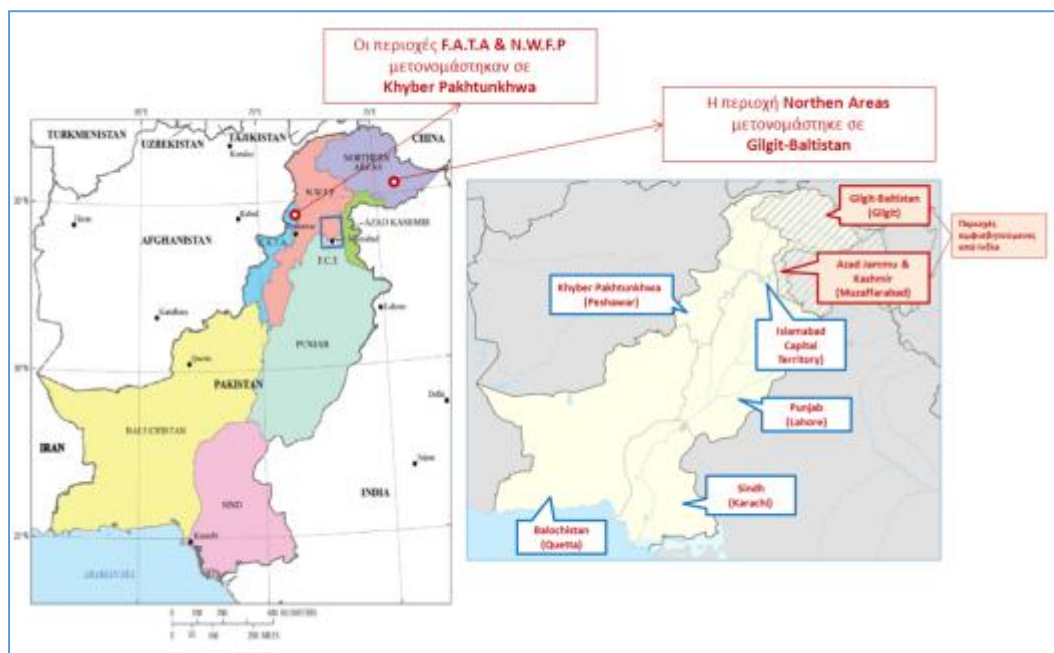


International relations

Government

Pakistan is a federal republic consisting of provinces and four federal districts plus the federal district of the capital.

PAKISTAN AREAS	POPULATION	Density (Population per km2)
<u>Azad Jammu and Kashmir</u>	4.045.366	223,55
<u>Balochistan</u>	12,344,408	37,91
<u>Gilgit-Baltistan (former Northern Areas)</u>	2,441,523	19,75
<u>Islamabad Capital Territory</u>	2,006,572	1.271,38
<u>Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (North-West Frontier Province NWFP)</u>	35,525,047	349,17
<u>Punjab</u>	110,012,442	535,74
<u>Sindh</u>	47,886,051	339,82



Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Administrative_units_of_Pakistan

Atomic - Nuclear Power

As a regional and medium power, Pakistan has the sixth largest land army.



Although the knowledge of atomic energy use (see postage stamp for Pakistan's first atomic reactor) existed for several years before the acquisition of nuclear power, in 1998, under the Nawaz Sharif government, Pakistan conducted its first nuclear weapons test in the Balochistan region (Chaghi area, on the hills of Ras Koh).

This is a time when relations with the United States began to deteriorate because Pakistan had secretly advanced nuclear energy.

The stamp was issued on 28/05/1999 on the 1st anniversary of "Youm-e-Takbeer" - The day Pakistan carried out its first nuclear weapons test.



Source: <https://www.hobbyshobbys.com/2019/08/index-pakistan-postage-stamps-1972-2000.html>
<https://defence.pk>

Therefore, Pakistan is a nuclear power. It is the second state in South Asia, after India, and the only Muslim country to possess nuclear weapons.

Pakistan is a member of a multitude of international and regional organizations such as:

- The United Nations,
- the Free Movement,
- the Organization of Islamic Cooperation,
- the Commonwealth of Nations,
- the Organization for Economic Cooperation,
- the Shanghai Cooperation Organization,
- the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation,
- Growing Eight,
- the Group of Twenty,
- the Group of 24,
- the Group of 77,
- the UN Economic and Social Council

Pakistan is a member of CERN and has signed:

- the Kyoto Protocol,
- the Paris Agreement,
- the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Kashmir: the "apple of contention"

The split of British India in 1947 into India and Pakistan (East and West) was mainly for religious reasons.

Since then, three countries, India, Pakistan and China have been in constant conflict over their claims to Kashmir. Kashmir with an area of 222,236 sq. Km is located in the northwestern part of the Indian Peninsula.



In 1947, part of the Muslim population of Kashmir demanded its unification with Pakistan, but the Hindu Maharaja Hari Singh refused, forcing Pakistan to invade the area, forcing Hari Singh to sign his annexation in India.

During the 1st World War between India and Pakistan, Pakistan was forced to surrender some territories and in January 1949 a UN ceasefire was decided. without the withdrawal of troops on both sides.

In the 1950s, China conducted military operations along the eastern Kashmir border, resulting in a 1962 war between China and India. Even today, India has an increased military presence in the Kashmir area it controls, on the border with China (Ladakh).

Heavy clashes over Kashmir between India and Pakistan broke out in 1965 and 1971. Settlement of these conflicts led to the creation of a control zone that defined the boundaries of areas under Indian and Pakistani influence. Since 1989, Kashmiri Muslim separatists have launched a guerrilla war, a move that has continued since 1999, taking the form of jihad (holy war). Finally, on November 7, 2003, India and Pakistan signed a ceasefire agreement at their common border in Kashmir.

Today, Kashmir is divided into three regions, with unclear and conflicting boundaries:

- Pakistan controls NW (Northern Areas and Kashmir),
- India's central and southern part (Jammu and Kashmir) and Ladakh, on the border with China,
- China controls the NE pass (Aksai Chin and Trans - Karakoram Tract).

In general, the balances in the Kashmir region are fragile because no country has formally recognized control of the other's territories.

Society

Festival in Lahore

Lahore, often referred to as the Capital of Culture or the Heart of Pakistan, has developed its own unique culture, influenced by the traditions of its various conquerors.

The city hosts many annual celebrations and festivals. In addition to celebrations related to the Muslim Religion (such as Eid ul-Fitr and Eid ul-Adha) and held in the city, there are also festivals such as the Mela Chiraghan (or Lamp Festival) that are particularly popular in the city, or Bashash (Jashn-e-Baharaan), which takes its roots in the Hindu celebration of Basanta and takes place at the end of February. Bashad includes kite flying, which was officially banned in 2005 due to several electric shock deaths, but civilians continue this tradition. The city hosts a National Horse and Cattle Show each year in the spring, and the 10-day World Festival of Performing Arts takes place in the fall (usually in November), featuring theatrical performances, concerts, dances, musicals and puppet theaters from all over the world.

The city has large and rich markets and several restaurants. Alcohol is not freely allowed, but is offered to foreign guests at some hotels. Many of these shops stay open until late at night, and there are also some popular hookah bars.

Lahore is Pakistan's educational center. There are more colleges and universities in the city than any other city in the country, and it produces the largest number of scientists and engineers in the country. Most of the city's universities are public, but some have been established in recent years. There are some of Pakistan's oldest educational institutions in the city.

The city is the heart of Pakistan's media and arts. In Lahore are the headquarters of Pakistan School of Fine Arts. There are several radio and television stations in the city. It is also the center of fashion in the country as there is also the most famous relevant school in the country, and there are several designer shops and photo studios. It is also the hub of Pakistan's music industry, both of classical traditional music of the country and of modern trends.

Truck decorations

The tradition of truck decoration began around the 1920s. Initially, trucks were painted with the logo of each company so that illiterates could identify which company the trucks belonged to. Gradually, these logos became more fancy and competitive.

Later, in the 1960s, as the country's economy blossomed, decorations became increasingly special to reflect the increasing wealth of drivers and the rise of this new bourgeoisie.

These trucks are called "jingle trucks", a term derived from the American military slang. Their name is due to the sound the hanging objects make when the truck is moving.

Plastic flowers, ribbons, beads, mirrors, velvet ornaments, celebrity posters and images of saints dominate both outside and inside. In addition to their decoration and construction, they are unique, as they are made of wood with bells hanging.

This decoration can cost thousands of dollars and can include paintings, calligraphy and decorations such as mirrors or wood sculptures. It is also customary to depict various historical scenes and poetic lyrics.

The reason why Pakistanis are making art on their trucks is, as webneel.com reports, that drivers are often missing from their homes for more than two months and thus feel closer to home.

Religion

Pakistan is the second largest Muslim country in the world, as well as the second largest Shiite population worldwide.

Overall the structure of the population in terms of religious doctrine is as follows:

- Muslims: 173,000,000 (96% of the population, of which 75% Sunnis, 20% Shiites, 2.3% Ahmadis and several Sufi communities)
- Hindus: 3,200,000 (1.85%)
- Christians: 2,800,000 (1.6%)
- Sikh: about 20,000 (0.001%)
- Buddhism, Judaism, Animism, Jehovah's Witnesses

Security Status - Violence

Religious violence

Religious violence is characterized by clashes between the two Sunni and Shiite Muslim communities.

The Deobandi organizations are leading the anti-Semitic movement with the Ahl-e-Hadith groups, and with the more tolerant Barelvi Sunni groups.

But how did the violence begin?

In the early 1980s the following occurred:

- the Iranian revolution of 1979,
- Zia ul Huck's Islamization policy,
- US-backed Afghan resistance to the Soviet invasion of 1979,
- violent actions against the state by ethnic-self-moving movements
- uneven economic growth.

Islamization with Sunni sign

The state is changing and turning from pluralism to Islamism, since 1974 to the term "Muslim" in 1974, the Ahmadis were excluded.

So the fundamentalist Sunnis tried to exclude the Shia community from the Muslim definition.

This was also helped by the Zia ul-Haq regime in 1979, imposing Islamic law based on the Sunni interpretation of the Hanafi⁷ school, which angered the Shiite minority, which believed that Zia-ul-Haq's Islamization policy was an attempt to create a Sunni state.

Iran and the Shiites

So in 1979, Pakistan's Shiites, backed by Iran, following the success of the Iranian revolution, set up a movement to defend the Shiite community called Tehrik-e-Nifaz-e-Fiqh-e-Jafaria (TNFJ).



Tehrik-e-Nifaz-e-Fiqh-e-Jafaria (TNFJ) has managed to exterminate Shiites from Sunni laws following protests and clashes with the military regime, raising concerns in the rival community fearing Islamic identity of Pakistan not Sunni.

This fear led to greater radicalization of both communities.

Politically motivated violence

Politically motivated violence in Pakistan is largely due to the instability in the country's northwest after the overthrow of the Taliban regime, and most notably in 2001 when a large number of them were fleeing the allied forces in Afghanistan settled in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and the Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP), today's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



Under their influence, several Pakistani groups with similar ideologies worked together to form a coalition of armed groups.

This led to the so-called "Talibanisation" of the region (strict application of conservative Islamic principles) and the escalation of violence against civilians and Pakistani authorities

⁷ on taxation and charitable donations for the entire Muslim population,

Since 2007, the Pakistani military has been conducting military operations in these areas to regain control.

Especially in 2009, armed clashes with the Taliban and affiliated Pakistani organizations have been a source of insecurity and mass displacement.

Conflict Displacements

Since 2004 the displacements have been related to:

- clashes between the Pakistani military and non-state armed groups,
- conflicts between non-state armed groups,
- incidents of religious violence,
- Tribal and local resource conflicts
- Human rights violations perpetrated by the military and non-state armed groups.

By the end of 2014, approximately 1.6 million people were displaced from the FATA and Himber Pachtunkoua areas. Displaced women and religious minorities have faced many problems in their quest for support, while ensuring the health of these groups is a critical issue, due to a lack of health care and inadequate hygiene.

Negotiations and failure

Following his election in June 2013, Prime Minister Sharif initially sought to negotiate with the Pakistani Taliban, but initial efforts were stalled by continued violence.

Military action against the Taliban in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) has triggered a new round of terrorist attacks, culminating in a bloody public school attack on children of military in Peshawar in December 2014, which killed 145 people, amongst which 132 students.

In an effort to reopen the negotiations, on March 1, 2014, the Taliban announced a one-month ceasefire, which ended on April 17, 2014. The final breakthrough in the already fragile peace talks was triggered by the terrorist attack on Mohammed Ali Jina airport in Karachi on June 8, 2014, which claimed the lives of 26 people. So on December 25, 2014, after consulting with various political parties, Prime Minister Sharif announced a 20-point action plan aimed at tackling the terrorist threat.

In 2015, Pakistani forces conducted military operations aimed at eliminating Taliban enclaves in North Waziristan.

Safety and armed conflict

In Pakistan in 2014, there were 1,206 terrorist attacks by militant groups, nationalist / guerrilla groups and violent religious groups, equivalent to a 30% decrease over 2013.

During the same period the following incidents took place:

- 26 suicide bombings,
- 516 using improvised explosive devices of various types
- 501 cases of targeted killings.

Other tactics used by terrorists in the same period (2014) were:

- bomb shells (79),
- rocket attacks (52),
- sabotages (18),
- Shotguns (12) and
- beheadings (2).

