

# South Asia Subcontinent

**TIMELINE  
HISTORY**

2,500 B.C.E.

Indus Valley civilization begins  
in Pakistan.

1,500 B.C.E.

Aryans cross the Hindu Kush Mtns. from areas around Iran. They are light-skinned people. They establish small kingdoms on the Ganges Plain. They push the darker-skinned native Indians to the south.

321 B.C.E.

The Mauryan Empire unites most of India.

Emperor Ashoka helps spread Buddhism throughout Asia.

320 C.E.

The Gupta Empire comes to power. It rules over northern India during a period of peace and prosperity.

400 C.E. to 1100's C.E.

Many different invaders enter India.

Muslims conquer the Indus Valley by the 1100's.

## 1500's C.E.

Muslims establish the Mughal Empire and bring many new customs to India that conflict with native Hindu tradition.

European traders come to India for spices, cloth, and other goods. French, Dutch, and Portuguese set up trading colonies. But the British finally won out.

1757 C.E.

The British East India Company allows Britain to gain control over India's trade. Britain leads all trade with other European countries in the subcontinent.



1857 C.E.

Indian people rebel against British rule. The British government stops the revolt and establishes direct rule over India. Most Indians do not like colonialism.

1920

Mohandas Gandhi (a 51 year old civil rights leader) starts a nonviolent campaign against Britain. He believes in nonviolent resistance to achieve the goal of independence.

1930

Gandhi leads many incidences of civil disobedience against British Rule. One example is the Salt March to the sea to get salt (forbidden by the British – the British wanted to keep all of the natural resources for themselves). Gandhi becomes known to the world for his bravery and persistence.

## 1940's

New types of industries begin in the Indian economy. Agriculture and cotton textiles have always been important, but now chemicals, iron, steel, machinery, and food production begin.

World War II causes the British government to enlist Indians into the army. More than 2.5 million Indian soldiers fight for the British.

# 1947 (August 14)

India gets its independence from Britain. As a result, there is conflict between the Hindus and Muslims regarding how India will be governed. Muslims decide to separate from India, forming Pakistan – it was separated into two parts East and West Pakistan, and separated by over 1,000 miles.

## 1947 (continued)

Nearly 1 million people die in violent conflicts, and over 10 million more flee across the borders. Muslims in India move to Pakistan, and Hindus in Pakistan move to India.

1948

The First Indo-Pakistani war over Kashmir (an area in the northern part of South Asia between India and Pakistan) finally ends.

Gandhi is assassinated (January 30<sup>th</sup>)

1950

India adopts a new constitution and becomes a democratic republic. Jawaharlal Nehru is the first prime minister.



1960's

A series of famines occur. The Green Revolution begins. This is where agricultural scientists introduce new farming techniques to India. More grain varieties are grown and food production increases.

1971

The people of East Pakistan want their own nation. The national government in West Pakistan opposes this. Civil war breaks out. With India's assistance, East Pakistan wins its independence and becomes the country of Bangladesh.

1974

India tests its first nuclear bomb.

1984

Sikhs who were angered by Indian policies against their religion, assassinate Prime Minister Indira Gandhi (the daughter of Nehru).

1991

Tamil extremists assassinate former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi (son of Indira) because of policies against the Tamil religion.

## Late 1990's

5% of India's farm families own 25% of all the farmland. The rest of the farmers (95%) have very small farms and struggle to survive (subsistence farming). Land reform has been suggested to balance land ownership, but nothing has been successful.

2000

India's population  
reaches 1 billion  
people!!

# Questions

1. How do advanced agricultural techniques (The Green Revolution) affect population?
2. What problems might occur in the subcontinent as a result of high density populations?