

Chapter - 3

Contemporary South Asia

→ It states about development in our own region

What is South Asia?

7 countries
↓

→ Includes following countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

→ Countries in South Asia do not have the same kind of political systems.

Like. Pakistan and Bangladesh have experienced both civil and military rule.

- Nepal was constitutional monarchy till 2006, which abolished in 2008.

- Bhutan. constitutional monarchy under King emerging as multi-party democracy

- Maldives → republic with a presidential form of govt after 1968.

The Military and Democracy in Pakistan.

↳ Pakistan's First Constitution [1956]

→ General Ayub Khan's Military Coup

- Army took control
- Became president
- Resigned after public protests.

military

→ Yahya Khan and Bangladesh Crisis

- Pakistan faced Bangladesh crisis [1971]
- Incl a PAK war 1971

↳ broke East Pak to independent nation

→ Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto [1971-77]

- Elected Civilian Govt

Democracy

→ General Zia-ul-Haq Coup [1977]

- Bhutto removed
- military rule
- Pro-democracy movement [1982 onwards]

military

→ Democracy restored [1988]

- Benazir Bhutto became PM
- Politics dominated by
 - Pakistan's people's party (PPP)
 - Pakistan Muslim League (PML)

Civilian

→ General Pervez Musharraf coup [1999]

- Nawaz Sharif removed
- Became president (2001)

military

Since 2008 - Democratic elected govt.

Why Democracy weak in Pakistan?

- (i) **Dominance of powerful groups**
- military, clergy and landowning aristocracy dominated politics
 - These groups frequently overthrow elected governments.

(ii) **India - Pakistan conflict**

- Pakistan's conflict with India strengthened the military's influence.
- Army claimed civilian governments were too weak to protect national security.

(iii) **Weak democratic institutions**

- Frequent coups prevented democratic institution to stabilize

(iv) **Lack of International Support**

- The USA and western countries often supported military govt

→ **Reason**

- Fear of **global Islamic terrorism**.
- Concern over Pakistan's nuclear weapon that it might fall into terrorist groups
- Pakistan was viewed as protector of western interest in west Asia and south Asia.

Because of this

Democracy in Bangladesh.

→ [East Pakistan]

Timeline

↓

Discrimination by West Pakistan

- Bengali language & culture neglected
- Unequal political representation

Because of this

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman led movement

• **Demanded autonomy** for East Pakistan.

1970 General Elections

- **Awami League** won majority
- West Pakistan **refused transfer power**
- Sheikh Mujib arrested.

→ **Yahya Khan's military crackdown**

- Mass protest suppressed
- Thousands killed
- Million fled to India as refugees

↓

India supported Bangladesh

• India - Pak war [1971 Dec]

↓

PAK Surrendered

↓

Bangladesh become independent nation [1971]

Bangladesh's constitution
[1972]

- Secularism
- Democracy
- Socialism

1975 → Parliamentary form of govt. to presidential

• Banned all parties except Awami League

1991 →

- Multi-party democracy restored
- Representative democracy continues

Hindu Kingdom

Monarchy and Democracy
in Nepal

Constitutional
monarchy

- Open & responsive govt
- Expansion of democracy

People
demanded

1990 People's movement

- King accepted democratic Constitution

Ethnic conflict and
Democracy in Sri Lanka

- Wanted to end monarchy
- Violent conflict with King's army

Three-way conflict

- Monarchy
- Democratic parties
- Maoists

2002 → . King dissolved parliament.
↓
• Dismissed elected govt
• Democracy suspended.

April 2006 → Massive nationwide pro-democracy
movement.

led by

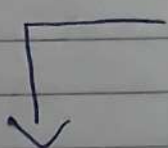
- Seven Party Alliance.
- Maoists.
- Social activists.

[SPA]

2008 → . Monarchy abolished
↓
• Nepal become democratic republic

2015 → New constitution adopted.

→ Dominated by
Sinhala majority



Sri Lanka's Independence [1948]

↓
Discrimination against Tamils.
suppressed by Sinhala's.

↓
Rise of Tamil Nationalism

↓
1983 → the (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam)
LTTE, launched armed struggle with
Sri Lanka in demand of 'Tamil Eelam' or
separate country.

LTTE controlled North
- eastern part of Sri Lanka

- India's role [1987]
 - India-Sri Lanka Accord
 - Indian Peace keeping force [IPKF] sent



- Eventually IPKF fought LTTE
 - Faced opposition
 - Withdrawal of IPKF in 1999 without achieving its objective



- Peace efforts by International actors
 - Norway & Iceland mediated
 - Negotiation between parties

LTTE
in red

Sri Lanka 1st country
to liberalise its economy
in the region.

Core Issues

- **Kashmir Dispute**
 - After partition both claimed J&K.
 - Line of Control [LoC] emerged.

Strategic & Military Issues

- **Siachen Glacier**
 - High altitude strategic region
- **Arms Race**
 - Nuclear weapons
- **Nuclear tests [1998]**
 - India - Pokhran
 - PAK - Chagai Hills
 - Both declared nuclear powers

Water & Territorial Disputes

- **Indus water treaty [1960]**
 - Signed with World Bank help
 - Continues despite wars
- **Sir Creek dispute**
 - Maritime boundary issue in Rann of Kutch

Major Wars

- **1947-48** → First India-PAK.
 - Kashmir divided [LoC] war
- **1965 war** → Issue remained unresolved
- **1971 war** → India defeated PAK, Bangladesh Created

India - Pakistan Conflicts

Security concerns

- **Cross border terrorism**
 - PAK supports militants with arms, money, training
- **Khalistan militancy [1985-1995]** - PAK aided with arms
- **ISI activities**
 - Anti-India Campaign

Pakistan's allegations

- **Blames India for creating instability in Sindh & Balochistan**
- **Accuses Indian agencies of fomenting trouble in these provinces**

Began
1985

Peace and Co-operation

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] is a major regional initiative by the South Asian states to evolve cooperation through multilateral means,

→ FTD member signed South Asia Free trade agreement

SAFTA

SAFTT
SAARS
in 2000

→ It aims at lowering trade tariffs.