

CHAPTER- 4

CONTEMPORARY SOUTH ASIA

This lesson is divided into 2 parts

Explanation as per the latest syllabus

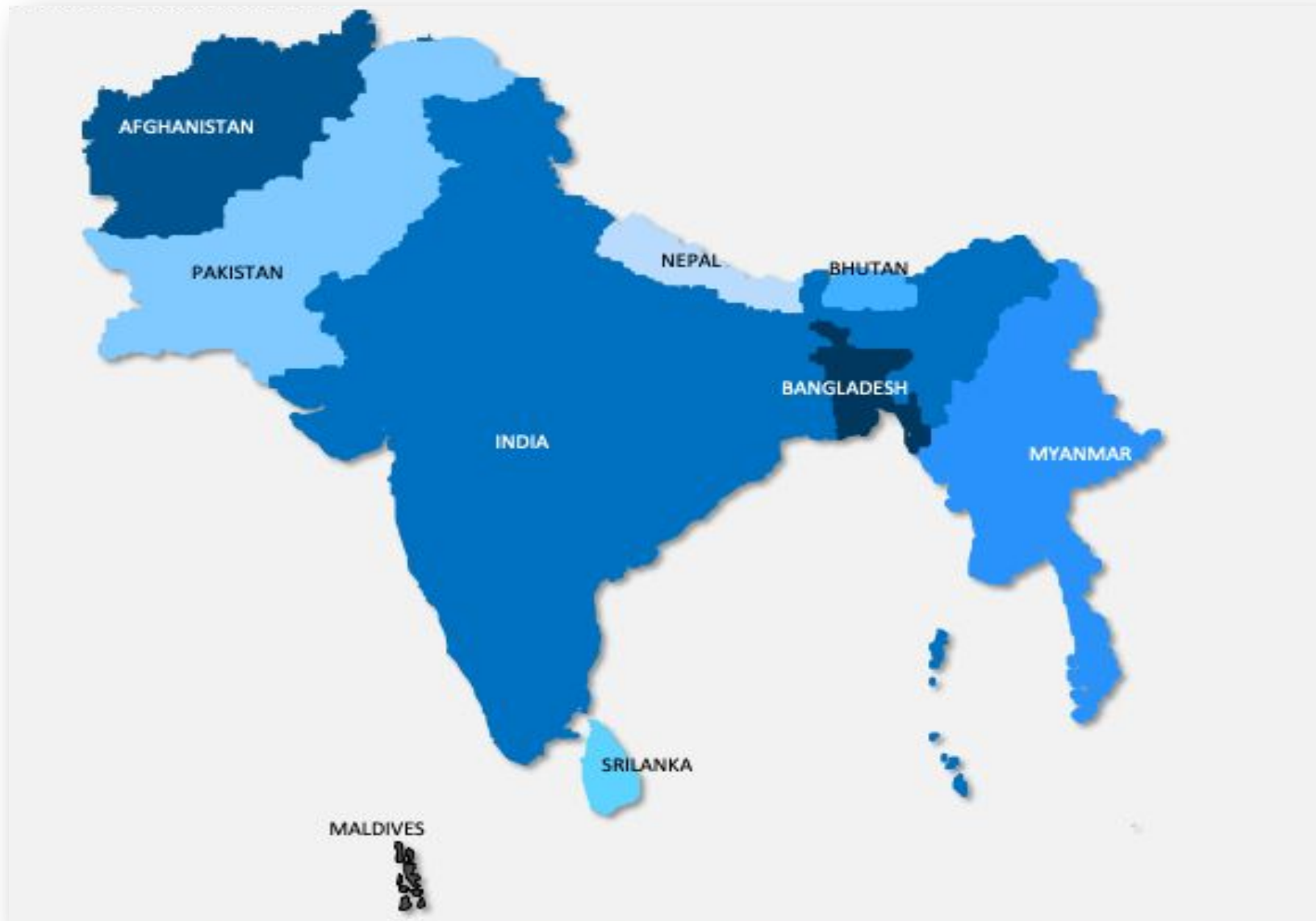
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CONTEMPORARY
WORLD POLITICS

Textbook in Political Science for Class X







INTRODUCTION

- South Asia usually includes the following countries Bangladesh , Bhutan , Nepal , Pakistan , India and Sri Lanka and Maldives.
- South Asia stands for diversity in every sense and yet constitutes one geo political sense.
- Despite many problems and limitations, Sri Lanka and India have successfully operated a democratic system since their independence from the British.
- Pakistan and Bangladesh have experience both civilians and military rulers , with Bangladesh remaining a democracy in the post cold war period.



- Pakistan began the post cold war period with successive democratic government under Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif respectively.
- It suffered a military coup in 1999 and has been run by a military regime since then.
- Till 2006, Nepal a successful popular uprising led to the Restoration of democracy after constitutional monarchy.
- Bhutan is still a monarchy but the king has initiated plans for its transition to multiparty democracy.
- The Maldives (Island nation) was a sultanate till 1968 when it was transformed into a republic with a presidential form of Government.
- the Maldivian democratic party (MDP), now it has multi party system dominates the political affairs of the island.



The Military And Democracy In Pakistan

(A) General Ayub Khan (1958)

- Took over the administration of country
- Elected himself
- Gave up office where there was dissatisfaction
- Again his own rule.

(B.)Generally Yahya Khan

- (military take over once again in 1977)
- during his time, Pakistan faced Bangladesh crisis 1971.

(C) Elected Government

- Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (1971 - 77)

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(D) general Zia - ul haq

Faced pro-democracy movement (from 1982).

(E) elected government in 1988

Benazir Bhutto

(F) during this time Pakistan politics **centred around Pakistan peoples party and the Muslim league**
Army step in again in 1999.

(G) general Pervez Musharraf

Remove PM Nawaz Sharif

in 2001 elected himself as president



Factors contributing to failure of democracy in Pakistan.

- **Social dominance** of military , clergy and landholding aristocracy.
- Pakistan **conflict with India** has made the pro military groups more powerful.
- Thus , Democracy has not been successful in Pakistan
- **Lack of genuine international support** for democratic rule in Pakistan.
- **example :-** US and other Western countries have increased the military rule for their own reasons (global Islamic terrorism).
- **Military regime in Pak** has been seen as the protector of Western interest in West Asia and South Asia



Democracy in Bangladesh

- Bangladesh was a part of Pakistan from 1947 to 1971 consisted areas of Bengal and Assam.
- Reasons of separation from Pakistan
 - i. Domination of Western Pakistan
 - ii. Imposition of Urdu language
 - iii. Unfair representation in administration.



Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

- ❑ Led the popular struggle against west Pakistan domination.
- ❑ In 1970 election, awami league led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman won all seats in East Pakistan.
- ❑ Proposed constituent assembly for the whole of Pakistan.
- ❑ West Pakistan leadership refused to convene the assembly
- ❑ Mujib was arrested.

- ❖ Thousands were killed by Pakistan army and this year to the war, in 1971 between Pakistan and India that ended in the surrender of Pakistani forces in east Pakistan.
- ❖ and formation of Bangladesh as an independent country.



Nepal

- Nepal was a Hindu Kingdom in the past but later changed into a constitutional monarchy for many years.
- The king accepted the demand for a new democratic constitution in 1992 after strong pro-democracy movement.
- There was a conflict among the democrats, Maoists and monarchists forces which led to the abolition of parliament and dismissal of government in 2002 by the king.
- After a Pro democratic movement , again in 2006 , the king was forced to restore the house of representatives.





Sri Lanka

- The democratic setup of Sri Lanka was disturbed by the ethnic conflict among the Sinhalese and Tamil origin people.
- Sinhalese believe the region of ceylon belong to sinhala people only and not to the Tamils (origin is India).
- This led to the formation of liberation tiger of Tamil eelam (LTTE) , a militant organisation.
- The Government of India signed an Accord with Sri Lanka and sent troops to stabilize relations between the Sri Lankan Government and the tamil.
- Eventually the Indian army got into a fight with the LTTE later on the Indian peace keeping force IPKF was called out of Sri Lanka in 1989 without achieving it seems.
- In spite of the ethnic conflict, the economy of Sri Lankan has always been high.





India And Its Other Neighbours

- Neighbouring countries of India are Bangladesh, Nepal , Sri Lanka, Pakistan , Bhutan and Maldives.
- conflicts between India and Bangladesh include sharing of Ganga and Brahmaputra river water and illegal immigration to India etc.
- both India and Bangladesh share a cordial relation with each other. Economic relations between the two have improved considerably.
- Nepal and India shares a friendly relation with each other but certain issues like warm relation of Nepal with China , Maoists movements in Nepal have disturbed the relation.
- But still both the countries are together on trade, scientific, cooperation, electric generation and inter locking water management.
- India enjoys a very special relationship with bhutan too and does not have any major conflict with the Bhutanese government.



Peace and cooperation

- There are certain issues of conflicts among the South Asian countries.
- The South Asian countries initiated the establishment of South Asian Association for regional cooperation (SAARC) in 1985 to evolve cooperation among each other.
- The SAFTA was signed in 2004 by the South Asian countries to allow free trade across the borders.
- SAFTA aims at lowering trade tariffs by 20%
- By 2007.
- However, there has been issues between India and Pakistan, measures were being taken to bring cordial changes between the countries.
- China and USA remain key players in South Asia politics. Thus, there are also on outside power which influence the region.





THANKS FOR WATCHING!



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