

Chapter 1 : Cuisine of the Indian subcontinent - Wikipedia

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Reasons for partition India and Pakistan won independence in August , following a nationalist struggle lasting nearly three decades. It set a vital precedent for the negotiated winding up of European empires elsewhere. Unfortunately, it was accompanied by the largest mass migration in human history of some 10 million. As many as one million civilians died in the accompanying riots and local-level fighting, particularly in the western region of Punjab which was cut in two by the border. This explanation, however, renders the mass violence that accompanied partition difficult to explain. If Pakistan were indeed created as a homeland for Muslims, it is hard to understand why far more were left behind in India than were incorporated into the new state of Pakistan - a state created in two halves, one in the east formerly East Bengal, now Bangladesh and the other 1, kilometres away on the western side of the subcontinent [see map]. It is possible that Mohammed Ali Jinnah, leader of the Muslim League, simply wished to use the demand for a separate state as a bargaining chip to win greater power for Muslims within a loosely federated India. One explanation for the chaotic manner in which the two independent nations came into being is the hurried nature of the British withdrawal. This was announced soon after the victory of the Labour Party in the British general election of July , amid the realisation that the British state, devastated by war, could not afford to hold on to its over-extended empire. This left a great many issues and interests unresolved at the end of colonial rule. Tellingly, although Pakistan celebrated its independence on 14 August and India on 15 August , the border between the two new states was not announced until 17 August. It was hurriedly drawn up by a British lawyer, Cyril Radcliffe, who had little knowledge of Indian conditions and with the use of out-of-date maps and census materials. Communities, families and farms were cut in two, but by delaying the announcement the British managed to avoid responsibility for the worst fighting and the mass migration that had followed.

Top Tensions in India Many have wondered why the British and Indian leaders did not delay until a better deal over borders could have been agreed. One explanation is that in the months and years immediately following World War Two, leaders on all sides were losing control and were keen to strike a deal before the country descended into chaos. Immediately before World War Two, India was ravaged by the impact of the Great Depression, bringing mass unemployment. This created tremendous tensions exacerbated during the war by inflation and food grain shortages. Rationing was introduced in Indian cities and in Bengal a major famine developed in The last months of British rule were marked by a naval mutiny, wage strikes and successful demonstrations in every major city. With the cessation of hostilities, the battalions at the disposal of the government in India were rapidly diminished. At the same time, the infrastructure of the Congress Party, whose entire leadership was imprisoned due to their opposition to the war, had been dismantled. The Muslim League, which co-operated with the British, had rapidly increased its membership, yet still had very limited grassroots level organisation. The day had dissolved into random violence and civil disruption across north India, with thousands of lives lost. This was interpreted by the British as evidence of the irreconcilable differences between Hindus and Muslims. In reality, the riots were evidence as much of a simple lack of military and political control as they were of social discord. A leading role was played in both by the Communist Party of India. Elsewhere, the last months of British rule were marked by a naval mutiny, wage strikes and successful demonstrations in every major city. In all of these conflicts the British colonial government remained aloof, as it concentrated on the business of negotiating a speedy transfer of power.

Top Hopes for Pakistan Strong support for the idea of an independent Pakistan came from large Muslim landowning families in the Punjab and Sindh, who saw it as an opportunity to prosper within a captive market free from competition. Support also came from the poor peasantry of East Bengal, who saw it as an opportunity to escape from the clutches of moneylenders - often Hindu. Both were to be disappointed. The heartland of support for the Muslim League lay in Uttar Pradesh, which was not included within Pakistan. The economy of Pakistan was chiefly agricultural, and controlled by feudal elites. Once the army had been paid,

nothing was left over for the purposes of economic development. The great advantage enjoyed by the Indian National Congress was that it had worked hard for 40 years to reconcile differences and achieve some cohesion among its leaders. The heartland of support for the Muslim League, however, lay in central north India Uttar Pradesh which was not included within Pakistan. Muslims from this region had to flee westwards and compete with resident populations for access to land and employment, leading to ethnic conflict, especially in Sindh. Top Post-partition and conflict over Kashmir The death of Muhammed Ali Jinnah in , the conflict with India over the Princely State of Kashmir which both countries claimed at independence , as well as ethnic and religious differences within Pakistan itself, all combined to stymie early attempts to agree on a constitution and an effectively functioning civil administration. This failure paved the way for a military takeover of the government in and later on, a civil war in This saw the division of the country and the creation of the separate state of Bangladesh. Ever since then, military rule has been more often than not the order of the day in both countries. India has maintained remarkable cohesion since independence, especially considering it is nearly the size of Europe. At independence, in India and in Pakistan, civil unrest as well as ethnic and religious discord threatened the stability of the new country. However, the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi on 30 January by a Hindu fanatic strengthened the hand of secularists within the government. Indian politicians ratified a constitution, which led to the first democratic elections in However, major tensions have persisted among both Muslim and Sikh communities, which suffered most from the violence and land loss resulting from partition. These tensions erupted most seriously in the s in a violent campaign for the creation of a separate Sikh state which led ultimately to the assassination of Indira Gandhi. Renewed victimisation of Muslims has also occurred, notably with the destruction of the Muslim shrine at Ayodhya in and anti-Muslim riots in Gujarat in With such notable exceptions, however, India has maintained a remarkable level of cohesion since independence, especially if one considers that it is a country nearly the size of Europe. For both India and Pakistan, the most singular conflict unresolved since partition has concerned the former Princely State of Kashmir, whose fate was left undetermined at the time the British left. Lying as it did on the border, Kashmir was claimed by both countries, which have been to war over this region on numerous occasions. The conflict has wasted thousands of lives and millions of dollars, but is closer to a solution now than at any time since independence. If achieved, it might finally bring to fruition the dreams of Mohammed Ali Jinnah and Mahatma Gandhi and once more set an example for post-colonial societies elsewhere in Africa, Asia and the Middle East to imitate and follow. Find out more Books Inventing Boundaries: Oxford University Press, Pakistan as a peasant utopia: Westview, The Sole Spokesman: Kali for Women, Remembering Partition:

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The Indian subcontinent is a southern region and peninsula of Asia, mostly situated on the Indian Plate and projecting southwards into the Indian Ocean from the.

Staples and common ingredients[edit] An assortment of spices and herbs. Spices are an indispensable food ingredient in much of India. Chapati , a type of flat bread from the former regions, is a common part of meals to be had in many parts of Indian subcontinent. Other staples from many of the cuisines include rice, roti made from atta flour , and beans. Foods in this area of the world are flavoured with various types of chilli, black pepper, cloves, and other strong herbs and spices along with the flavoured butter ghee. Ginger is an ingredient that can be used in both savory and sweet recipes in cuisines from the Indian subcontinent. Chopped ginger is fried with meat and pickled ginger is often an accompaniment to boiled rice. Ginger juice and ginger boiled in syrup are used to make desserts. Turmeric and cumin are often used to make curries. Common meats include lamb, goat, fish and chicken. Beef is less common than in Western cuisines because cattle have a special place in Hinduism. Prohibitions against beef extend to the meat of water buffalo and yaks to some extent. Pork is considered as a taboo food item by all Muslims and is avoided by most Hindus, though it is commonly eaten in Goa , which has a notable Roman Catholic population from Portuguese rule. A variety of very sweet desserts which use dairy products is also found in cuisines of the Indian subcontinent. The main ingredients to desserts of the Indian subcontinent are reduced milk, ground almonds, lentil flour, ghee and sugar. Kheer is a dairy based rice pudding, a popular and common dessert. History of cuisine from the Indian subcontinent Many of foods from the Indian subcontinent go back over five thousand years. The Indus Valley peoples, who settled in what is now Northwestern Indian subcontinent, hunted turtles and alligator. They also collected wild grains, herbs and plants. Many foods and ingredients from the Indus period c. Some consist of wheat, barley, rice, tamarind, eggplant, and cucumber. The Indus Valley peoples cooked with oils, ginger, salt, green peppers, and turmeric root, which would be dried and ground into an orange powder. Indians have used leafy vegetables, lentils, and milk products such as yogurt and ghee all along their history. They also used spices such as cumin and coriander. Black pepper which is native to India was often used by A. The Greeks brought saffron and the Chinese introduced tea. The Portuguese and British made red chili, potato and cauliflower popular after A. Mughals , who began arriving in India after , saw food as an art and many of their dishes are cooked with as many as twenty-five spices. They also used rose water, cashews, raisins, and almonds. List of Cuisines of the Indian subcontinent[edit] Bangladeshi cuisine Bangladeshi cuisine is dominated by Bengali cuisine and has been shaped by the diverse history and riverine geography of Bangladesh. The country has a tropical monsoon climate. Rice is the main staple food of Bangladeshi people and it is served with a wide range of curries. Mustard seed Ilish Curry , Dhakai Biryani and Pitha Bangladeshi dishes exhibit strong aromatic flavours; and often include eggs , potatoes , tomatoes and aubergines. A variety of spices and herbs , along with mustard oil and ghee , is used in Bangladeshi cooking. The main breads are naan , porota , roti , bakarkhani and luchi. Major fish dishes include ilish hilsa , pabda butterfish , rui rohu , pangash pangas catfish , chitol clown knifefish , magur walking catfish , bhetki barramundi and tilapia. Meat consumption includes beef , lamb , venison , chicken , duck , squab and koel. Vegetable dishes, either mashed bharta , boiled sabji , or leaf-based saag , are widely served. Seafood such as lobsters and shrimps are also often prevalent. Islamic dietary laws are prevalent across Bangladesh. Halal foods are food items that Muslims are allowed to eat and drink under Islamic dietary guidelines. The criteria specifies both what foods are allowed, and how the food must be prepared. The foods addressed are mostly types of meat allowed in Islam. Bangladeshi people follow certain rules and regulations while eating. It includes warm hospitality and particular ways of serving as well. This is known as Bangalikota Bengali: The culture also defines the way to invite people to weddings and for dinner. Gifts are given on certain occasions. Bangalikota also includes a way of serving utensils in a proper manner. The diet in the hills also includes chicken, yak meat, dried beef, pork, pork fat, and mutton. It has many similarities with Tibetan cuisine Indian cuisine Indian cuisine is characterized by its sophisticated and subtle use of many Indian spices There is also the widespread practice of vegetarianism across its society

although, overall a minority. As a consequence, Indian cuisine varies from region to region, reflecting the varied demographics of the ethnically diverse Indian subcontinent. It has influences from Middle Eastern , Southeast Asian , East Asian , and Central Asian , as well as the Mediterranean cuisines due to the historical and contemporary cross-cultural interactions with these neighboring regions.

Chapter 3 : Flashpoints: Asia - Competing For Regional Hegemony

The Indian subcontinent is a southern region of Asia, mostly situated on the Indian Plate and projecting southwards into the Indian Ocean from the Himalayas. Definitions of the extent of the Indian subcontinent differ but it usually includes the core lands of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka, and the Maldives are often.

Tension between the South Asian neighbors have risen to a new pitch after India detonated five nuclear devices, and Pakistan retaliated with six, last month. Following international condemnation of the tests, Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee told parliament that India wanted to initiate a dialogue with Pakistan and was willing to discuss the contentious issue of Kashmir as well. India and Pakistan claim territorial sovereignty over the whole of Kashmir although India controls two-thirds of the Muslim-majority province. The remainder, Azad Free Kashmir, is ruled by Pakistan. The neighbors have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir, and India accuses its Muslim neighbor of waging a "proxy war" by abetting militancy in the Indian part of Kashmir. India alleges that Pakistan has been arming and training militants in Kashmir since 1947, when separatists launched an uprising against Indian rule. The revolt, seeking independence or accession to Pakistan, heated up in 1947, and India responded by deploying additional paramilitary troops and imposing direct rule from New Delhi. The violence has claimed at least 25,000 lives in the region of spectacular mountain scenery, noted for its lakes with houseboats moored on tranquil waters. More than 1 million Kashmiri Hindus have fled the scenic Kashmir Valley and taken refuge in Hindu-dominated Jammu, the winter capital of the province, and elsewhere in India. State legislature elections in September ended several years of direct federal rule and returned Abdullah to power. The dispute over Kashmir has its roots in the 19th-century rivalry between Britain and Russia for regional supremacy. The British had set up a vaguely-defined princely state in 1819 to act as a buffer between the Raj in the south and Russia and China in the north. The fertile fruit-growing Kashmir Valley became a summer haven from the heat and dust of the Ganges plain to the south and its famous houseboats first appeared as a way round a ban on the British owning land or building houses. Kashmir became the bone of contention in the subcontinent in August 1947 when the country was partitioned on religious lines to create Muslim Pakistan and predominantly Hindu India. Kashmir, which has a Muslim majority, was expected to go to Pakistan, but its Hindu ruler Hari Singh wanted to stay independent. However, faced with a revolt in the west and the threat of an invasion by Pathan tribesmen from Pakistan, Singh hastily signed an instrument of accession to India in return for military aid. The accession triggered the first war between the neighbors immediately after partition. A second war in 1965 left positions virtually unchanged but convinced neither side to drop its claim to the whole of the territory. The two countries fought a third war in 1971, when Indian troops helped East Pakistan to break away and become Bangladesh. India and Pakistan have not fought a war since 1971, but frequently accuse each other of unprovoked firing across the "line of actual control," the frontier. United Nations resolutions adopted in the 1950s envision a plebiscite in the province to decide whether it will join Islamic Pakistan or Hindu-majority India.

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Indian subcontinent is the region of South Asia stretching from the Himalayas southwards to the shores of the Indian Ocean. A map showing the Indian subcontinent and its countries. What Is The Indian Subcontinent? A subcontinent is a large area of land that is separated from a larger continent by either geography, politics, or culture. The term was originally used to describe North and South America before the two were classified as separate continents. Today, the Indian subcontinent is an example of this feature. It is a peninsula located in south-central Asia that is surrounded by the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea. This area is primarily centered on the Indian Plate, a tectonic plate located along the equator in the eastern hemisphere. There is no widely accepted definition of the exact perimeters of the Indian subcontinent, although many researchers agree that it encompasses India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and the Maldives. Recently, the area has increasingly been referred to as South Asia. Along the northern border are the Himalayan mountains, which create a natural border between India, Pakistan, and Nepal. The western region of the Indian subcontinent consists of the Hindu Kush mountain range, separating Pakistan from Afghanistan. This mountain range is the dividing line between the Indus river valley and the Amu Darya river. The Arakan Mountains are located along the eastern border. The middle of the subcontinent is full of lakes, plains, rivers, forests, and deserts. The previously mentioned mountain ranges help isolate the Indian subcontinent from the rest of Asia, giving it a distinct cultural and political identity. Flora And Fauna Of The Indian Subcontinent Because of the unique positioning of the Indian subcontinent, the area is home to a wide variety of plants and animals. From Asia came descendants of elephants, monkeys, and wild pigs. In addition, the Indian subcontinent gave the rest of the world the ancestors of cows and antelope. Today, the subcontinent is home to mangroves, orchids, and bamboo as well as long-eared hedgehogs, noctule bats, king cobras, and camel spiders to name a few. With this culture came the beginning of the caste system wherein the society was separated among various social standings ranging from priests to laborers. Around BC, the roots of Hinduism were established as Brahmans sought the true meaning of existence. The class system continued, and Hinduism has continued to influence life on the subcontinent to this day. Sometime between BC and BC, Buddhism and Jainism were born with messages of nonviolence and equality of all humans. This belief caught the attention of many people treated unfavorably in the caste system. The Indian subcontinent was later invaded by Alexander the Great, who brought a Persian influence to the culture. This was around the same time that the Maurya Empire was established, which ruled the subcontinent from BC to BC. Both left their marks on art, sculptures, and architectures throughout the region. The emperors of this dynasty were patrons of the arts and literature. From until , the subcontinent was split between the Rajput Empire of the north and the Chalukyas and Pallavas Empires in the south. During this time, painting, dance, and music became important forms of religious expression, and great temples were built. The north eventually broke into smaller, conflicting empires which provided a window of opportunity for Muslim invaders, who began arriving in the 8th century, to slowly gain control. The Mughal Empire took control around until and resulted in widespread conversions to Islam, particularly in the northern region of the Indian subcontinent. This period of the rule also had a lasting influence on the art, music, literature, and architecture of the region. Some of the emperors even promoted the idea of religious tolerance between Muslims and Hindus. European explorers began to influence and colonize the Indian subcontinent between and , with the British gaining significant control. They brought with them specific architectural styles that can still be seen throughout the region today. In , India and Pakistan gained their independence from England. All of these invading cultures significantly influenced the present-day culture found throughout the Indian subcontinent. This page was last updated on April 25,

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â€” *Maija Liuhto, Longreads, "A Music So Beautiful the Birds Fell from the Trees," 28 June Muslim-majority Kashmir is one of the world's enduring geopolitical flashpoints, the epicenter of a rivalry between India and Pakistan that has its roots in the partition of the subcontinent after the end of British colonial rule in*