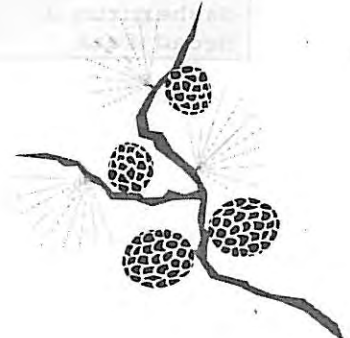


# INTRODUCTION



## PAKISTAN: AN INTRODUCTION

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan was founded on the 14th of August, 1947. The seat of the democratic government is based in the city of Islamabad which is the republic's capital.

**LOCATION:** Located in the Continent of Asia between 23 degrees 30 minutes and 36 degrees 45 minutes Latitude north and between the Longitudes of 61 degrees and 75 degrees 31 minutes east, Pakistan is bordered by India on the east, China on the north east, Afghanistan on the north west while Iran shares its border in the south west.

**AREA:** The borders of Pakistan encompass a total of 796,095 square kilometers, full of natural beauties, mountain ranges, plateaus (Potohar), deserts (Thar and Thal), plains (Punjab), rivers, lakes and the Arabian Sea. The provincial break up is given below in Box 1.1

Name	Area (Sq. Km)
Pakistan	796095
Balochistan	347190
Punjab	205344
Sindh	140914
North West Frontier Prov.	74521
FATA	27220
Islamabad (Capital)	906

Climatically, Pakistan enjoys a considerable measure of variety. North north-western high mountain

ranges are extremely cold in winter while the summer months from April to September are very pleasant. The vast plains of the Indus Valley are extremely hot in summer and have cold weather in winter. The coastal strip in the South has a temperate climate. There is general deficiency in the rainfall. In the plains the annual average ranges from 13 cm. in the northern parts of the lower Indus plains to 89 cm. in the Himalayas region. Rains are monsoonal in origin and fall late in summer. Average rainfall is seven hundred and sixty two (762) millimeters per annum.

The Himalayan, Karakoram, Hidukush, Suleman and Salt ranges are some of the most renowned mountain ranges in the world, with K-2 (second to Mount Everest), Nanga Parbat and Tirich Meer as some of the highest peaks in the world. Out of 14 highest peaks (more than 8000 m), 5 are situated in Pakistan. Detail is given in Box 1.3 whereas important passes are given in Box 1.2.

Pass	Location
The Khyber Pass	NWFP
The Kurram Pass	NWFP
The Tochi Pass	NWFP
The Gomal Pass	NWFP
The Bolan Pass	Balochistan
The Lowari Pass	Northern Areas
The Khunjab Pass	Northern Areas

NAME OF THE PEAK	HEIGHT Meters (feet)	RANGE	WORLD RANK	SUBMISSION DATE	TEAM LEADER BELONGS TO
K2	8611 (28253)	Karakoram	2	31-7-1954	Italy
Nanga Parbat	8125 (26660)	Himalaya	9	02-7-1953	Germany
Gasherbrum I	8068 (26470)	Karakoram	11	07-6-1958	U.S.A
Broad Peak	8047 (26400)	Karakoram	12	09-6-1958	Austria

Gasherbrum II	8035 (26360)	Karakoram	14	07-7-1956	Austria
Rakaposhi	7788 (25550)	Karakoram	27	25-6-1958	U.K.
Tirich Mir	7708 (25290)	Hindu Kush	41	1950	Norway

Pakistan is rich in ancient civilizations, such as those of Moenjodaro, Gandhara, Harappa and Taxila with a vast collection of restored art and sculptures. In addition, the country also has a very splendid and stimulating art culture. Pakistan's archaeological sites are located at a number of places such as Moenjodaro, Harappa, Kot Diji, Taxila, Chakwal, Takht Bahi, Quetta, Dir and Swat. The Mehr Garh site, at the foot of Bolan pass in Balochistan, discovered in 1984 is the first neolithic site in the world. The evidence shows that the site was occupied for 5000 years - from 8th to the 3rd millenniums B.C., before the Indus Valley Civilization of Moenjodaro and Harappa.

**POPULATION AND DENSITY:** Pakistan has an estimated population of 135.28 million with a density of more than 173 persons per square kilometer.

**LANGUAGES:** Urdu is the national language of Pakistan. Both Urdu and English are used in official matters and correspondence. Punjabi, Sindhi, Pushto and Balochi are the four main regional languages.

**POLITICAL SYSTEM:** Pakistan has a democratic system of government with a parliament consisting of a Senate and National Assembly. This structure is supported with four provincial assemblies and a system of local bodies. The Heads of State / Government of Pakistan are shown in Box 1.4.

Box 1.4 Head of State/Government Of Pakistan	
<b>Governor Generals</b>	
Quaid-i-Azam Mohammed Ali Jinnah	15-08-1947 to 11-09-1948
Khawaja Nazim-ud-Din	14-09-1948 to 17-10-1951
Malik Ghulam Mohammad	19-10-1951 to 15-10-1955
Maj.Gen. Skindar Mirza	06-10-1955 to 22-03-1956
<b>Presidents</b>	
Maj. Gen. Skindar Mirza	23-03-1956 to 27-03-1958
General Mohammad Ayub Khan	27-03-1958 to 25-03-1969
General Mohammad Yahya Khan	25-03-1969 to 20-12-1971
Mr. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto	20-12-1971 to 13-08-1973
Ch. Fazal Ilahi	14-08-1973 to 16-09-1978
General Zia-ul-Haq	16-09-1978 to 17-08-1988
Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan	17-08-1988 to 08-07-1993
Mr. Wasim Sajjad	08-07-1993 to 13-11-1993
Mr. Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari	13-11-1993 to 2-12-1997
Mr. Wasim Sajjad	3-12-1997 to 31-12-1997
Mr. Mohammad Rafique Tarar	1-1-1998 to date
<b>Prime Ministers</b>	
Khan Liaquat Ali Khan	15-08-1947 to 16-10-1951
Khawaja Nazim-ud-Din	17-10-1951 to 17-04-1953
Mr. Mohammad Ali Bogra	17-04-1953 to 11-08-1955
Ch. Mohammad Ali	11-08-1955 to 12-09-1956
Mr. Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy	12-09-1956 to 12-10-1957
Mr. Ismail Ibrahim Chundrigar	18-10-1957 to 16-12-1957
Malik Feroze Khan Noon	18-12-1957 to 07-10-1958
Mr. Nurul Amin	07-12-1971 to 20-12-1971
Mr. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto	14-08-1973 to 05-07-1977
Mr. Mohammad Khan Junejo	23-03-1985 to 29-05-1981
Mst. Benazir Bhutto	02-12-1988 to 06-08-1990
Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi	06-08-1990 to 06-11-1990
Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif	06-11-1990 to 18-04-1993



Mr. Balkh Sher Mazari	18-04-1993 to 26-05-1993
Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif	26-05-1993 to 08-07-1993
Mr. Moin Qureshi	08-07-1993 to 19-10-1993
Mst. Benazir Bhutto	19-10-1993 to 05-11-1996
Malik Miraj Khalid	06-11-1996 to 17-02-1997
Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif	17-02-1997 to date

**RELIGION:** Islam is the state religion. There are many other minority religions such as Christianity, Hinduism (Hindumat), Zoroastrian (Parsi) etc., that flourish in Pakistan as the government strongly believes in the freedom of worship.

**TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:** Pakistan has a number of sea, dry and air ports. It also has a wide network of roads and railways. Television, radio and satellite links provide a good and reliable communication system.

**SEA PORTS:** Karachi and Muhammad Bin Qasim are International seaports handling both passengers as well as cargo whereas Gawader Minora and Pasni handle national cargo.

**DRY PORTS:** Hyderabad, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Sialkot, Peshawar, Quetta and Faisalabad.

**AIR PORTS:** Pakistan has 38 airports situated all over the country. The cities of Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Peshawar, Gawadar, Pasni and Quetta have international airports that link Pakistan to the world.

**AIRLINES:** Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) is the country's national carrier with a vast domestic and international network. Aero Asia, Bhoja and Shaheen Airlines are privately owned airlines that provide domestic connections to the population. The airlines network covers 55 International and 37 domestic stations.

**IRRIGATION AND CANAL SYSTEM:** It is the largest net work of canal system in the world, serving 34.5 million acres of contiguous cultivated land and a novel underground water system (karaize) in the province of Balochistan. The system is fed by the waters of the Indus River and its

tributaries. The break up is given in the Box 1.5 whereas Box 1.6 shows the details of mighty rivers of Pakistan.

**Box 1.5 Irrigation Network**

Barrages (#)	19
Major Dams (Tarbela, Mangla, Warsak) (#)	3
Main Rivers (#)	5
Inter-river Link Canals (#)	12
Independent Canals (#)	43
Length of Main Canals (Km)	58500
Length of Water Courses (Km)	1621000
Tubewells (#)	1041120

**Box 1.6 Rivers & Their Lengths (Km)**

The Indus	2896
Jhelum	825
Chenab	1242
Ravi	901
Sutlej	1551
Beas (Tributary of Sutlej)	398

**CURRENCY:** Pak Rupee

**ECONOMY:** Market oriented.

**INDUSTRY:** Textile, Electrical, Chemical, Fertilizer, Sugar, Steel, Sports, Tobacco and Machinery.

**SPORTS:** Hockey, cricket, squash and snooker are the popular national sports of Pakistan in which the national teams participate in all international events. Over the years, these national teams have held many top ranking world positions. Football, tennis, polo, swimming, and wrestling and a host of other games are also commonly played.

**SOCIAL LIFE:** Pakistan enjoys a rich culture full of festive, religious and folk events. The people of Pakistan are friendly by nature, keen adventurers and extremely fond of sports.