



Location	<p>Pakistan belongs to the sub-continent of South Asia. It borders the Arabian Sea to the south, India to the east, Iran and Afghanistan to the west, and China to the north. The capital city of Pakistan is Islamabad.</p> <p>Map: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/pk.html#</p>
Climate	<p>Pakistan's climate is mostly hot, dry desert; however, it is mild in the northwest and very cold in the north. Earthquakes and flooding occur frequently and have disastrous consequences for the Pakistani people.</p>
Geography	<p>Pakistan is between Alberta and British Columbia in area.¹ Mountainous terrain covers the north and northwest, flat plains spread across the east and a wide plateau (a raised area with a flat top) spans the west.</p>
Government	<p>Pakistan became a country in 1947 after intense conflict between India's Hindus and Muslims. Over 14 million people were uprooted during the partition and widespread violence led to hundreds of thousands of deaths. Pakistan alternated between civilian and military rule for decades, but became a parliamentary democracy in 2008.</p>
Environment	<p>Current environmental issues in Pakistan include water pollution from untreated sewage, industrial wastes, and agricultural runoff; water scarcity (a majority of the population does not have access to safe drinking water); deforestation; soil erosion and desertification (areas are becoming more desert-like, causing drought).</p>
Economy	<p>Pakistan is a developing country, plagued by civil conflict and political instability. Its relatively weak economy is based on agriculture and textile production and 12.4 percent of its population lives below the poverty line.²</p>
People	<p>The population of Pakistan was estimated to be just under 200 million in 2015, with an average life expectancy of 66 years.³ Pakistanis come from numerous ethnic groups that speak multiple languages.</p>
<p>Novels <i>Iqbal</i> by Francesco D'Aamo translated by Ann Leonori</p>	<p>Most Pakistani children work in the farming sector; however, many work in cities manufacturing products like carpets, footwear and sports equipment. Millions of child labourers in Pakistan suffer terrible working conditions under a system of bonded labour.⁴ These children are forced to work off debts passed down from their parents or guardians, often under a lifelong "bond" to their employer. Although outlawed by the government in 1992, bonded labour remains widespread in Pakistan.</p>
<p>Issue Child labour</p>	

1 The Central Intelligence Agency World Factbook, "Pakistan," available from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/pk.html#>

2 Ibid.

3 Ibid.

4 The United States Department of Labor (Bureau of International Affairs), "Pakistan," available from <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/reports/child-labor/pakistan.htm>

