

Central Asia Institute Information



	Afghanistan	Pakistan
Capital	Kabul	Islamabad
Religions	99% Muslim, approximately 80% Sunni and 19% Shiite Muslim and 19% Shiite Muslim	95% of Pakistani people are Muslim, with 75% being Sunni and 20% Shiite Muslim. The remaining 5% of the population are Hindus, Christians and other.
Currency	Afghani (52 Afghanis = \$1)	Pak Rupee (60 Rupees = \$1)
Annual Household Income	\$250 (UNICEF)	\$800 (WORLD BANK)
Life Expectancy	43 (UNICEF)	64 (UNITED NATIONS POPULATIONS DIVISION)
Literacy Rate	28% (UNICEF)	54%
Founded	Unified as a country in 1747 under Ahmad Shah Duranni	August 14, 1947



Map courtesy of Victor Ady, Billings Gazette

Afghanistan

- Thirty-nine percent (39%) of children under 5 years are moderately underweight (1996-2004 State of the World's Children)
- There is no data at this time available regarding the percentage of girls enrolled in secondary school (1998-2002 State of the World's Children)
- In 1819 the British invaded Afghanistan, and it was under British control until 1919 when Afghanistan won its freedom and was ruled by a monarchy. In 1973, the monarchy was overthrown and the Republic of Afghanistan was born. In 1979 the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan, but they were met by fierce fighting from the mujahideen and by 1989 withdrew. From 1989 to the late 1990's there was much fighting among various political factions and then the Taliban took over. The Taliban followed a strict interpretation of Islamic law and those who broke the law were severely punished. In late 2001 the Taliban were driven from power by a coalition led by the US. In October, 2004, Hamid Karzai was elected President.

- Afghanistan is a land-locked country about the size of Texas, located in Central Asia. It borders Iran on the west, Pakistan to the east and south, and Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan to the north.

Pakistan

- Thirty-eight percent (38%) of children under 5 years old are moderately or severely underweight (2000-2006 State of the World's Children).
- Twenty-three percent (23%) of girls are enrolled in secondary school (200-2006 State of the World's Children)
- Pakistan gained independence in 1947 by a partition from India. It was formed as a nation with the idea it would represent the Muslim homeland. Mohammad Ali Jinnah, known as Father of the Nation, was instrumental in establishing Pakistan as an independent nation. Pakistan has the distinct reputation of housing the largest number of refugees in the world.
- Pakistan is slightly smaller than the US states of Texas and Kansas combined. It is bordered by Iran on the southwest, Afghanistan on the west and north, China on the northeast, India on the east and southeast, and the Arabian Sea on the south.
- The topography of Pakistan ranges from sea level to K2, the second highest peak on earth.