

## **World Regional Geography**

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## **Part 1: North Africa and Southwest Asia**

### **Identify the key geographic features of North Africa and Southwest Asia**

Deserts are widely recognized as one of the most distinctive characteristics of North Africa and Southwest Asia. The Sahara Desert is the hottest on the planet and also the largest one. This desert covers a total area of approximately ten million square kilometers across the geography of North Africa. (Goldschmidt and Boum, 2018). This part of the earth is home to more than fifty percent of the world's oil deposits. Unfortunately, the presence of oil reserves across North Africa and Southwest Asia has put these nations in a position where they are susceptible to attack. Inequality exists not only between nations but also on an ethnic level due to the inequitable distribution of oil resources and income.

### **Describe the geography of the major religious groups found in North Africa and Southwest Asia**

The region has three religions, namely Islam, Christianity, and Judaism. The distinguishing characteristic of this area is its predominately Muslim population. The observance of Islam in one's day-to-day life might seem rather different depending on which branch of the faith one adheres to. The practice of Islam goes beyond that of mere religion. In addition, it plays an important role as a potent cultural force that, throughout history, has either united or separated people (Goldschmidt and Boum, 2018). Because of the polarizing nature of the religion, there have frequently been severe political confrontations inside the realm between different Islamic doctrines held by distinct groups of people in Southwest Asia. While this is happening, the religion of Islam also serves as a unifying force that pulls Muslims in the region who share similar ideas with common links. The practice of Islam lends daily life both discipline and stability. Although Islam is the predominant religion across the region, other religions hold

substantial weight in certain areas. While Christianity is widely practised in countries ranging from Lebanon to Egypt, Israel is a Jewish state.

**Explain how the history of North Africa and Southwest Asia impacted its cultural landscape**

The introduction of Islam into this area has a wide range of different effects. People who held Islamic beliefs were separated into regions that did not hold similar beliefs as them and were also placed with communities that were highly offensive to them when it was being expanded because there were so many nations conquering other smaller nations and imposing their faith on them as well (Hobbs, 2016). This occurred at the same time that it was being spread. Although it had extended throughout a significant portion of the entire region, it was eventually fragmented as countries acquired control of various regional locations. As a consequence of this, there are still underlying tensions that persist within some regions of the region.

**Describe the current areas of religious conflict within North Africa and Southwest Asia**

The growth of ISIS has brought several significant religious challenges to this region. These challenges include the junction of religious principles and political unrest, as well as the management of resources and territory. ISIS is a manifestation of Islamism, a hardline interpretation of Islam. Islamism is defined by a rigorous, strict interpretation of the Qur'an, conservative moral standards, and the goal to impose Islamic norms across these regions (Hobbs, 2016). ISIS emphasizes Jihadism, a violent ideology that tries to combat dangers to the Muslim community. Jihadism was inspired by militant Islamist movements that sought to combat political concerns in the regions. As a direct result of holding this perspective, individuals who adhere to Islamic and Jihadist beliefs are entirely opposed to one another. ISIS makes it difficult

to eliminate religious conflict because they use religion and pressure against people to get what they want (Hobbs, 2016). As a result of events such as these, regions, towns, and countries in the region have become separated and have erected walls in preparation for the possibility that they may need to defend themselves or their religious beliefs.

**Fig 1: North Africa and Southwest Asia map**



(Goldschmidt and Boum, 2018)

**Fig 2: Sahara Desert**



(Goldschmidt and Boum, 2018)

## **Part 2: South Asia**

### **Identify the key geographic features of South Asia**

The Himalayas Mountains in South Asia are the tallest globally, reaching more than 8,800 meters. However, there are also some of the youngest mountains in the world, which reflects the fact that this region has gone through enormous cultural and physical shifts throughout its history (Finlayson, 2020). The region is home to the world's most ancient and pervasive ancient civilizations and is considered the spiritual birthplace of a number of the world's major religions. The dramatic weather cycle known as the monsoon may be depicted in figure four. This cycle is the most significant climatic characteristic of South Asia. Monsoon refers to the seasonal fluctuations in the wind that, in turn, cause variations in the amount of precipitation (Finlayson, 2020). In South Asia, dry conditions are typically caused by winds that blow from the northeast from October through April.

### **Explain the patterns of human settlement in South Asia**

The diverse natural environment and lengthy history of human habitation in South Asia have contributed to the region's extraordinarily rich cultural landscape. It is possible that ancient human predecessors had been living in South Asia starting in 3300 BCE; the Indus River valley was the site of the first significant civilization to emerge in South Asia (Finlayson, 2020). This ancient civilization, which was situated in what is now Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the northwestern region of India, was dependent on the monsoon rains to supply the Indus River with water. Over five million people were a part of this civilization at its height, and it was here that the earliest inhabitants created systems of urban planning and baked brick home construction. The Aryans were Indo-Iranian people who conquered northern India. They

originated in what is now Iran and introduced their culture, language known as Sanskrit, and their concepts of social structure to the territory now known as South Asia (Finlayson, 2020). The Aryan culture would eventually give rise to both the religion of Hinduism and the caste structure.

### **Describe the cultural landscape of South Asia**

The Indian colossus, a civilization that tolerates language and culture diversity, is South Asia's dominant civilization. This civilization is organized by hegemony based on ideas and symbols and has a hierarchical caste system. When people buy into the common order because they find it desirable, this is what we mean when talking about hegemony. Order is preserved despite the absence of ubiquitous use of force and unyielding stress on strict adherence to a legal code. South Asia is home to twenty-two percent of the world's population and covers an area equivalent to the United States' southern half (Finlayson, 2020). The sphere of Indian civilization can be used to provide a broad framework for defining South Asia as a geographical region. Tolerance of other religions is typically used to characterize it. South Asia has a low level of political diversity but a high level of linguistic and cultural diversity. As a result, it has become home to a shared civilization founded on tolerance (Finlayson, 2020). There is not a single language in India that is spoken by more than thirty percent of the population. Agriculture is the primary occupation for approximately seventy percent of the people

### **Analyze South Asia's current population growth and prospects**

The rapid expansion in South Asia's population has harmed the region's economy, contributing to a slowdown in growth, increased barriers to international trade, and worsened poverty. The second issue is that the region's educational system has become overwhelmed due to the fast population expansion. Because there are not enough finances for education, the

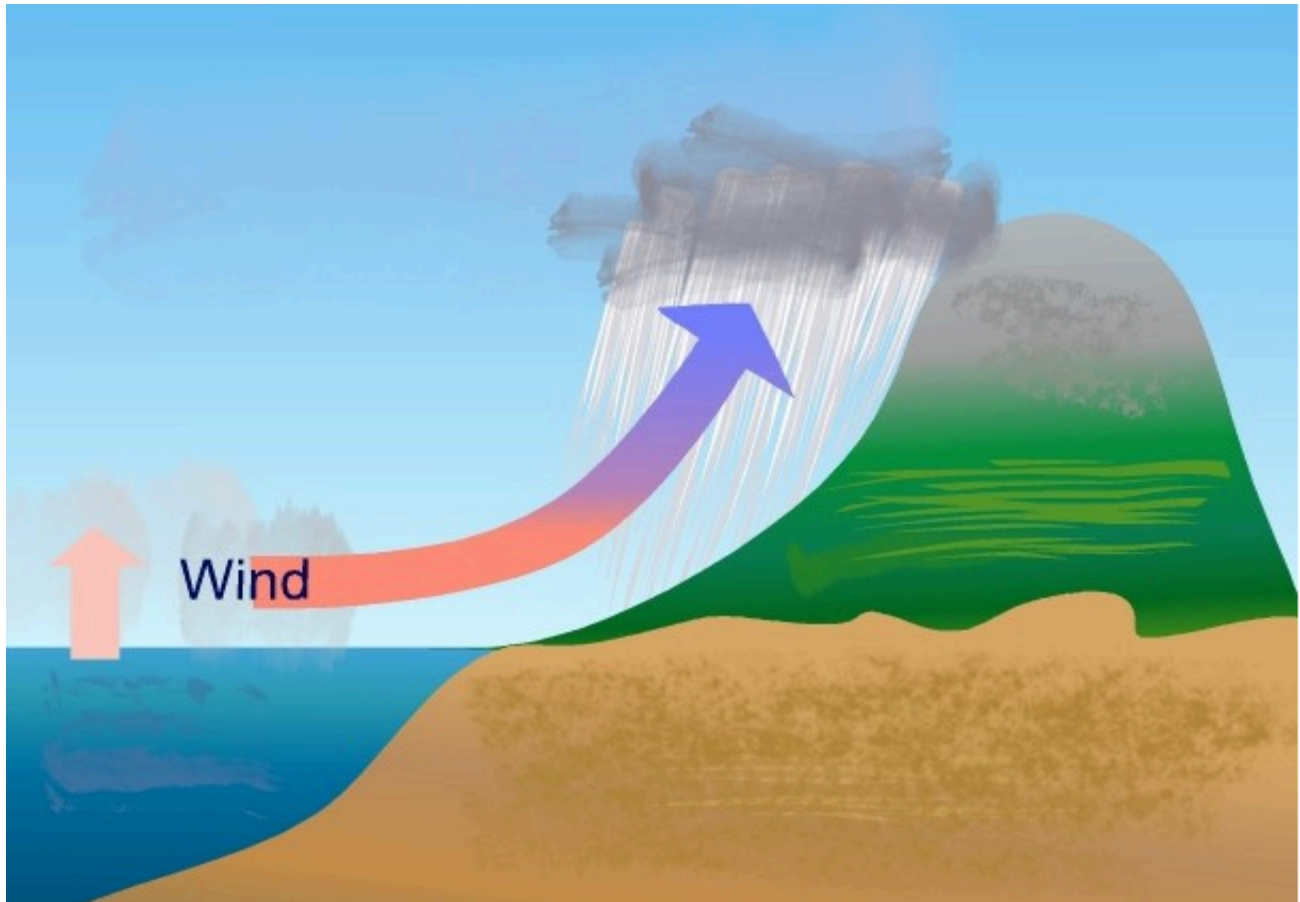
percentage of illiterate people has been steadily climbing. Young workers lack skills, training, and job experience, decreasing productivity. As a direct result, profits, investment capabilities, and pay levels are declining. The oversupply of labour, unemployment, and poverty are only some challenges that have become increasingly significant in recent years. In addition, the population growth has made the food supply demand even greater, resulting in an overall decline in the broader public's average level of nutrition.

**Fig 3: South Asia map**



(Finlayson, 2020)

**Figure 4: Monsoon**



(Finlayson, 2020)

### **Part 3: East and Southeast Asia**

#### **Identify the key geographic features of East and Southeast Asia**

Southeast Asia's geology comprises three unique components, which may be found dispersed around the region. These components are mountain peaks, fields and water in the form of shallow oceans and large waste frameworks (Dayley, 2018). The waterways have almost definitely been of the greatest provable and wider implications because channels have concretely shaped kinds of settling and horticulture, made the decision primary political and financial instances, and described the idea of Southeast Asians' viewpoint and distinctive socioeconomic syncretism.

#### **Explain how East and Southeast Asia's history has affected its geographic landscape**



East and Southeast Asia have a history and culture shaped by geography. Most places on the mainland developed comparably; they were impacted by the culture of either China or India, and because people went for trade, there was eventually a relatively diversified population (Dayley, 2018). Since Korea is somewhat more isolated than the other countries due to the mountains and oceans surrounding it, its culture grew and developed without as much influence from the outside world as its neighbours. They were able to adopt aspects of Chinese culture while preserving their unique identity, much as Japan has done.

### **Describe the patterns of economic development in East and Southeast Asia**

It is projected that the economies of Southeast Asia, which are heavily reliant on trade, will collectively expand by 5.2 percent in 2023. Following a decrease of 0.6 percentage points in 2021, it is anticipated that the economies of East and Southeast Asia, which are strongly dependent on tourism, will increase by 5.4 percent in 2023 (Llanto and Ortiz, 2020). It is anticipated that the economy of East Asia will increase by 4.7 percent, and it is projected to grow by 4.5 percent in 2023. As a result of sustained growth in exports, the economy of the People's Republic of China, which is the largest in the area, is expected to expand by 4.8 percent in 2023. According to Llanto and Ortiz (2020), the economies of east and Southeast Asia are anticipated to increase collectively by seven percent in 2022 and 7.4 percent in 2023. India has the dominant economy in the region, and it is anticipated to expand by 7.5 percent during the current fiscal year and 8.0 percent during the following fiscal year.

### **Analyze how East and Southeast Asia interact within the global economic system**

According to Dayley, 2018, if East and Southeast Asia were a single nation, its economy would rank ninth on the list of the world's largest. It would also be the most reliant on international trade, with a percentage of trade to GDP greater than 150 percent. The global trade

intelligence business Zepol found that over the previous several years, there has been a consistent growth in the amount of goods that the United States buys from Southeast Asia. Most of this import traffic originates in Malaysia and Thailand; however, Vietnam is swiftly gaining ground in this race. The overall region had a considerable increase in the amount of goods imported from the United States during the third quarter of 2012, with a growth of 1.3 percent compared to the same period in 2011.

**Figure 5: East and Southeast Asia**



(Dayley, 2018).

**Figure 6: Highest peaks in Southeast Asia**



(Dayley, 2018).

### References

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