

Economic and Political Geography of South Asia [IS 529N]
Master's Programme (PISM)
MONSOON SEMESTER

Course Teacher: Ambrish Dhaka

Instruction method: Lectures, Digital content, Seminars/Tutorials

Evaluation method: Sessional Work and Semester Examination

Course duration: One semester

Contact hrs: 04 hrs per week

Credits: 04 (Four only)

Introduction

South Asia is a pivot to Great Power strategies. The US announced its reset in 2009 and later in 2014 recalibrated to achieve a new equilibrium in Asia-Pacific. China announced its Belt and Road Initiative to create its strategic autonomy. South Asian countries adjusted to these grand strategies by considering their strengths and weaknesses. South Asia's economic and political geography gives ontological insight into the essential characteristics of the region. The linkages between the economic and political systems are a foundation for exploring South Asia's position in a global economy and international order. The geographical background helps explore the locational aspects of economic-political factors at the neighbourhood and the regional level that defines the unique characteristics of the South Asian region.

Course Objectives

The cross-country comparison of South Asia's economic geography helps understand the scale of economic convergence and divergence as a region. The political units and geographic features of state territory help understand the organisation of the South Asian societies. South Asia's economic and Political geography helps evaluate the nature of the challenges countries face based on SWOT analysis. The aim is to generate a cohesive understanding of the region, focusing on regional issues rather than country-based ones.

Course Outcome

The students learn the histological method of extensive systemic analysis that enables them to study the trans-national linkages and their perceptive impact beyond the region. They can understand the South Asian geoeconomic environment, which is necessary to trace their future interest in the structural-functionalist analysis method.

UNITS

- I) South Asia as a region; major physiographic division and climatic features; principles of the economic organisation; state and administrative features- capitals and boundaries of the countries.
- II) Elements of economic geography-
- 1) Agro-climatic regions of South Asia; food security and food crops- wheat and rice; commercial crops-sugarcane, cotton; plantations- rubber, tea and timber activity, production, area, efficiency. Minerals and Forest resources; iron, coal, aluminium, natural gas & oil, forest and vegetation- patterns and change, political economy of natural resources.
 - 2) Industrialisation in South Asia; iron & steel, textile, petroleum, cement and chemical industries; major industrial regions in South Asia, growth of Information Technology sector; Location of industrial activity- patterns and changes, industrial agglomerations.
- III) Political Geography of South Asia-
- 1) Federalism and ethno-geopolitics of South Asia; frontiers and boundaries conflicts; transboundary resources.
 - 2) South Asian regional security complex; South Asia and the New Geoeconomics; South Asia and great powers – Russia, China and the US, regional blocks and regional security.
- IV) Spatial representation of economic data, maps as economic and political facts.

Suggested Readings:-

1. Main Reading list

1. Ahmed, Ishtiaq. State, Nation and Ethnicity in Contemporary South Asia, 1998, London. Ch. 2, 3, 4 & 5.
2. Bradnock, RW & Williams, G. South Asia in a globalising world: a reconstructed regional geography , 2002, Prentice-Hall.
3. Chapman, Graham. The geopolitics of South Asia: from early empires to the nuclear age, 2003, Ashgate. Ch. 5, 6, 12, 13, & 14.
4. Dutt, AK & Geib, MM. Atlas of South Asia, 1998, Oxford & IBH, new Delhi. **Full Book.**
5. East, W. Gordon. The Changing Map Of Asia - A Political Geography, 2007. **Full book.**
6. Fraser, Neil et al. Geography of a Himalayan kingdom : Bhutan, 2001, New Delhi. **Full book.**
7. Geddes, A. & Learmonth, ATA. Man and land in South Asia, 1982, New Delhi.
8. Gopalkrishen, R. Geography and politics of Afghanistan, 1982, New Delhi. **Full book.**
9. Ranjan, Rajiv and Guo Changgang. China and South Asia: Changing Regional Dynamics, Development and Power Play, Taylor and Francis, 2021. **Part Two.**
10. Karan, PP. Nepal: a cultural and physical geography, 1960, Bombay.
11. Phadnis, Urmila and Ganguly, Rajat. Ethnicity, Nation-building in South Asia, 2001, New Delhi. Ch. 1, 2, 3 & 7.
12. Rashid, HE. New Economic geography of Bangladesh, 1981, Dhaka.

13. Shafi, Mohammad. Agricultural geography of South Asia, 2000, New Delhi.
14. Stamp, LD. Asia: A regional and economic geography, 1967, London. **Full book.**
15. Tayyeb, A. Pakistan: a political geography, 1966, London. Ch. 1, 2, 4, 8 & 9.
16. Singh, Mahendra Prasad and Veena Kukreja. Federalism in South Asia, Routledge, 2014. **Ch 2,3.**

2. Supplementary Reading list

1. Ahmed, Kaji S. A Geography of Pakistan, 1966, Karachi.
2. Abbasi, BA. Geography of South Asia, 1992, New Delhi.
3. Ahmad, Nafis. A new economic geography of Bangladesh, 1976, New Delhi.
4. Ahmed, Nafis. Economic geography of East Pakistan, 1958, London.
5. Bari, SA. Textbook of economic geography (with special reference to India and Pakistan), 1965, Bombay.
6. Basham, AL. Civilisations of Monsoon Asia, 1974, New Delhi.
7. Brammer, Hugh. The geography of the soils of Bangladesh, 1996, Dhaka.
8. Chibber, HL. Advanced economic geography of India and Pakistan, 1949, Banaras.
9. Dichter, David. The North-West frontier of West Pakistan: a study in regional geography, 1967, Oxford.
10. Dobby, EHG. Monsoon Asia, 1970, London.
11. Fujiwara, Kenjo. Recent trends and perspectives in regional geography of South Asia: the First International Seminar of Research Center for Regional Geography, 1989, Hiroshima.
12. Huke, RE. Human Geography of rice in soils of south Asia, 1988, Philippines.
13. Jalalzai, Musa Khan, A New Hope for Peace in South Asia, 2005, Michigan.
14. Johnson, BLC, Selective studies of the essential geography of India, Pakistan, and Ceylon, 1969, London.
15. Karan, PP. Bhutan: a physical and cultural geography, 1967, Lexington.
16. Lytle, EE. Bibliography of the geography of Afghanistan : Background for planning, 1976, Monticello.
17. Rashid, Haroun E. East Pakistan : A systematic regional geography and its development planning aspects, 1967, Lahore.
18. Rawson, RR. Monsoon Lands of Asia, 1968, London.
19. Schwartzberg, JE. A Historical Atlas of South Asia, 1993, OUP-USA.
20. Thapa & Thapa. Geography of Nepal (Physical, economic cultural regional), 1969, Bombay.
