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**Attempt all the following Questions.**

**Q1. Discuss Sir Syed Ahmed khan’s educational and political services for the muslims.**

**Sir Syed Ahmad Khan**

Introduction

* Sir syed Ahmad khan belonged to a noble family of Delhi.
* Date of Birth =17th october,1817
* Date of Death =23rd march,1898
* Father Name = Mir Muttaqi
* Mother Name = Aziz-un-Nisa
* Education = History, Mathematics, LLB
* After his father’s death in 1839,he had to join the services of the British Company. And on the basis of his honesty he was promoted to high posts.

**Governments Anti-Muslims Policy**

* After the war of 1857,the government adopted anti-Muslims attitude because the Muslims had participated actively in the revolt.
* Sir Syed Ahmad Khan realized that the interest of the Muslims could be served only be winning the favour of the British Govt.
* He tried to bring Muslims near English.

**Introduction of Aligarh Movement**

* Aligarh Movement was an important Reforms Movement of 19th century.
* It was started to end the socio-religious evils of the Muslims Society.
* Its founder was Sir Syed Ahmad Khan who got a lot of success in his mission.
* He was a liberal and great scholar.
* His movement known as Aligarh Movement because the main center was at Aligarh in Uthar Pradesh.

**British atrocities**

* Nehru said, The heavily hand of British fell more heavily on Muslims then Hindus.

Objectives Of Aligarh Movement

* Be loyal to British.
* Modern Education.
* Aloofness from Politics
* Removed misconception between Hindus and Muslims.
* Removed misunderstanding between British and Muslims. ( there was a communication gap between ruler and ruled ones)
* Causes of Indian Revolt in 1858,translated into 1873.( asbab e baghawt e hind)
* W.W.hunter Book, Indian Muslims( disloyal of britishers)
* He engaged britishers in educational services.(Lord Layton)
* Life of Muhammad by William Mayor(khutbat e ahmadiya)
* Pakistan the formative phase( British reaction changed towards Muslims during 1870-1880

**Sir Syed Ahmed khan’s political services for the Muslims.**

**Aloofness of Politics**

* To keep Muslims away from agitational politics.
* Sir Syed tried to preserve separate identity of Muslims.
* Not to join congress 1885 by Lord Home
* Open competition ( self rule demand)
* Urdu Hindi controversy (1867)
* Governor of Banaras (William Shakespare) Now these are the parting of ways.
* Open competition.
* Concept of two nation theory.
* Urdu Hindi controversy in Banaras 1867
* Governor of Banaras said, Now these are the parting ways.

K.k Aziz said about the sir Syed ahmad khan that he was the man who molded the circumstances into the favor of Muslims

In 1878, Sir Syed was nominated to the Viceroy's Legislative Council. He testified before the education commission to promote the establishment of more colleges and schools across India. In the same year, Sir Syed founded the Muhammadan Association to promote political co-operation amongst Indian Muslims from different parts of the country. In 1886, he organised the [All India Muhammadan Educational Conference](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_India_Muhammadan_Educational_Conference) in Aligarh, which promoted his vision of modern education and political unity for Muslims. His works made him the most prominent Muslim politician in 19th century India, often influencing the attitude of Muslims on various national issues. He supported the efforts of Indian political leaders [Surendranath Banerjee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Surendranath_Banerjee) and [Dadabhai Naoroji](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dadabhai_Naoroji) to obtain representation for Indians in the government and civil services. In 1883, he founded the Muhammadan Civil Service Fund Association to encourage and support the entry of Muslim graduates into the [Indian Civil Service](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Civil_Service) (ICS). While fearful of the loss of Muslim political power owing to the community's backwardness, Sir Syed was also averse to the prospect of democratic self-government, which would give control of government to the Hindu-majority population:[

"At this time our nation is in a bad state in regards education and wealth, but God has given us the light of religion and the Quran is present for our guidance, which has ordained them and us to be friends. Now God has made them rulers over us. Therefore we should cultivate friendship with them, and should adopt that method by which their rule may remain permanent and firm in India, and may not pass into the hands of the [Bengalis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bengali_people). If we join the political movement of the Bengalis our nation will reap a loss, for we do not want to become subjects of the Hindus instead of the subjects of the "[people of the Book](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People_of_the_Book).

Later in his life he said, "Suppose that the English community and the army were to leave India, taking with them all their cannons and their splendid weapons and all else, who then would be the rulers of India?

Is it possible that under these circumstances two nations—the Mohammedans and the Hindus—could sit on the same throne and remain equal in power? Most certainly not. It is necessary that one of them should conquer the other. To hope that both could remain equal is to desire the impossible and the inconceivable. But until one nation has conquered the other and made it obedient, peace cannot reign in the land."

**Sir Syed Ahmed khan’s educational services for the Muslims.**

* Muradabad madrasa 1858
* Scientific society 1863
* Ghazipur school 1864
* Visited to England 1868
* Aligarh school 1875
* Aligarh college 1877
* All indian educational conference 1886
* Aligarh uni 1920

Syed Ahmed Khan is understood as the harbinger of modern education amongst Muslims of South Asia. There is a general scholarly consensus that it was through his educational efforts that English medium education came to Muslims who were otherwise aligned with traditional religious education. The commentary argues that this consensus needs revision and that Muslims were already accessing modern education through the English medium even before Syed Ahmed started his college at Aligarh. Moreover, the commentary also problematizes the notion of Muslim community within Syed Ahmed’s thought. Through his writings and speeches, it is pointed out that for Syed Ahmed, the notion of Muslim community was confined to upper caste Muslims called the Ashrafs. Also, Syed Ahmed’s views were extremely regressive when it came to women’s education. Despite Aligarh being a modern university which is accessible to all castes and gender, Syed Ahmed’s legacy has not been critically analysed. The commentary is a small start in this direction.

His legacy is a complicated one — he [was](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/2348448917693742?journalCode=sipa) a “loyal servant” of the British administration before the revolt of 1857. He even [penned](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=12&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwj25P2Tq57lAhXN16QKHdsvClYQFjALegQIABAB&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.columbia.edu%2Fitc%2Fmealac%2Fpritchett%2F00litlinks%2Ftxt_sir_sayyid_asbab1873_basic.html&usg=AOvVaw1QOGdzhPg1U1AvFmWhKCkm) a pamphlet titled The Causes of the Indian Revolt to explain the reasons of the revolt from a “native perspective”. However, witnessing the near annihilation of the Muslim elites prompted Sir Syed Ahmad Khan to take up the case of Muslims and his life-long journey as an Islamic reformer and educationist is a testament to his dedication.

Shortly afterwards Syed Ahmed Khan wrote a commentary on the Holy Quran. In this work Syed Ahmed Khan interpreted Islam on logical and scientific basis. Syed Ahmed Khan was one of the pioneers of the Two Nation Theory. Heopenly declared that the Hindus and the Muslims were two different communities with different interests. He advised the Muslims to refrain from Joining Indian National Congress. In May 1875, Syed Ahmed Khan founded MuhammadanAnglo Oriental High School at Aligarh. Two years later in 1877 this school waselevated to the status of a college by Lord Lytton the British Viceroy himself. M.A.O College Aligarh was a residential institution. It rendered great services in imparting modern education to the Muslims. It boasted of the services of many renowned scholars of that period like professor T.W. Arnold in Philosophy, Sir Walter Raleigh in English, Maulana Shibli in Persian and Jadu Nath Chakarwati in Mathematics. In 1921 M.A.O College was raised to the status of Aligarh University. This seat of teaming played a significant part in infusing spirit of Islamic nationalism among the Muslim students. These students later on became the torch bearers of the freedom movement in Indo-Pakistan. With the view of promoting the educational cause of 70 million Indian Muslims, Sir Syed founded, in 1886, the Muhammad an Educational Conference which held its meeting at various places to provide a forum for discussing problems that affected the Muslims at large. The principal aims of the Conference were:

To make an effort to spread among the Muslims western education to the higher standard.

 To enquire into the state of religious education in English schools foundedand endowed by the Muslims, and to find out means to conduct it in the best possible way.

* To give some strengthened support to the instruction voluntarily imparted byMuslim divines in religious and other oriental learning’s and adopt some measures to maintain it as a living concern.
* To examine a state of education and instruction in the indigenous primarys chools and take steps to remove their present state of decay in directin gthem onto the path of progress. Muhammadan Educational Conference used to hold its annual meetings in various cities where by the cooperation of local Muslims steps were taken for the progress of Education. The ‘Aligarh movement’ launched by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan influenced the Muslims in the country, particularly in South India. The Souvenir brought out onthe occasion of the Centenary Celebration of Ambur Muslim Educational Society on 4th September 2006 mentions as follows inter-alia:
* Sir Syed organized the Mohammedan (later Muslim) Educational Conference. Its branches were established in cities and towns to report on the educational needs of the community. This conference used to meet annually at several important cities in the country and carried the message of modern education far and wide.
* The 5th session of the Conference was held at Madras in 1901 and set in a brainwave all over the South. Like their brethren in other parts of thecountry the Muslims of the Madras presidency were also antagonistic towards the English education and therefore they were far behind their other fellow countrymen in public service. Nawab Mohsinul Mulk Mohsinud Dowla from Aligarh inspired the Conference with the saga of adventure which Sir Syed has brought into being in the North.
* On 16th December 1905 the Management of the Chowk Masjid madrasa which was in existence then was taken over and later re-named as Madrasa-e-Mazharul Uloom. Janab T.Abdullah sahib visited Aligarh, observed the
* Educational developments there and inspired by it prepared a plan for a Muslim school in Ambur meant for all religions and communities without any discrimination whatsoever. It was primarily his aim to create for young Muslims a good institution for their educational, cultural and social developments.
* Many educational institutions came up in Tamil Nadu as a result of the Aligarh movement. Today by the grace of Allah there are 11 (eleven) fully fledged engineering colleges and hundreds of Science and Arts Colleges, Higher Secondary and Elementary Schools in difference parts of Tamil Nadu. Many Muslim organizations like All India Islamic Foundation,Sadaq Trust, The South India Education Trust, The Muslim Educational Association of Southern India, Ambur Muslim Educational Society, Vaniyambadi Muslim Educational Society etc. have been playing a very important role in establishing institutions and imparting modern education Muslims and non-Muslims alike.
* Finally it has termed the Off-campus centers of Aligarh Muslim University as a new boost to the educational uplift of the wole Indian Muslims. In Mursidabad Campus (West Bengal) and Malappuram Campus (Kerala) (27th April 2010) is an exotic credit of the Aligarh Movement’s history. And it is the clear proof to the wide acceptance and successes of his mission among India. Here we have to close to the subject.

**Q2.Explain First Political and Constitutional phase from 1947 to 1958.**

**Political phase from 1947 to 1958.**

* **Govener Genral of Pakistan**
* **Qaid Azam (1947 to 1948)**
* **Khuja Nizam-ud-din (1948 to 1953)**
* **Ghulam Mohammad (1953 to 1955)**
* **Sikandar Mirza (1955 to 1956)**

**1956 Constitution**After the constitution of 1956 the last governor general Sikandar Mirza was assigned as first president of Pakistan with more power.

**Primer Minsters of Pakistan**

* **Laiqat Ali Khan (1947 to 1951)**
* **Khuwaja Nizam-ud-din (19951 to 1953)**
* **Mohammad Ali Bogra (1953 to 1955)**
* **Chudry Mohammad Ali (1955 to 1956)**
* **Hussain Shaheed Saharwardy (1956 to 1957)**
* **Ibrahim Ismail Chundrighar (1957)**
* **Feroz khan Noon (1957 to 1958)**

 The history of the [Islamic Republic of Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_Republic_of_Pakistan) began on 14 August 1947 when the country became an independent [nation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nation) in the form of [Dominion of Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominion_of_Pakistan) within the [British Commonwealth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commonwealth_of_Nations) as the result of [Pakistan Movement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_Movement) and the [partition of India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Partition_of_India). While the history of the [Pakistani Nation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistanis) according to the [Pakistan government's](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_Pakistan) official chronology started with the [Islamic rule over Indian subcontinent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_conquests_in_the_Indian_subcontinent) by [Muhammad bin Qasim](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_bin_Qasim) which reached its zenith during [Mughal Era](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mughal_Era). In 1947, Pakistan consisted of [West Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Pakistan) (today's Pakistan) and [East Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Pakistan) (today's [Bangladesh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangladesh)). The President of [All-India Muslim League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All-India_Muslim_League) and later the [Pakistan Muslim League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_League_%28Pakistan%29), [Muhammad Ali Jinnah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Ali_Jinnah) became [Governor-General](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Governor-General_of_Pakistan) while the secretary general of the Muslim League, [Liaquat Ali Khan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liaquat_Ali_Khan) became [Prime Minister](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Pakistan). The [constitution of 1956](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_Pakistan_of_1956) made Pakistan an [Islamic democratic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_Democracy) country.

Pakistan faced a [civil war](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangladesh_Liberation_War) and [Indian military intervention](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indo-Pakistan_War_of_1971) in 1971 resulting in the secession of [East Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Pakistan) as the new country of [Bangladesh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangladesh). The country has also [unresolved territorial disputes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kashmir_Conflict) with [India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India), resulting in [four conflicts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indo-Pakistan_Wars). Pakistan was closely tied to the [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) in [Cold War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cold_War). In the [Afghan-Soviet War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghan-Soviet_War), it supported the [Sunni Mujahideens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_Unity_of_Afghanistan_Mujahideen) and played a vital role in the defeat of [Soviet Forces](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet_Army) and forced them [to withdraw from Afghanistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet_withdrawal_from_Afghanistan). The country continues to face challenging problems including [terrorism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terrorism_in_Pakistan), [poverty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poverty_in_Pakistan), [illiteracy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Pakistan#Literacy_rate), [corruption](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corruption_in_Pakistan) and political instability. Terrorism due to [War of Afghanistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_in_Afghanistan_%282001%E2%80%93present%29) damaged the [country's economy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_Pakistan) and [infrastructure](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_infrastructure_and_industry) to a great extent from 2001-09 but Pakistan is once again developing.

Pakistan is a [nuclear power](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_power_in_Pakistan) as well as a declared [nuclear-weapon state](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_states_with_nuclear_weapons), having conducted [six nuclear tests](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_nuclear_weapons_tests_of_Pakistan) in response to [five nuclear tests](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pokhran-II) of their rival [Republic of India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_India) in May 1998. The [first five tests](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chagai-I) were conducted on May 28 and the [sixth one](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chagai-II) on May 30. With this status, Pakistan is seventh in world, second in [South Asia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asia) and the only country in the [Islamic World](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_World). Pakistan also has the [sixth-largest standing armed forces](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_number_of_military_and_paramilitary_personnel) in the world and is spending a major amount of [its budget](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2018%E2%80%9319_Pakistan_federal_budget) on [defense](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_Armed_Forces). Pakistan is the founding member of the [OIC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OIC), the [SAARC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SAARC) and the [Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_Military_Counter_Terrorism_Coalition) as well as a member of many international organisations including the [UN](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UN), the [Shanghai Cooperation Organisation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shanghai_Cooperation_Organisation), the [Commonwealth of Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commonwealth_of_Nations), the [ARF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ASEAN_Regional_Forum), the [Economic Cooperation Organization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic_Cooperation_Organization) and [many more](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outline_of_Pakistan#International_organization_membership).

Pakistan is a [regional](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regional_power) and [middle power](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_power) which is ranked among the [emerging and growth-leading economies of the world](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emerging_and_growth-leading_economies) and is backed by one of the world's largest and fastest-growing middle class. It has a [semi-industrialized](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industry_in_Pakistan) [economy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_Pakistan) with a well-integrated [agriculture sector](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agriculture_in_Pakistan). It is one of the [Next Eleven](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Next_Eleven), a group of eleven countries that, along with the [BRICs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BRIC), have a high potential to become the world's largest economies in the 21st century. Many economists and think tanks suggested that until 2030 Pakistan become Asian Tiger and [CPEC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CPEC) will play an important role in it. [Geographically](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Pakistan), Pakistan is also an important country and a source of contact between [Middle East](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_East), [Central Asia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Asia), [South Asia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asia) and [East Asia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Asia).

**First Constitutional phase from 1947 to 1958.**

By the end of World War II, the British imperial government granted independence to its Indian colony and for that matter the British Parliament enacted the Indian Independence Act, 1947. Under the Act, the British Crown relinquished its sovereign powers over India and transferred those powers to the newly established dominions of India and Pakistan on 14 August 1947. The Government of India Act, 1935, hitherto the constitution of British India, was amended to bring it in consonance with the aims and objectives of independence as laid down in the 1947 Act. The combination of these two constitutional instruments served as an interim constitutional order for both countries until their respective constituent assemblies adopted their own constitutions.

Following independence, it took three Governor Generals, four Prime Ministers, two constituent assemblies (1947-1954 & 1955-1956), and nine years of protracted constitution making process to produce the first constitution of Pakistan in 1956. It was rejected on the final day of its adoption (29 February 1956) by all Hindu minority parties and the largest Muslim political party (the Awami League) from East Pakistan – demographically the largest province. Due to lack of consensus among ethno national groups, the 1956 constitution failed to arrest the political instability that engulfed the entire country following its promulgation, ultimately leading to its abrogation and imposition of the first martial law in the country on 7 October 1958. Between its promulgation and abrogation, four federal ministries changed. The military dictator General Ayub Khan, who had taken over the reins of power, enacted the 1962 constitution to the country through an executive order. The current constitution, enacted by the third constituent assembly in 1973, was twice suspended by military coups of General Zia-ul-Haq (1977-1985) and General Musharraf (1999-2002), and at the time of its ‘restoration’, both in 1985 and 2002, the military regimes amended it in ways that fundamentally changed its Islamic and federal character. One such amendment on both occasion was the grant of power to the president to dissolve the lower house of the federal legislature. With this power in the hands of presidents – which office was usurped by both dictators at the time of restoring the constitution – the ensuing parliaments on both occasions were forced to give constitutional cover via the 8th and 17th Amendments to the acts of suspensions of the constitution, and all other acts of the military dictators during the period between the suspension and restoration of the constitution.

**Q3.What do you know about the geography of Pakistan?**

The Geography of Pakistan is a profound blend of landscapes varying from plains to deserts, forests, and plateaus ranging from the coastal areas of the [Arabian Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabian_Sea) in the south to the mountains of the [Karakoram](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karakoram), [Hindukush](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hindukush), [Himalayas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Himalayas) ranges in the north. [Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan) geologically overlaps both with the [Indian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Plate) and the [Eurasian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eurasian_Plate) [tectonic plates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plate_tectonics) where its [Sindh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sindh) and [Punjab](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punjab%2C_Pakistan) provinces lie on the north-western corner of the Indian plate while [Balochistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balochistan%2C_Pakistan) and most of the [Khyber Pakhtunkhwa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khyber_Pakhtunkhwa) lie within the Eurasian plate which mainly comprises the [Iranian Plateau](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iranian_Plateau). [Gilgit-Baltistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gilgit-Baltistan) and [Azad Kashmir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azad_Kashmir) lie along the edge of the Indian plate and are prone to violent [earthquakes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earthquake) where the two tectonic plates collide.

Pakistan is bordered by [India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India) to the east, [Afghanistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghanistan) to the northwest and [Iran](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran) to the west while [China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China) borders the country in the northeast. The nation is geopolitically placed within some of the most controversial regional boundaries which share disputes and have many-a-times escalated military tensions between the nations, e.g., that of [Kashmir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kashmir) with India and the [Durand Line](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Durand_Line) with Afghanistan. Its western borders include the [Khyber Pass](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khyber_Pass) and [Bolan Pass](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bolan_Pass) that have served as traditional migration routes between Central [Eurasia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eurasia) and [South Asia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asia).

At 881,913 square kilometres (340,509 sq mi), Pakistan is the 33rd largest country by area, little more than twice the size of the US state of [California](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California), and slightly larger than the Canadian province of [Alberta](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alberta).

**International boundaries**

Pakistan shares its borders with four neighbouring countries – [People's Republic of China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_Republic_of_China), [Afghanistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghanistan), [India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India), and [Iran](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran) while [Tajikistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tajikistan) is separated by thin [Wakhan Corridor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wakhan_Corridor)– adding up to about 7,307 km (4,540.4 mi) in length (excluding the coastal areas).

**Afghanistan–Pakistan border**

The [border with Afghanistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghanistan%E2%80%93Pakistan_border) which is known as the [Durand Line](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Durand_Line), 2,670 km (1,659.1 mi), which runs from the [Hindu Kush](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hindu_Kush) and the [Pamir Mountains](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pamir_Mountains). A narrow strip of Afghanistan territory called the [Wakhan Corridor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wakhan_Corridor) extends between Pakistan and [Tajikistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tajikistan).

**China–Pakistan border**

The eastern tip of the Wakhan Corridor starts the [Sino-Pak border](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China%E2%80%93Pakistan_border) between the [People's Republic of China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_Republic_of_China) and Pakistan spanning about 559 km (347.3 mi). It carries on south-eastward and ends near the [Karakoram Pass](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karakoram_Pass). This line was determined from 1961 to 1965 in a series of agreements between China and Pakistan and finally on 3 March 1963 both the governments, of [Islamabad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamabad) and [Beijing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beijing), formally agreed. It is understood that if the dispute over Kashmir is resolved, the border would need to be discussed again.

**India–Pakistan border**

The [Northern Areas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Areas) has five of the world's seventeen highest [peaks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mountain) along with highest range of mountains the [Karakoram](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karakoram) and [Himalayas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Himalayas). It also has such extensive [glaciers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glacier) that it has sometimes been called the "[Third Pole](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siachen_Glacier)". The [international border-line](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India%E2%80%93Pakistan_border) has been a matter of pivotal dispute between Pakistan and India ever since 1947, and the [Siachen Glacier](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siachen_Glacier) in northern Kashmir has been an important arena for fighting between the two sides since 1984, although far more soldiers have died of exposure to the cold than from any skirmishes in the conflict between their National Armies facing each other.

**The India-Pakistan border**

The Pakistan-India [ceasefire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ceasefire) [line](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Border) runs from the Karakoram Pass west-southwest to a point about 130 kilometres northwest of Lahore. This line, about 770 kilometres long, was arranged with [United Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations) (UNO) assistance at the end of the Indo-Pakistani War of 1947–48. The ceasefire line came into effect on 1 January 1949, after eighteen months of fighting between Indian forces and Pakistani forces and was last adjusted and agreed upon by the two countries according to the [Shimla Agreement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shimla_Agreement) of 2 July 1972 between [Indira Gandhi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indira_Gandhi) and [Zulfikar Ali Bhutto](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zulfikar_Ali_Bhutto). Since then, it has been generally known as the Line of Control or the (LoC).

The India–Pakistan border continues irregularly southward for about 1,280 kilometers, following the [Radcliffe line](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radcliffe_line), named for Sir [Cyril Radcliffe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyril_Radcliffe%2C_1st_Viscount_Radcliffe), the head of the British Boundary Commission on the division of the [Punjab](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punjab_Province_%28British_India%29) and [Bengal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bengal) provinces of [British India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_India) on 13 August 1947.

The southern borders are far less contentious than those in northern Pakistan (Kashmir). The Thar Desert in the province of [Sindh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sindh) is separated in the south from the salt flats of the Rann of Kachchh (Kutch) by a boundary that was first delineated in 1923–24. After independence and dissolution of Empire, Independent and free Pakistan contested the southern boundary of Sindh, and a succession of border incidents resulted. They were less dangerous and less widespread, however, than the conflict that erupted in Kashmir in the Indo-Pakistani War of August 1965 started with this decisive core of issues. These southern hostilities were ended by British mediation during Harold Wilson's era, and both sides accepted the award of the Indo-Pakistan Western Boundary Case Tribunal designated by the UN secretary general himself. The tribunal made its award on 19 February 1968; delimiting a line of 403 kilometres that was later demarcated by joint survey teams, Of its original claim of some 9,100 square kilometres, Pakistan was awarded only about 780 square kilometers. Beyond the western terminus of the tribunal's award, the final stretch of Pakistan's border with India is about 80 kilometres long, running east and southeast of Sindh to an inlet of the [Arabian Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabian_Sea).

**Iran–Pakistan border**

The [boundary with Iran](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran%E2%80%93Pakistan_border), 959 km (595.9 mi), was first delimited by a British commission in the same year as the Durand Line was demarcated, separating [Iran](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran) from what was then British India's [Baluchistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baluchistan_%28Chief_Commissioners_Province%29) province. Modern Iran has a province named [Sistan va Baluchistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sistan_va_Baluchistan) that borders Pakistan and has [Baluchis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baloch_people) in an ethnic majority. In 1957 Pakistan signed a frontier agreement with Iran in [Rawalpindi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rawalpindi) according to which the border was officially declared and the two countries haven't had this border as a subject of serious dispute at all.

**Geographical Importance of Pakistan.**

1. **Central Position in the Muslim world:** By virtue of its location, Pakistan occupies a central position in the Muslim countries of the world and also known as the heart of the Muslim world.
2. **Importance in World Politics:** Pakistan’s strategic importance got recognition in the world politics. During 1980’s Pakistan performed a very effective role as a frontline against Soviet Union, when the attacked Afghanistan.
3. **Neighbour of great and important countries:** Among her neighbour countries are China, Iran and central Asian states. Pakistan has friendly relations with the people of republic China, the emerging super power and the most populous country of the world. To the eastern side India lies which claims itself to be the world largest democratic country. Russia is also very closes to Pakistan through her former Republic of Tajikistan.
4. **Center of Trade and transit Routes:** Pakistan is placed in a highly strategic position on the world map. It is located in the center of the road and rail links between the countries of the Far East and Iran, Turkey and Europe.
5. **Transit facilities for Afghanistan and the Landlocked Central Asian States:** Afghanistan and most of these states are landlocked, they have no access to sea, but Nature had endowed Pakistan with the gift of warm water seaports. Pakistan extend transit trade facilities to Afghanistan and the central Asian States, in the same manner as it did in the days of the defunct Soviet Empire.
6. **Nuclear Power:** In response to India’s atomic explosions, Pakistan tested five nuclear bombs and thus it was successful in keeping a blace of power in Sought Asia. Pakistan has become the first Islamic and world’s 7th nuclear power.