Republic of India

Chapter Preview

People

Vasco da Gama, Mother Teresa, Mohandas Gandhi, Lord Louis Mountbatten, Indira Gandhi

Places

Himalayan Mountains, Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal, Indian Ocean, Indus River, Ganges River, Deccan Plateau, Ganges Plain, New Delhi, Mumbai, Bangladesh, Thar Desert, Amritsar, West Pakistan, East Pakistan

Terms

subcontinent, monsoon, respiratory disease, Ganges Action Plan, nationalism, Indian National Congress, Muslim League, Rowlatt Act, civil disobedience, Government of India Act, dominion, partition, prime minister, Parliament of India, Supreme Court, republic, secular, Green Revolution, rupee, microcredit industry, US-India Strategic and Commercial Dialogue

Top: This tea plantation in Munnar is one of many that support India's large tea industry. India is the world's top exporter of tea. **Background:** The Taj Mahal is one of India's best-known landmarks. It is made of white marble and was commissioned in 1632 by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan as a mausoleum for his late wife Mumtaz Mahal.

The subcontinent of India stretches south from the Himalayan Mountains in central Asia into the Indian Ocean. The peninsula teems with unusual plant and animal life and is home to over a billion people. Here lies the country of India with its ancient past and modern vision. India is a contrast of old and new, wild and tame, nature and man.

The history of India stretches back more than 4,000 years. In those ancient times, society was in three groups: commoners for daily work, warriors for defense and protection, and priests for spiritual work. Over time, the number of groups expanded. When Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama arrived in India in 1498, the society was rigidly set into five levels, or castes. These levels were determined at birth, and Indians remained in their social group level for life. The castes determined the type of job available to a person and the choice of a person to marry. This ancient system, though now illegal, still has influence on modern India.

India is known for its large population, close to 1.3 billion. This number is larger than the population of all countries in the western hemisphere combined. India's population is increasing at a rate that will allow India to pass China as the world's most populous country. This large population provides a huge workforce for Indian businesses. However, the population puts a strain on the country's resources.

India is the largest democracy in the world and one of the world's rising stars. India's people have adapted to many changes in their long history. Their future will depend on how they adapt to the modern world. Read on to continue your exploration of this amazing country.

> *Non-violence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind. It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction devised by the ingenuity of man.*
>
> - Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the independence movement

PASSPORT

Official Name: Republic of India
Capital: New Delhi
Form of Government: federal parliamentary republic
Head of Government: Prime Minister
Head of State: President
Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal
Currency: rupee

भारत गणराज्य
REPUBLIC OF INDIA
मरमुगाओ
MARMUGAO
16.05.2009
गोवा
GOA

THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES
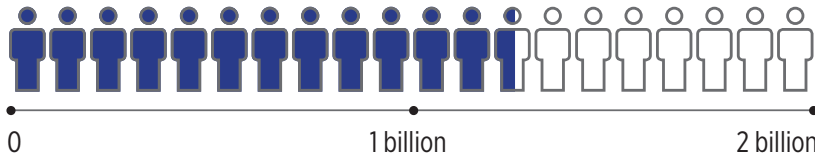20.05.2009

04 MAY 2009
EXMOUTH

Top: Flag of the Republic of India.
Middle Left: The Parliament of India meets in the capital city of New Delhi.
Middle Right: Narendra Modi became prime minister of India in 2014. **Right:** Indian rupee banknotes.
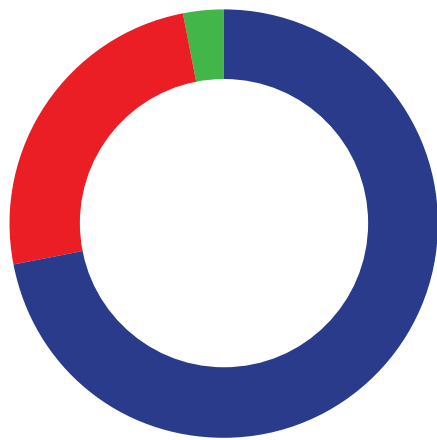
CULTURE CONNECTION

👥 POPULATION

0   1 billion   2 billion

India
1,266,883,598 (est. July 2016)
Population Rank 2
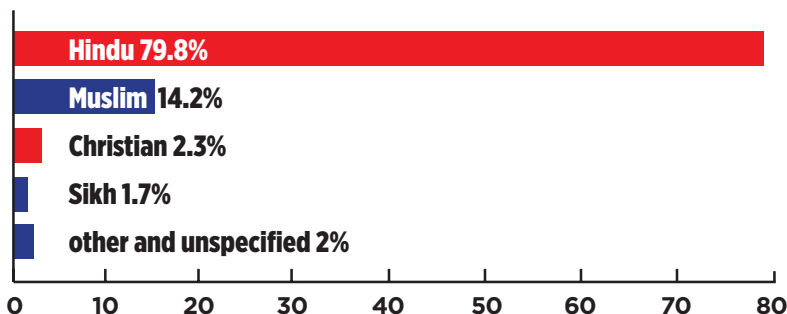
United States
324,386,000 (est. 2017)
Population Rank 3

🚩 ETHNIC GROUPS

- ■ Indo-Aryan 72%
- ■ Dravidian 25%
- ■ Mongoloid and other 3%

🙏 RELIGION

Hindu 79.8%
Muslim 14.2%
Christian 2.3%
Sikh 1.7%
other and unspecified 2%

0   10   20   30   40   50   60   70   80

😃😃 FUN FACTS

India has a spa just for elephants. They receive baths, massages, and even food at the Punnathoor Cotta Elephant Yard Rejuvenation Centre in Kerala.

Official Language:

English enjoys the status of subsidiary official language but is the most important language for national, political, and commercial communication; **Hindi** is the most widely spoken language and primary tongue of 41% of the people.

Phrases in Hindi

Hello – नमस्ते – Namaste

Goodbye – अलविदा – Alavida

Good morning – शुभ प्रभात – Shubh prabhaat

Good afternoon – नमस्कार – Namaskaar

Thank you – धन्यवाद – Dhanyavaad

You're welcome – आपका स्वागत है – Aapaka svaagat hai

Yes – हाँ – Haan

No – नहीं – Nahin

⏳ LIFE EXPECTANCY

Average 68.5 years
Male 67.3 years
Female 69.8 years

📖 EDUCATION

Literacy total population 71.2%; male 81.3% / female 60.6%

Top Left: In 1498, Vasco da Gama of Portugal reached the shores of India. **Top Right:** Britain began direct rule of India in 1858. Queen Victoria was named Empress of India in 1876. **Bottom Left:** Indian troops marched with the Allies in France during World War I. **Bottom Right:** In June 2017, India used its Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mark III to successfully put a satellite in Earth orbit. **Background:** The Taj Mahal was completed in 1654.

TIMELINE
OF INDIA HISTORY

Figure 14.1

1400

1800

1900

2000

Year	Event
1498	Vasco da Gama reached India
1869	Mohandas Gandhi born
1885	Indian National Congress organized
1906	Muslim League organized
1910	Mother Teresa born in Macedonia
1913	First Indian film released
1914	Mohandas Gandhi returned to India
1919	Massacre at Amritsar
1935	British government passed the Government of India Act to give India some self-government
1947	British rule of India came to an end on August 15
	Independent countries of India, West Pakistan, and East Pakistan created; millions of people moved to the country of their religion
1948	Mohandas Gandhi assassinated
1950	Indian constitution adopted
	Mother Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity
1966	Indira Gandhi became the first woman prime minister of India
1979	Mother Teresa won the Nobel Peace Prize
1984	Indira Gandhi assassinated
1985	Ganges Action Plan began
1997	Mother Teresa died
2009	US-India Strategic Dialogue launched
2015	First meeting of US-India Strategic and Commercial Dialogue
2016	Flooding affected over 1.6 million people in India
	Mother Teresa made a saint in the Catholic Church
2017	India labeled as the world's fastest-growing economy

AFGHANISTAN

CHINA

K2
8611

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

ISLAMABAD

Srinagar

Jammu

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Amritsar

Jalandhar Shimla

Ludhiana Dehradun

PUNJAB UTTARAKHAND

PAKISTAN

HARYANA Meerut

NEW DELHI Ghaziabad

Bikaner Aligarh

Agra Lucknow

Bareilly

NEPAL

8848
Mt Everest

KATHMANDU

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Itanagar

SIKKIM BHUTAN
Gangtok THIMPHU

Guwahati Dispur ASSAM NAGALAND

Kohima

Shillong

MEGHALAYA

MANIPUR

Imphal

RAJASTHAN Jaipur

Jodhpur

Gorakhpur

Kanpur

UTTAR PRADESH

Gwalior

Varanasi Patna

BIHAR

Kota Allahabad

Ganges

BANGLADESH

DACCA

TRIPURA
Agartala Aizawl

MIZORAM

MYANMA
(BURMA

JHARKHAND

Dhanbad Asansol

Ranchi WEST BENGAL

Gandhinagar Ahmedabad

Bhopal

MADHYA PRADESH Jabalpur

Jamshedpur Kolkata

Jamnagar Indore CHHATTISGARH

GUJARAT

Rajkot Narmada

Bhavnagar Surat

Daman

Nashik Aurangabad

Bhiwandi

Bhilai-Durg Raipur

Amravati Nagpur

ODISHA

Cuttack

Bhubaneswar

Mouths of the Ganges

MAHARASHTRA

Mumbai Pune

TELANGANA

Warangal

Hyderabad

Vishakapatnam

Bay
of
Bengal

ARABIAN

SEA

Panaji Belgaum

GOA Hubli–
Dharwad

KARNATAKA

Guntur

Vijayawad

ANDHRA
PRADESH

Penner

Coast

Andaman Islands

Port Blair

ANDAM
SEA

Coromandel

Chennai

Bangalore

Mysore

Puducherry

Nicobar
Islands

Kozhikode Salem
TAMIL NADU
Tirupur Tiruchchirappalli

Malabar Coast

Kochi Madurai

KERALA

Thiruvananthapuram

SRI LANKA

COLOMBO

Krishna

Area: 1,269,219 square miles

Rank: 7

Natural Resources:

coal (fourth-largest reserves in the world), iron ore, manganese, mica, bauxite, rare earth elements, titanium ore, chromite, natural gas, diamonds, petroleum, limestone, arable land

Environmental Issues:

deforestation; soil erosion; overgrazing; desertification; air pollution from industrial effluents and vehicle emissions; water pollution from raw sewage and runoff of agricultural pesticides; tap water is not potable throughout the country; huge and growing population is overstraining natural resources

Map 14.1
India

Map Skill: What country is almost completely surrounded by India?

Section 1

The Geography of India

As you read, look for

Setting a Purpose

▶ population distribution in India;

▶ how the Himalayas have impacted the development of India;

▶ the impact of monsoons on India;

▶ causes and effects of environmental problems in India;

▶ terms: **subcontinent, monsoon, respiratory disease, Ganges Action Plan.**

Location and Size of India

India is the largest country on the Indian subcontinent. It is located in southern Asia on the southern side of the Himalayan Mountains. India is located in the northern and eastern hemispheres and is crossed by the Tropic of Cancer. Along India's land border are six countries: Afghanistan (disputed by Pakistan), Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal, and Pakistan. The island republic of Sri Lanka lies off the southern coast of India. India covers a large peninsula. Its 4,300 miles of coastline are on the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal, all part of the Indian Ocean.

While India has one of the largest populations in the world, it is only the seventh-largest country in the world at about 1.2 million square miles. It is about one-third as large as the United States.
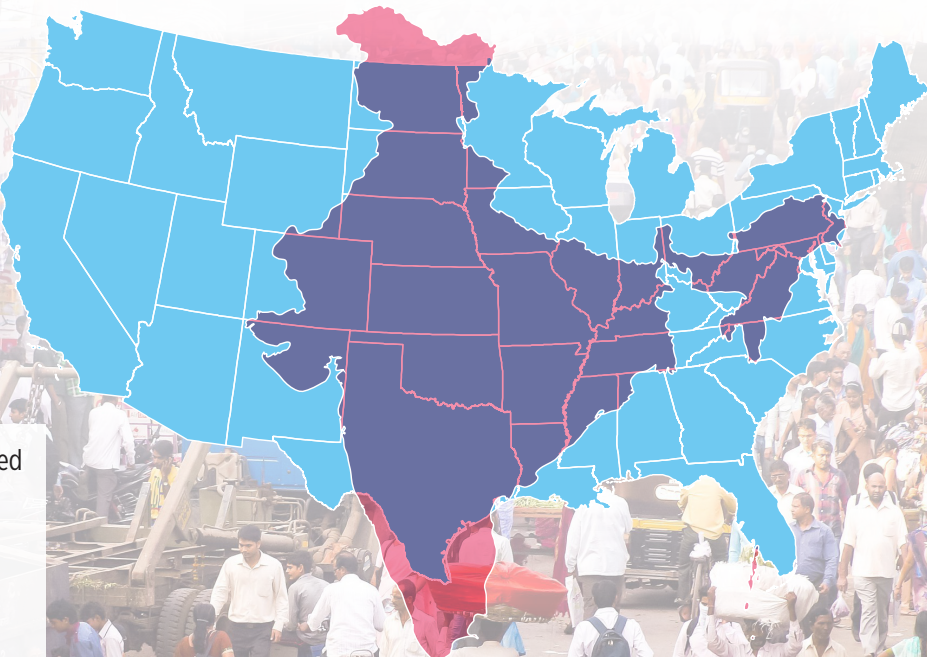
Bottom: This Mumbai street is crowded with shoppers. Mumbai (formerly Bombay) is the most populous city in the world's second most populous country.

Physical Features of India

India is separated from the rest of Asia by three ranges of mountains: the Hindu Kush, the Himalayan, and the Karakoram ranges. Geographically, the country of India is on a **subcontinent** (a division of a continent) with features that make it unique from the rest of Asia. Just south of the large mountain ranges, most of India is made up of a broad plain between the Indus River and the Ganges River. The land in this plain is very fertile because the rivers provide tons of silt to enrich the soil. South of this great plain is an area of higher plateau called the Deccan Plateau. Even farther south, the land gives way to a narrow tropical strip along the coast of the Indian Ocean.

India's mountains, the Himalayas, have sometimes stopped invaders from the north who wanted access to India's fertile river valleys to the south. As a result, the culture of India has developed differently than the rest of Asia. At other times, however, invaders have been able to use natural passes through the mountains to make their way into the heart of India and establish new rulers and customs.

Most of India's people rely on farming and other agricultural work, so most of the people live along the great rivers and in the fertile river valleys. Some of India's largest cities are located along the Ganges River or near the coast. The rivers provide transportation, trade routes, water for irrigation, and water to supply the people living in the cities. People are moving into cities from rural areas in large numbers looking for work and better opportunities for their families. The rivers have also become the easiest means of disposing of human, animal, and industrial waste. As a result, nearly all of India's large cities have problems with overcrowding and air and water pollution.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Millions of years ago, India was an island. It is on a different continental plate than the rest of Asia. The meeting of these contintental plates has created the Himalayan Mountains.

Top: The Khardung Pass in the Himalayas has been a route into India since ancient times and was part of historic caravan trails from Central Asia.
Left: The land and access to water make the paddy fields in India very productive. The country is among the world's top producers of rice.

Climate

India has many types of climate. Snow and ice are in the northern mountains, hot dry plains are in the central plateau, and steamy tropical climate is along the southern coast. Along the mountain ranges to the north, the temperatures are like those in other high altitude locations. Some of the highest peaks are covered with glaciers and snow. A large desert area borders Pakistan, while the Ganges Plain is humid and almost tropical. The Deccan Plateau in the center of the country is more moderate, with a subtropical coastal plain along the Indian Ocean.

The climate of India is shaped by seasonal winds known as **monsoons**. These winds blow hot, dry air across the continent from the northeast during the winter. In the spring and summer, the winds come from the opposite direction and bring heavy rains from the ocean. These monsoon winds can be a blessing when they bring much-needed rain. On the other hand, monsoon rains can cause destructive flooding. The monsoons are very unpredictable. The people of India have to live their lives around these seasonal winds and rains. When the shifts in the weather are moderate, the Indian people are able to farm the rich river valley soil and use the rivers for transportation and trade.

Natural Resources of India

India has many natural resources, a number of which are minerals. It is the fourth-largest producer of coal in the world. Some of India's other valuable mineral deposits include iron ore, manganese, bauxite, titanium, and diamonds. India also has deposits of natural gas and oil, which help supply their growing industries. Finally, India also has vast amounts of arable land.

Environmental Issues

The large and densely populated parts of India create many environmental problems for India's people. There is the need for food and water, but there is also a need for clean ways to dispose of waste. Many of the industries and vehicles used by the people create pollution. The health of India's people will depend on good decisions on how to address these problems.

DID YOU KNOW?

India has one of the largest and fastest-growing diamond cutting and polishing industries in the world.

Top: A houseboat motors through the waters of Kerala, a tropical region known for monkeys, elephants, and tigers. **Right:** Productive coal mines make India the fourth-largest supplier of the world's coal.

Air Pollution

Although well known for its problems with air pollution, China's cities do not have the worst air pollution. That title goes to cities in India. New Delhi is the most polluted city in the world. An enormous and growing population along with the rapid growth of cities (urban areas) and the development of industry have left many parts of India with some of the heaviest air pollution in the world. In fact, about half of the twenty most polluted cities in the world are in India. Indians living in several major cities have some of the world's highest rates of **respiratory disease** (diseases of the lungs, bronchial tubes, and trachea). Breathing unfiltered air in Mumbai for one day can have the equivalent damage to lungs as smoking 100 cigarettes. In addition to industrial smoke, the growing number of automobiles and trucks in India contributes to the poor air quality. Some estimates say that automobile emissions (carbons and other chemicals that come from a car's engine) are responsible for almost 70 percent of the air pollution in some urban areas of India.

Poverty is declining in India. About one in five Indians live on less than $1.90 per day. This number, though high, is declining, and the government does not want to take any action to slow economic growth. For this reason, it has been difficult for the Indian government to enforce many of the laws on industry and transportation that might improve the country's air quality. In rural areas, many families cook over open fires, using wood, animal dung, or coal as fuel. These fuel sources send carbon monoxide, soot, and many different chemicals into the air as well. The air inside the home is often as bad as the air outside. This pollution can form brown clouds (haze of pollution), which affect rainfall levels and temperature.

Water Pollution

The Ganges River is India's most important river. It begins in the Himalayan Mountains and flows 1,600 miles southeast through India and Bangladesh (formerly East Pakistan) before emptying into the Bay of Bengal. The water of the Ganges carries tons of rich sediment (topsoil, silt, and minerals from the mountains) that is gradually spread along its path, enriching the farmland and creating a large, fertile delta at the mouth of the river. Human waste from the large population living and working near its banks has caused the Ganges to become heavily polluted.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Poor sanitation, lack of access to clean water, and inadequate personal hygiene are responsible for high incidents of diarrhea in India. In 2010, an estimated 300,000 children under five died from the illness.

Above: The Ganges is important for many reasons to the people of India. Human activity in the river has made it very polluted. **Bottom:** Severe air pollution in New Delhi put the Air Quality Index over 500 – in the Hazardous zone – in December 2016.

In spite of the river's importance and its place in the spiritual lives of Indians, the quality of the water has become poor. Chemicals used in fertilizer and industries are washed into the river every day. Human and animal waste also pollutes the river. The bodies of dead animals and the cremated remains of human beings (bodies that are burned after death and whose ashes are scattered in the river) regularly float down the river. In spite of this, many Indians bathe in the Ganges. They also use the water for drinking and cooking. Cities along the Ganges have the highest rates of water-borne diseases (diseases found in drinking water) of any who live in India. Still, these cities pour millions of gallons of sewage (water that contains waste products) into the river to be carried to cities and villages farther south. Outbreaks of such diseases as cholera, dysentery, typhoid, and hepatitis are common. Most officials say polluted river water is part of the reason.

India began a program called the **Ganges Action Plan** in 1985 to clean the river. Many sewage and water treatment plants have been built along the river. However, the growing population of India and the runoff from industrial and farm production have meant that cleanup efforts fall short of what is needed.

Flooding

Flooding can be a serious and sometimes deadly problem for the people of India. The most common cause of floods in India is the monsoon, the seasonal winds that bring heavy rains in the summer months. Since so many people live along the banks of the Ganges and other rivers, when the rivers flood, the effects are often devastating and deadly. In 2016, flooding affected over 1.6 million people in India, forcing thousands of people into 300 relief camps. In some parts of India, flooding has become an annual event. As flooding is becoming a regular occurrence, the Indian government is under pressure to find ways to prevent or reduce its impact.

Impact of Location

The geography of India has had a significant impact on where people live. Deserts in the northwest, including the Thar Desert, and the mountain fringe in the north, are sparsely populated. However, a very high population density exists throughout most of the country. The core of the population is in the north along the banks of the Ganges, with other river valleys and southern coastal areas also having large population concentrations of people. Living near these sources of water allows people access to water for drinking and irrigation, as well as a route for trade and transportation.

Top: A man leads his camels across a dune in the Thar Desert of western India. **Above:** Flooding of the Ganges stranded Hindu pilgrims after a monsoon storm in 2011.

The majority of Indians live in rural areas with only about one-third of the population living in cities. However, India has one of the fastest-growing populations in the world. Cities in India are growing at a fast pace as people choose to leave rural areas for the opportunity of better, high-paying jobs. The cities in India have made themselves attractive for workers by expanding the number of their businesses. The country has invested in expanding seaports, highways, railroads, and airports to create a more modern transportation network to link people and goods.

People of India

With India's large population comes incredible diversity. Hindi is one of the official languages and is the most common language with over 40 percent of the population speaking it. There are thirteen other official languages that are commonly spoken in different regions of the country including Bengali, Marathi, Telugu, Tamil, and Urdu. English is commonly spoken as a second language and is often used for business. The majority of the population practices Hinduism. There are also large groups of Muslims, Christians, and Sikhs in India.

The overall population density of India is about 1,043 people per square mile. The United States has more land and fewer people. That puts US density at about 85 people per square mile. The state of Georgia is a bit more crowded at about 168 people per square mile in 2016. The population densities for cities tell a more complete story about India. Cities average 27,400 people per square mile. Mumbai tops the list of most crowded in India with 73,837 people per square mile and over 12 million residents. Delhi follows with about 11 million residents at about 66,000 people per square mile.

Reviewing the Section

1. What is a subcontinent?
2. Where do most people live in India? Why?
3. How have the Himalayas affected the development of India?
4. What effect do monsoons have on India?
5. Copy the chart on your paper and then complete it.

Environmental Issue	Cause	Effects	Solution
Air Pollution			
Water Pollution			
Flooding			

Top: This train station sign in Udagamandalam (or Ooty) is written in three languages: Tamil (top), Hindi (middle), and English (bottom). **Above:** The Golden Temple (Sri Harimandir Sahib Amritsar) in northwest India is an important religious site for Sikhs, one of the country's religious minorities with about 1.7 percent of the population.
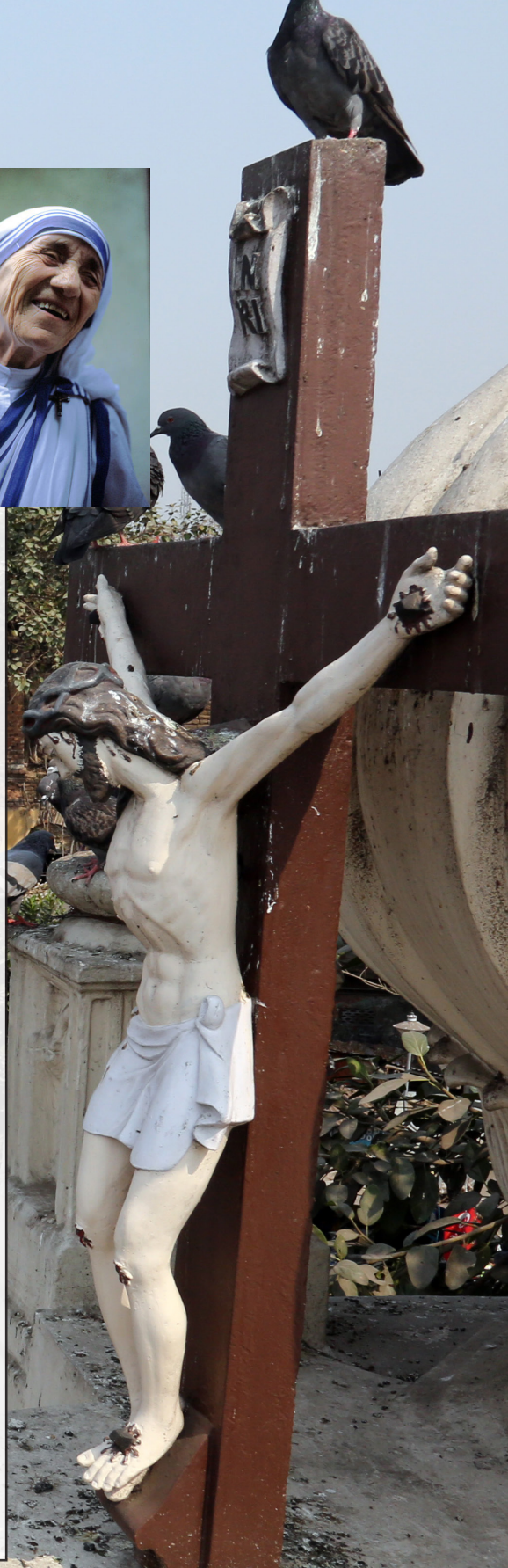
Mother Teresa

Mother Teresa was one of the greatest humanitarians the world has ever known. She was born in 1910 in Skopje, Macedonia, as Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu. When she was eighteen years old, she joined the Loreto Sisters of Dublin, a Roman Catholic religious congregation. She changed her name to Sister Mary Teresa, and after six months of training, she was sent to Calcutta (now Kolkata), India, to teach in an all-girls high school. In 1937, after taking her final vows as a nun (a religious order of women), she was called Mother Teresa.

After teaching for seventeen years, Mother Teresa felt a new calling to help the poorest and sickest of Calcutta. She had seen glimpses of the suffering from the convent and decided to devote the rest of her life to helping the poor and sick. In 1946, Mother Teresa left her convent and began to help the poorest of the poor. In 1950, she founded the Missionaries of Charity group to help the poor and sick in Calcutta. By the time of her death in 1997, over 4,000 people were involved with the mission in over 120 countries. During the 1950s and 1960s, she established a leper colony (a place for people with highly contagious leprosy to live), an orphanage, a nursing home, a family clinic, and several mobile clinics. Mother Teresa even traveled to other parts of the world, like Beirut and Chernobyl, to help victims of war and disaster.

In 1979, Mother Teresa won the Nobel Peace Prize for her work in "bringing help to suffering humanity." She donated the prize money to the poor in India. After years of heart and lung problems, Mother Teresa died in 1997. She was canonized (made a saint) in the Catholic Church in 2016 by Pope Francis. When asked to sum up her life, this is what Mother Teresa said. "By blood, I am Albanian. By citizenship, an Indian. By faith, I am a Catholic nun. As to my calling, I belong to the world. As to my heart, I belong entirely to the Heart of Jesus." What character traits do you see in Mother Teresa?

Top: Mother Teresa was given the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for her work to overcome poverty and distress. **Left:** In 1985, Mother Teresa received the Medal of Freedom from US President Ronald Reagan at the White House in Washington, DC. **Background:** The Home for the Pure Heart, established by Mother Teresa, is a hospice for the poor run by the Missionaries of Charity in Kolkata.

Section 2

A Brief History of India

As you read, look for

Setting a Purpose

▶ the growth of nationalism in India;

▶ examples of civil disobedience;

▶ how World War II led to independence;

▶ why and how India was partitioned;

▶ the impact of Mohandas Gandhi on India's independence movement;

▶ terms: **nationalism, Indian National Congress, Muslim League, Rowlatt Act, civil disobedience, Government of India Act, dominion, partition.**

DID YOU KNOW?

During the Golden Age, Indian mathematicians began to use a zero and decimals and expanded on the knowledge of algebra.

Early History

Around 4,000 years ago, the Indus Valley civilization, one of the world's oldest, flourished along the Indus River in what is now Pakistan. Its territory extended into northwestern India. This culture influenced the people living in the area that is now India. However, Aryan tribes from the northwest entered the Indian subcontinent about 3,500 years ago. Classic Indian culture grew from these roots, and the period known as the "Golden Age" (AD 4th to 6th centuries) saw the growth of Indian science, mathematics, art, and culture. Islam began to spread across the subcontinent around the year 700, and some Indians began to convert to the religion. In the 10th and 11th centuries, Turks and Afghans invaded India and established the Delhi Sultanate. In the early 16th century, the Emperor Babur established the Mughal Dynasty, which ruled India for more than three centuries.

Aboeve: The Dholavira archeological site in western India reveals evidence of the Indus Valley civilization from over 4,000 years ago. **Left:** The Indus River in northern India was the site of an ancient civilization.
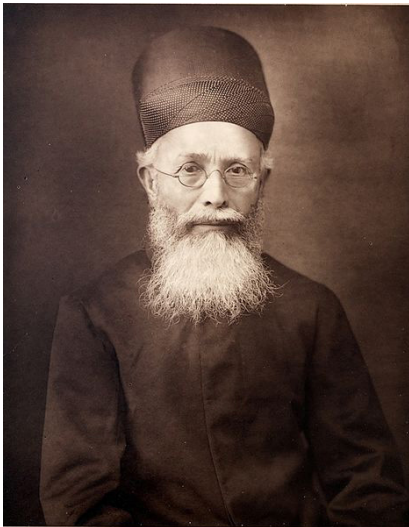
Colonization and Independence

European explorers began establishing footholds in India during the 16th century. By the 19th century, Great Britain had become the dominant political power on the subcontinent. Great Britain would eventually control all of India and other neighboring areas. Like most colonies, the indigenous people did not like being ruled by a foreign power.

A feeling of nationalism began to surface in India in the 1800s. **Nationalism** is the belief that people should be loyal to those with whom they share common history, customs, origins, and sometimes language or religion. People who share these things often think of themselves as a distinct nation, although not all of these characteristics may be the same from one nation to another. People in India began to be upset that their country was a part of the British colonial empire. They were second-class citizens in their own country. The best jobs and best education were reserved for the British. Indian craftsmen were not allowed to run their traditional businesses if that meant competition for the British. One example was the production of cloth. Indians grew fine cotton, and weaving was a traditional craft. Indians, however, were forced to send all of their cotton to Great Britain, and then had to buy the finished cloth from the British factories.

The first two groups to work for the rights of Indians were the **Indian National Congress**, organized in 1885, and the **Muslim League**, begun in 1906. The Indian National Congress attracted mainly Indian Hindus, and the Muslim League attracted Indians who followed Islam. As they gathered more members and became better organized, they began to call for Indian independence from British colonial control. Years of contact with the British had taught Indians about western ideas of democracy and self-government. However, the British did not want to share these two ideals with their colonies.
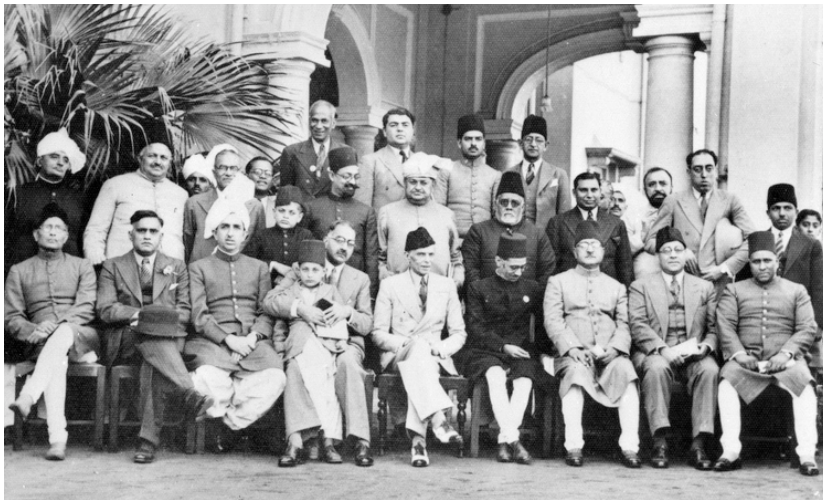
Top Left: Dadabhai Naoroji founded the Indian National Congress in 1885. This nationalist party worked for India's independence from Great Britain and is still active in the 21st century. **Top Right:** The flag of the viceroy and governor-general of India from 1885 combines the flag of the United Kingdom with the Star of India and the British Imperial Crown. **Above:** Members of the All-India Muslim League assembled in 1940. They were led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah (center), who later became the first governor-general of Pakistan.

During World War I, millions of Indians joined forces with the British, hoping that their service would be rewarded with more control of their government. The British Parliament even promised that, when the war ended, India would be able to work toward self-government. Unfortunately, after the war, nothing changed. Those who began to protest were arrested under the new **Rowlatt Act**, which gave the British the power to send Indians to jail for up to two years without a trial. In 1919, British authorities opened fire on a large gathering of Indians in the town of Amritsar, claiming they were gathering illegally. Over 400 people were killed and another 1,200 wounded. This massacre made Indians all over the country furious, and almost overnight they were united in a call for complete independence.

Following the slaughter at Amritsar, Mohandas Gandhi began to urge Indians to refuse to cooperate with British laws they felt were unjust. He also urged them to be sure they did nothing violent in their protests. His goal was to show the world the injustice of British colonial rule in India. Gandhi's plan was one of what he called **civil disobedience** (the nonviolent refusal to obey an unfair law). Indians all over the country began to follow Gandhi's lead, boycotting British-made goods, refusing to attend second-class schools, and refusing to pay unfair taxes. In time, these efforts began to hurt the British economy, which was dependent on colonial markets. Though the British authorities often responded with arrests and beatings, Gandhi and his followers refused to do the same. The world watched as the British Empire found itself unable to stop the Indians' protests and refusal to obey British laws.

In 1935, the British government gave up. Britain passed the **Government of India Act** that gave India some self-government. This was a start but not the independence most Indians wanted. When World War II broke out, Great Britain offered India **dominion** (control or the exercise of control) status in the British Empire if they would help the war effort. This would mean more independence, but not the complete independence India wanted. Gandhi and the Indian National Congress refused the offer. They announced that they would not take sides in Britain's war with Japan and Germany. The Muslim League, however, had begun to worry that Indian independence might mean rule by the more numerous Hindus, and they supported the British war effort. They hoped they would be rewarded after the war ended. While many Indians did help the British war effort, support for the war became tangled up in India's desire for independence.

Top: Indian Maharaja Bhupinder Singh visited with Belgian generals at the war front in Belgium during World War I.
Above: Some Indians, like these two members of a tank division, served with the Allies in World War II, but Indians were divided about whether to support the British war effort.
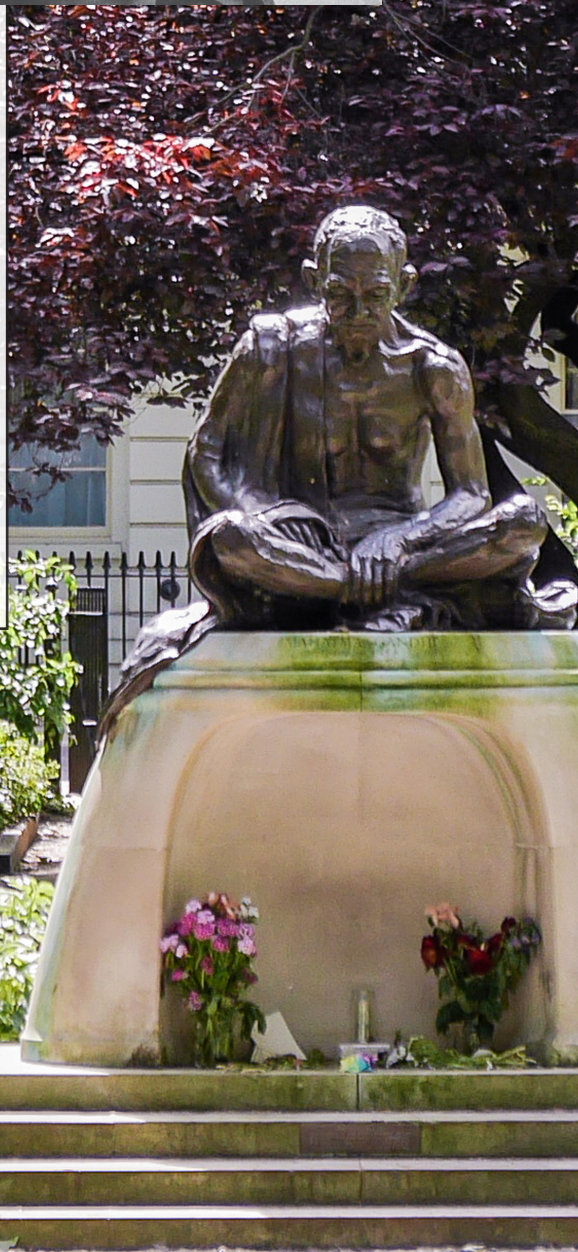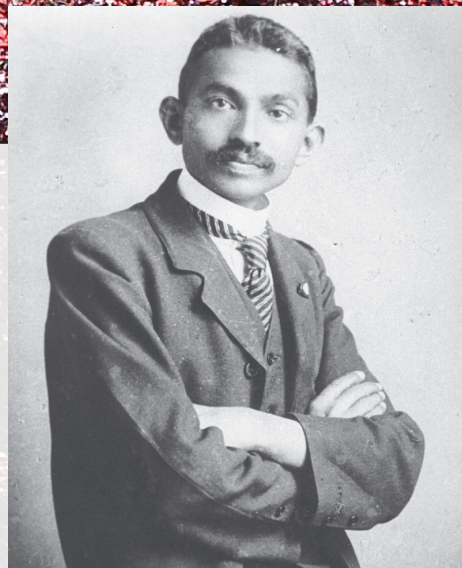
Gandhi

Mohandas K. Gandhi, born in 1869, was an Indian political leader who began his adult life as a lawyer. He lived for a time in South Africa, where he encountered that country's strict apartheid (the legal separation of the races) system. When he returned to India in 1914, he brought with him his determination that people should be treated equally, no matter what their nationality or situation in life. Though he was a Hindu, he saw much to admire in many different religions. Above all, he believed that all people deserved to be treated with equality and justice, and he felt the British colonial government of India did not offer that justice to Indians. He himself lived a very simple life, and as he became widely known and admired, his followers began to call him Mahatma, or the "Great Soul."

It was the awful massacre of Indians by the British at the Temple of Amritsar that spurred Gandhi to real action against the British colonial authority. He believed it was time for the people of India to stop obeying what he felt were unfair British laws. Because he was a believer in nonviolence, he urged people to resist unfair laws but to do it without any violence on their part. He developed what he called a system of civil disobedience (the refusal to obey unfair laws even if the result was punishment). He spoke of the power of what he called Satyagraha, or the force of truth. He believed civil disobedience would make the world recognize the injustice in British rule in India and force change without having to resort to violence.

Top: As a young man, Mohandas K. Gandhi lived in South Africa.
Background: This statue of Gandhi stands in the gardens of Tavistock Square in London, England. It honors Gandhi's nonviolent approach to social change.

The Indian National Congress adopted Gandhi's strategy on civil disobedience in the 1920s. Gandhi urged the people of India to resist British control in many ways. They were to stop buying British goods and refuse to pay taxes that did not benefit the Indian people. Gandhi also told Indians to resist paying a British tax on salt. He led a march across the country to the sea where people made their own salt by evaporating seawater. At a later march aimed at closing down a British salt factory, the British guards responded by clubbing and beating the peaceful demonstrators. The international press coverage of this violent response on the part of the British gave Gandhi and his followers a moral advantage (doing the right thing) they had not had before. People around the world began to call for the British to give the Indians the independence they wanted.

Gandhi's campaign of civil disobedience gradually wore the British down. After the end of World War II, the British formally gave up their colonial claims to the Indian subcontinent. Unfortunately, by 1946, disputes broke out among the Indians about how the country should be ruled. The final decision was to divide India into three countries. West and East Pakistan would be created for Muslims. India would be a Hindu country. Gandhi was very much disappointed by this decision. He wanted all Indians to live together in one country. He was even more distressed when violence broke out as Muslims and Hindus began to move from one area to another. On January 30, 1948, on the way to evening prayer, Gandhi was shot and killed by a person who was angry about the partitioning of India.

Gandhi is one of the most important individuals in the story of Indian nationalism. He saw Indian nationalism as consisting of many things—history, art, language, literature, customs, and religion. In spite of all he tried to do, when the national boundaries were established, religion ended up being the deciding factor in the creation of India and West and East Pakistan.
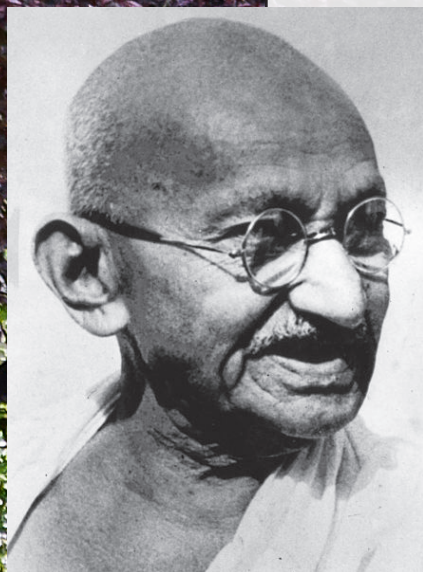
Above Left: Mohandas K. Gandhi, or Mahatma Gandhi, was a lawyer, politician, activist, and writer who fought for India's independence from British rule.

When World War II ended, the British decided to grant India independence. By this time, disputes had begun between Indian Hindus and Muslims about how power in the new country should be organized. The British colonial leader, Lord Louis Mountbatten, decided that the only way to grant independence and avoid fighting was to divide the country into Hindu and Muslim sections. Feelings of nationalism in each group were more strongly influenced by religion than by any of the other factors the people had in common. The country would be **partitioned**, or divided, into three new countries. Hindu India would be in the center, the largest because there were many more Hindus than people of any other religion. The Muslims would be moved to smaller countries created in both the east and the west along the borders of India. The areas were to be named West Pakistan and East Pakistan. Hindus living in those areas would have to move to the newly created India.

Through 1947, millions of people left homes they had lived in for generations to make the moves ordered by the creation of the new governments. There was much fighting, and many people lost their lives. In the end, the three new countries were created. On August 15, 1947, British rule in India came to an end, and the independent countries of India, West Pakistan, and East Pakistan were created. Today West Pakistan is called Pakistan and East Pakistan is Bangladesh.

Top: Lord and Lady Mountbatten with Mahatma Gandhi in 1947. **Above:** Lord Mountbatten was viceroy of India when the country gained independence in 1947. He served as independent India's first governor-general.

Reviewing the Section

1. What is nationalism?
2. What is civil disobedience? Give two examples.
3. How did World War II help India gain independence?
3. Why and how was India partitioned?
4. Who was Mohandas Gandhi? How did he impact India's independence movement? Give three specific examples.

Section 3

The Government of India

As you read, look for

▶ the type of government in India;

▶ why the governments of India and the United Kingdom are similar;

▶ why India is considered a republic;

▶ terms: **prime minister, Parliament of India, Supreme Court, republic, secular.**

Type of Government

India came under British rule beginning in the 1700s, and it was a colony of the British Empire until 1947. When India became independent in 1947, the Indians modeled their government after the government of the United Kingdom. Today, India is the world's largest democracy.

India is a federal parliamentary republic. The head of government is a **prime minister**, and the head of state is a president. The government is divided into three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial. The executive branch has the prime minister, president, and cabinet. The legislative branch is the **Parliament of India**. Finally, the judicial branch has the **Supreme Court** that is made up of a chief justice and twenty-five associate judges.

The national Parliament of India has two houses: the Council of States (Rajya Saha) and the People's Assembly (Lok Sabha). Its representatives are elected from local districts. For this reason, India can be described as a **republic**, one in which elected individuals make decisions for the people. If the voters are unhappy with the way these representatives make decisions, they can choose different people in the next election. Elections for the Indian parliament are held every five years. The leader of the majority political party in the Indian parliament serves as prime minister and head of the government.

Above: The Parliament of India meets in the capital city of New Delhi. **Left:** The President's House in New Delhi was formerly known as the Viceroy's House.

The Indian constitution was adopted in 1950. It guarantees all Indian citizens the same basic rights. Indian citizens who are eighteen years old or older can vote in elections. Even the untouchables (casteless people) were granted equal rights, and many among this group are elected officials of the government today. Women were granted voting rights as well. Several women have held the highest offices in India's government. Indira Gandhi (not related to Mohandas Gandhi) was the first woman elected as India's prime minister in 1966, and she served until 1977. She was elected again in 1980 and served until her assassination in 1984.

Local power is in the hands of village councils in India. Each village council, known as a panchayat, is part of a larger group of villages. These larger groups belong to district councils. Indian law requires that women and untouchables be allowed to run for positions in these three levels of councils.

Challenges Facing the Government

Because India is so large and has so many different languages, castes, and religions, the national government has had to work very hard to see that all groups feel included and are equally protected. The country is **secular**, meaning it favors no special religion, even though the majority of India's people are Hindu. Still, there are religious issues that cause conflict for the people and the government.

Educating India's huge population of children is another issue. Although there are many opportunities for higher education and training, many children are undereducated and the country overall has a literacy rate of about 71 percent. Improving education would provide a more skilled set of workers for business.

Rapid growth of cities means that there are challenges to meet the needs of city dwellers and keep their environment healthy. The government must ensure good supplies of clean water and sanitation in these rapidly expanding environments.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Over 900,000 polling stations are used for elections in India due to a law that says no person should have to travel more than 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) to vote. One polling station in the Gir Forest has five workers for one lone voter.

Top: Ink-marked fingers identify citizens in India who have already voted in an election. **Above:** Educating young people is a high priority for the Indian government. Over 500,000 students are enrolled in the University of Mumbai; however, educating the large number of children in poverty remains a challenge.

Reviewing the Section

1. What type of government does India have?
2. Who can vote in India? What government positions do they elect?
3. How are the governments of India and the United Kingdom similar? Why?
4. Why is India considered a republic?

Section 4

The Economy of India

As you read, look for

▶ the type of economic system in India;

▶ the purpose and results of the Green Revolution;

▶ challenges faced by the economy of India;

▶ the impact of the microcredit industry on entrepreneurship;

▶ terms: **Green Revolution, rupee, microcredit industry.**

Type of Economy

India has a mixed economy that leans toward a market system. The country has a stable democracy that is good for business. Individual and business property rights are protected by law. This is good for growing the country's economy. When owners feel their property is secure, they are more likely to increase their investment, which encourages growth. By 2017, the International Monetary Fund labeled India's as the world's fastest-growing economy.

Figure 14.2
Economic Systems in Southern and Eastern Asia

Command ← → Market

North Korea · India · China · Japan · South Korea · United States
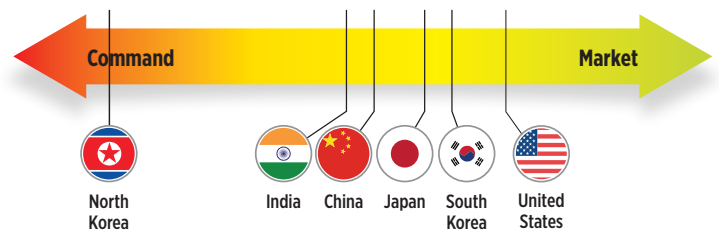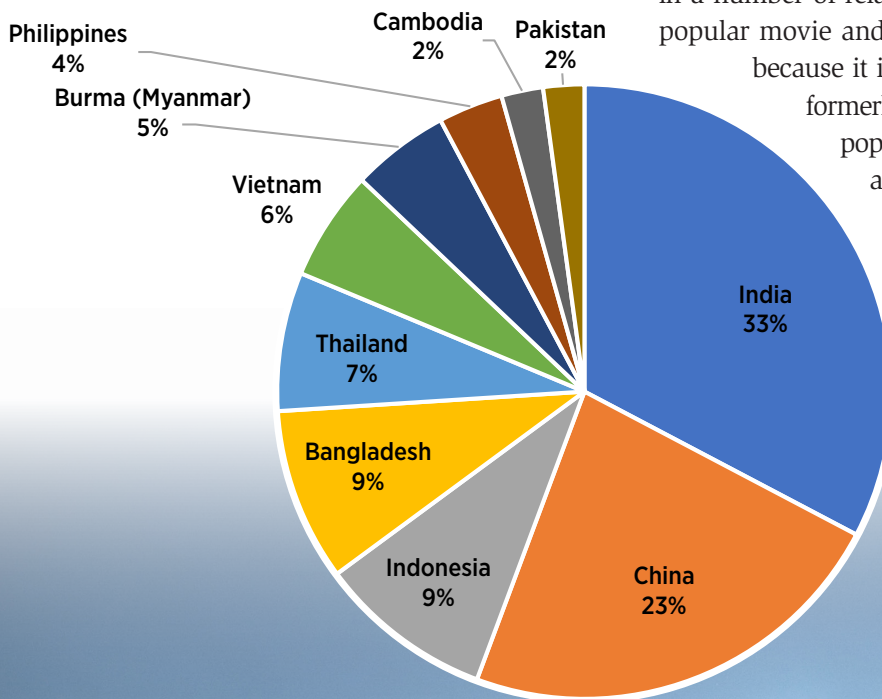

Left: India's economy depends on an educated workforce. These engineering students are preparing for jobs building their country's future.

DID YOU KNOW ?

In 2009, India's space agency was the first to find proof of water on the moon's surface.

Figure 14.3

World Rice Production: Top Countries (2017)

Philippines 4%
Cambodia 2%
Pakistan 2%
Burma (Myanmar) 5%
Vietnam 6%
Thailand 7%
Bangladesh 9%
Indonesia 9%
India 33%
China 23%

The economy of India is a blend of traditional and modern activities. About half of India's population still works in agriculture, many using farming techniques that have not changed for centuries. Many poor farmers still plow with oxen and water buffalo rather than using engine-powered tools. Rice and wheat are leading agricultural products in India. Agricultural products account for about 14 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). India's government decided to modernize Indian agriculture in the 1960s by declaring the beginning of the **Green Revolution**. New types of seeds and grains were introduced, and fertilizers and pesticides were made available. While farm products increased, there were problems as well. The chemicals the farmers used increased pollution of streams and rivers, and some farmers found the new techniques too expensive to use.

India now leads many of the countries in the region in the growth of technology and service industries. There is a booming electronics industry in India, producing computers, software, and televisions. India has launched several communications satellite systems and leads the region in a number of related fields. India is also home to a popular movie and film industry—called Bollywood because it is centered in Mumbai, which was formerly known as Bombay. Its films are as popular in Southern and Eastern Asia as are films made in the United States. Service industries are booming in India, with thousands of people employed to handle technology questions, airline reservations, and retail sales for customers from around the world. The success of these industries has allowed India to develop a growing middle class.

**Background:** An Indian family harvests crops near Jaipur. About half of India's population works in agriculture.

Bollywood

In 2013, Bollywood celebrated its 100th birthday. But what is Bollywood? In short, Bollywood is a phrase used to describe movies that are made in Mumbai (formerly Bombay) using the Hindi language. Often, movies filmed in other parts of India are mistakenly called Bollywood films. The phrase "Bollywood" was coined in the 1970s, when Bollywood passed Hollywood for producing the most movies per year. Between 800 and 1,000 movies are produced in Hindi cinema a year.

The first movie created in India was *Raja Harishchandra*, which was a black-and-white movie with no sound. It was released in 1913, just eight years after the first movie premiered in the United States. In 1931, *Alam Ara* was the first Bollywood movie with sound. Today, the movie industry, including Bollywood, is one of the top industries in India. Over 14 million Indians go to the movies every day!

Most Bollywood movies share some similar characteristics. They are usually three hours long and include a break. That is almost twice as long as the average Hollywood film. Most movies are musicals and include a standard or basic storyline, expertly choreographed fight scenes, amazing song-and-dance routines, melodrama, and larger-than-life heroes. Have you ever seen any Bollywood movies?
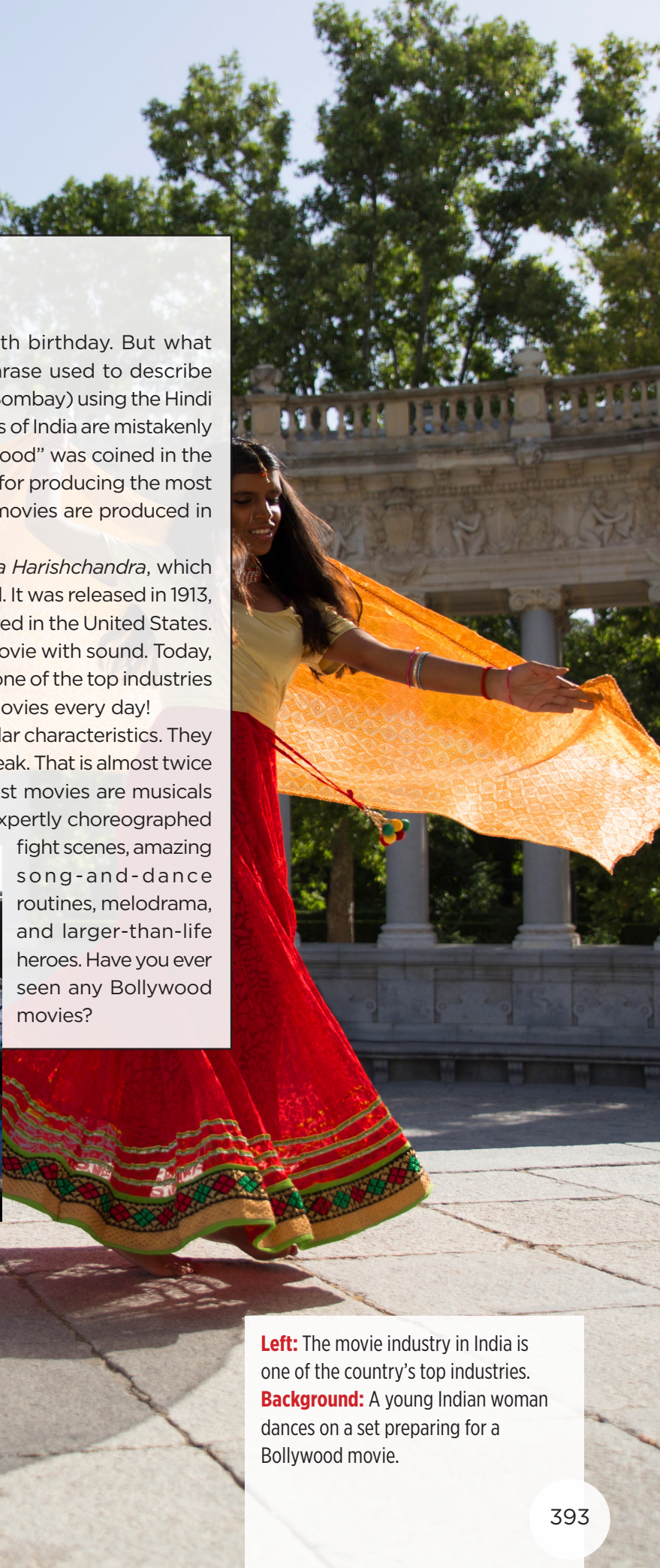
Left: The movie industry in India is one of the country's top industries.
Background: A young Indian woman dances on a set preparing for a Bollywood movie.

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Trade in India

Trade is very important to India's economy and has been for centuries. In fact, India is the 14th-largest importer in the world. The top countries India imports goods from include China, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, the United States, and Switzerland. India's top imports include oil, machinery, fertilizers, plastics, chemicals, steel, diamonds, and gold. On the other hand, India is the 16th-largest exporter in the world. It exports goods to many countries around the world including China, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the United Arab Emirates. India's top exports include petroleum products, precious stones (diamonds), cars, machinery, cereals, medicine, and clothing.

In order for these countries to trade, they must use a system to exchange their currencies fairly. India's currency is the **rupee**. Businesses from other countries that want to trade in India must exchange their currency for the rupee. Indian businesses trading in other parts of the world must exchange their rupees for the local currency. In 2017, one US dollar could be exchanged for about 65 Indian rupees.

Georgia businesses trade with businesses in India. To encourage business, Georgia has hosted the annual US-India Business Summit in Atlanta since 2010. The event focuses on life sciences, information technology, real estate, and investment in the two countries. In 2014, Georgia's exports to India totaled slightly more than $434 million. India is the 21st-largest export market in the world for Georgia. Top exports from Georgia to India include gas turbines, internal combustion piston engines, chemicals, and wood pulp. In 2014, Georgia imports from India totaled $1.84 billion, a 14.66 percent increase from the previous year. India ranks 8th among Georgia's top importer nations. Georgia's top imports from India include tractors, parts and accessories for special purpose motor vehicles, bed linen, carpets and other floor coverings, television receivers, and electrical transformers.

Top: Bagmane Tech Park is a software technological park in Bengaluru (Bangalore). Companies such as Oracle, Texas Instruments, Lenovo, Volvo, and Yahoo! have offices here. **Above:** An offshore platform near Mumbai provides oil for India to use or export. Petroleum products are among the country's largest exports.

Natural Resources and the Economy of India

India has a variety of natural resources. One of India's most valuable resources is arable land. As you have already read, over half of India's population still works in agriculture. This resource is critical for feeding India's fast-growing population. Some of the crops that are grown include rice, wheat, tea, cotton, sugarcane, and lentils. Additionally, India has valuable mineral resources, like coal, iron ore, bauxite, and diamonds. The diamond cutting and polishing industry in India is the largest in the world. Finally, India has deposits of oil and natural gas. Not only do these valuable resources help power industries in India, they also are an important export.

Human Capital in India

In the 1960s, the Indian government announced the beginning of a program called the Green Revolution, the national project aimed at helping farmers use more modern methods and technologies to improve crop production. Many farmers also learned new techniques for building irrigation systems to bring water to their fields. This program was an example of the Indian government investing in the country's human capital. Crop production did increase, and many Indian farmers began to grow new and improved types of rice and wheat, two of the country's leading agricultural products. Even with these improvements, India still has to struggle to produce enough food for the ever-increasing population. While many of the people in India still work in agriculture, it is also one of the world's top-ten industrial nations.

The Indian government has stressed education during the past decades. As a result, many Indians, particularly those living in cities, are highly educated and have jobs in the sciences, computer and information technology, arts and literature, and industrial production and research. The literacy rate is about 71 percent. Most Indians are able to attend school for twelve years. However, an estimated 25 million children between the ages of five and twelve are forced to work to help their families instead of going to school.

India is now one of the leading software producers in the world. Because so many in India speak English, this country has become a leader in technology support for people in other parts of the world. India also has a rich traditional arts history, as well as one of the largest film industries in the world.
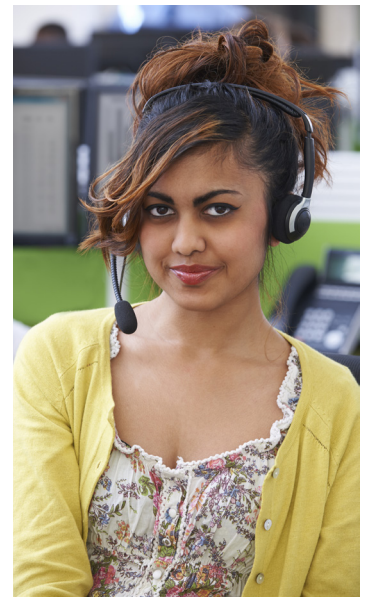
Figure 14.4
India Spider Graph
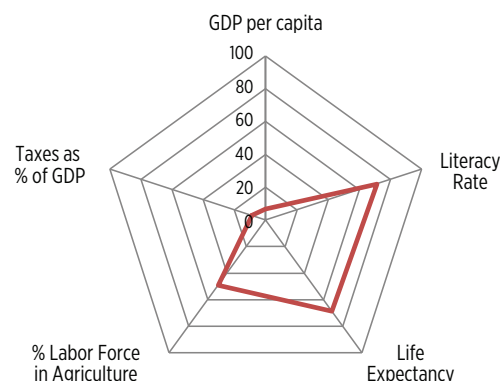
Background: Sugarcane is one of India's valuable crops. Arable land makes growing sugarcane on a large plantation possible. **Above:** The Indian government has stressed educating students in science and technology classes, such as this one in Nagpur.

The Indian middle class is growing rapidly. These are people who are well educated and who play an active part in the country's industrial growth. The country's GDP has been growing at a rate of about 8.5 percent per year. The challenge for India is for the economy to keep up with the rapidly growing population and the strains that population puts on both the economy and the environment.

Capital Goods in India

India is a country that has invested heavily in the factories, modern machinery, and advanced technology that make up what is known as capital goods. Even though a large portion of the economy and its people are still engaged in agriculture, India is a leader among the world's industrial countries. Modern agricultural techniques have become more widely used in India since the Green Revolution in the 1990s. India's cities are home to some of the most advanced communications and computer technology in that part of the world. Enormous amounts of money have been poured into Indian industry in recent years, put to good use by India's increasingly well-educated middle class. Although poverty and overpopulation remain constant problems for India, progress in the modernization of farming techniques and industry have enabled the country to boast of a growing GDP every year for the past decade.

Entrepreneurship in India

India has many stories of entrepreneurship in its history. Some of the world's largest and most successful companies were founded by Indian entrepreneurs. In addition to these large financial empires, India is also a land of smaller entrepreneurs in what is known as the **microcredit industry**. Thousands of Indian men and women have been able to borrow small amounts of money to start little local businesses. Entrepreneurship through microcredit is changing the quality of life in many rural Indian villages.

DID YOU KNOW?

Many American businesses employ people in India to answer their telephones regarding technical or service problems. In the city of Bangalore alone, about 265,000 people work in such jobs.

Top: Bangalore is home to many international software and technology companies. **Middle Right:** Call centers in India provide good jobs for Indians who can speak well in languages such as English. Technology makes it possible for a person in India to assist a person in the United States with a customer service issue.

Reviewing the Section

1. What type of economy does India have?
2. What was the Green Revolution? What was its purpose? What were the results?
3. What are India's top exports?
4. What are some of the challenges the economy of India faces?
5. What is the microcredit industry? How has that affected entrepreneurship in India?

Section 5

US-India Relations

As you read, look for

Setting a Purpose

▶ the shared interests between India and the United States;

▶ the purpose of the Strategic Dialogue;

▶ the importance of India to regional stability in Asia;

▶ trade between the United States and India;

▶ Indian investment in the United States;

▶ term: **US-India Strategic and Commercial Dialogue.**

DID YOU KNOW ?

In 2017, Narendra Modi, India's prime minister, was the world leader with the most Twitter followers.

Supporting a Relationship with an Important Partner

President Barack Obama called the US relationship with India one of the defining partnerships of the 21st century, one that will be vital to US strategic interests in the Asia-Pacific region and across the globe. Presidents Clinton, Bush, and Obama all visited India, showing the increasing importance of the bilateral relationship. This relationship is rooted in common values, including the rule of law, respect for diversity, and democratic government. The countries have a shared interest in promoting global security, stability, and economic prosperity through trade and investment. The United States and India have a common interest in the free flow of global trade and commerce.

The United States supports India's critical role as a leader in maintaining regional stability. Security ties are reflected in growing bilateral defense and counterterrorism cooperation. The United States and India also are developing their defense partnership through military sales, joint research, and co-production/co-development efforts.

Above: US President Donald Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met in July 2017 to discuss world trade issues. **Left:** The Embassy of the United States in New Delhi assists US citizens visiting and doing business in India. The building is also the office of the US Ambassador to India.

The US-India Strategic Dialogue, launched in 2009, was expanded in 2015 to become the **US-India Strategic and Commercial Dialogue**. It provides opportunities to strengthen collaboration in areas including energy, climate change, trade, education, and counterterrorism. The first meeting was held in September 2015.

The strength of people-to-people links between the United States and India has come to define the indispensable relationship between the two countries. The increased cooperation of state and local officials to create ties has enhanced engagement in education. Additionally, state-to-state and city-to-city engagements have created new partnerships in business and enhanced government-to-government engagement.

US Assistance to India

In 2017, the United States expected to send about $76 million in aid to India. Part of the money will assist India with peace and security issues, economic development, and the environment. However, the largest percentage supports work in health care. One of the main goals of these funds is to help end the extreme poverty in parts of India by increasing access to quality health care. This money is also used to support and protect vulnerable women, girls, and minority groups in India.

Bilateral Economic Relations

The United States is one of India's largest trade and investment partners. US-India bilateral trade in goods and services has increased over the last decade, supporting thousands of US jobs. Bilateral trade between the two countries has increased since the beginning of the Strategic Dialogue.

The United States and India are continuing efforts to deepen the economic relationship, improve investor confidence, and support economic growth in both countries. India's market-oriented economic reforms have included an increasingly liberal foreign investment regime in many sectors.
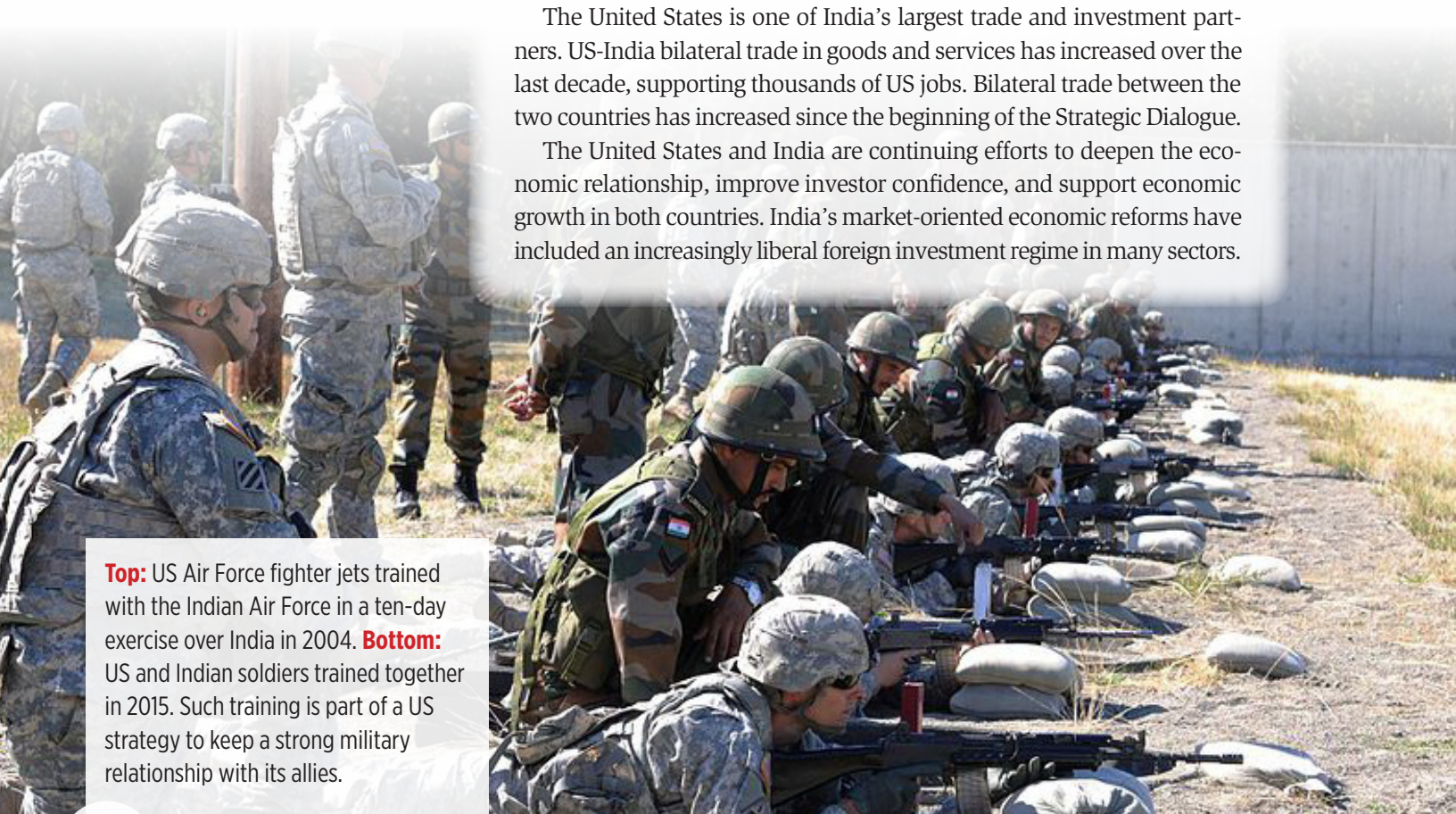
Top: US Air Force fighter jets trained with the Indian Air Force in a ten-day exercise over India in 2004. **Bottom:** US and Indian soldiers trained together in 2015. Such training is part of a US strategy to keep a strong military relationship with its allies.

On energy cooperation, the United States and India are committed to working together to help ensure mutual energy security, combat global climate change, and support the development of low-carbon economies that will create opportunities and job growth in both countries. The two countries consult regularly on the future of global oil and gas markets, the expansion of sustainable energy access to support jobs and economic growth in both countries, collaboration in research and technology, and an increase in US exports of clean energy technology.

US exports to India include diamonds and gold, aircraft, machinery, and optic and medical instruments. US imports from India include diamonds, pharmaceutical products, oil, agricultural products, organic chemicals, and textile articles. US direct investment in India is led by the professional, scientific, and technical services, manufacturing finance/insurance, and information sectors. India direct investment in the United States is primarily concentrated in the professional, scientific, and technical services, and banking sectors.

India's Membership in International Organizations

India and the United States share membership in a variety of international organizations, including the United Nations, G-20 (top 20 major economies), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and World Trade Organization. The United States supports a reformed UN Security Council that includes India as a permanent member. India is an ASEAN dialogue partner, an Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development partner under its Enhanced Engagement program, and an observer to the Organization of American States. India is also a member of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), of which the United States is a dialogue partner.

Reviewing the Section

1. What are some of the shared interests between India and the United States?
2. What is the purpose of the Strategic Dialogue?
3. Why do you think India is so important to the stability in Asia?
4. What are the top exports and imports between the United States and India?
5. How has India invested in the United States?

Top: US sailors assigned to the guided-missile destroyer USS *Halsey* stood in ranks as the Indian Navy destroyer *Satpura* pulled alongside *Halsey* during a 2012 exercise. **Above:** The US government provides economic assistance to India like this project to supply purified drinking water. Since 1946, the United States has provided more economic aid to India than any other country.

Chapter Review

Chapter Summary

Section 1: The Geography of India

- India is called a subcontinent because it is cut off from the rest of Asia by mountain ranges.
- Many people live near rivers because they are important for agriculture, trade, and travel.
- Pollution is a major problem in India. New Delhi is the most polluted city in the world.

Section 2: A Brief History of India

- The oldest recorded civilization was located in the Indus Valley.
- India eventually became a British colony, but many advocated for the rights of native Indians.
- After World War II, India gained independence, but the British partitioned the country into Muslim and Hindu sections.

Section 3: The Government of India

- India is the largest democracy in the world.
- India is also considered a republic because members of parliament are elected in local districts to vote on behalf of their constituents.

Section 4: The Economy of India

- About half of Indians work in agriculture, but many others work in services and the booming technology field.
- The government has invested in capital goods and human capital over the years through the Green Revolution and by encouraging education.

Section 5: US–India Relations

- The United States and India have a strong political and economic relationship.
- India ensures stability in Asia especially in respect to terrorism.
- The two countries also work together to find more efficient energy sources and encourage international study and work.

Activities for Learning

Reviewing People, Places, and Things

Match each of the following with the correct description below:

Indira Gandhi	Ganges
Muslim League	monsoon
Mumbai	Indian National Congress
Amritsar	Mohandas Gandhi
New Delhi	Thar

1. the most polluted city in the world
2. a desert in the northwest of India
3. a group, founded in 1885, that worked for the rights of Indians
4. a group, founded in 1906, that worked for the rights of Indians
5. the scene of a massacre where over 400 people were killed
6. India's most important river
7. the leader of India's nonviolent independence movement
8. the first woman to become India's prime minister
9. the center of India's movie industry
10. a seasonal wind

Understanding the Facts

1. What is one drawback to living near a river?
2. What contributes to India's severe pollution problems?
3. In what ways did the British treat native Indians unjustly?
4. What event led Gandhi to organize native Indians against the British?
5. Who is the head of government in India?
6. Who is allowed to vote in India's elections?
7. What was the purpose of the Green Revolution?
8. From which countries does India import the most goods?
9. What is the US-India Strategic and Commercial Dialogue?
10. What does the United States import from India?

Developing Critical Thinking

1. As they left India, the British partitioned the land into separate countries for Hindus and Muslims. Do you think this has any repercussions in the region today? Why or why not? How does this compare to other former British colonies that were divided?
2. The Ganges River is one of the most polluted rivers in the world and often spreads disease to the people near it. Why do you think people still live near, bathe in, and drink water from the polluted river? Explain your reasoning and use examples to support your statements.
3. India is a multifaceted country combining the traditional and modern. In what areas did you notice this? Provide two examples of traditional and modern concepts combining, and describe why you think they exist together.

Writing across the Curriculum

1. Write a short report on Mohandas Gandhi. Include his background, why he decided to become an activist, and what methods he used to achieve his goal.
2. Imagine you are a doctor whose patient is about to travel to India. Why would it be important for you to have some knowledge of the region?

Applying Your Skills

1. Decide which four events were most influential in shaping India today. Create a chart ranking them from most to least important. List the year and why the event is important.
2. India is a parliamentary democracy. Write a paragraph describing this form of government, and compare it to the government of another country in Asia.

Exploring Technology

1. Use the Internet to find some video clips of Bollywood films. Based on your readings, was the film what you expected? Why or why not?
2. Use Google Maps to view the political map and satellite images of India. What physical features do you notice? Locate (a) Ganges River, (b) New Delhi, (c) Himalayan Mountains, (d) Mumbai, and (e) Indus River.