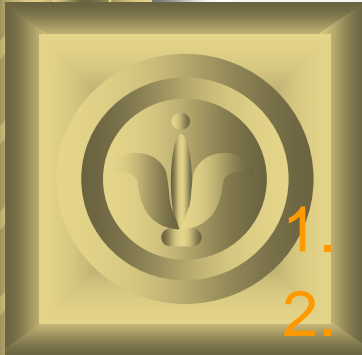


Indian Subcontinent: History and Culture



Map of South Asia

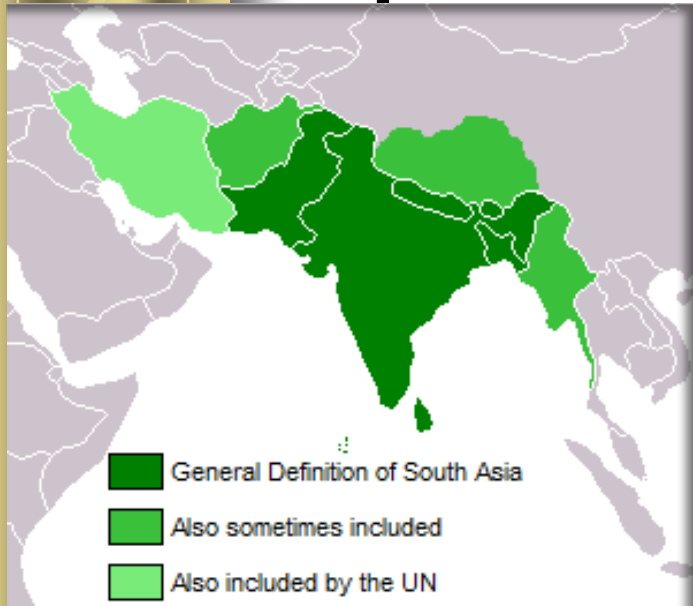
1. Multiple Races & Religion
2. British Colonization
3. Independence & Partition
4. Women's Positions in India,

Iran and Afghanistan

1. Present Situations
2. Cultures
3. **Next Week: “Gaiinda” & Salaam Bombay**



South Asia



South Asia and Middle East





**What are your impressions
of India and Pakistan?**

**Diversity –culture, religions,
people and languages,
multiple colonization**

Recent Impressions ...

- **Films:** *Outsourced*, *Slumdog Millionaire*, *3 Idiots* (2009) (Aamir Khan)
 - Australian convict to Mumbai: Shantaram 自傳小說《項塔蘭》
 - outsourcing --White Tiger (Aravind Adiga)
- **Lisa Chang's photos:** --
<http://photo.xuite.net/kokopelli>
- **CEO's from India** (〈印度最自豪的出口〉全球財經週報／南亞 2011/08/21)
- **Rise in Economic Power**, competing with China? (印度經濟成長 傲視G20?)
- **Rapes...; Sino-India border conflicts**
- **Service Learning**

Northern India: Jaisalmer



Haveli







Actors making-up @ stage before
the dance

The main character in the Kathakali





Kid in India

Cochin



1. Multiple Races & Religions

- Religious Periods:

1.Vedas 吠陀 or Brahmanism 婆羅門教
(1500B.C.-500B.C.)

2.Bhuddism (500 B.C.-11th.C.)佛教

3.Hinduism (4th C.-16th.C) 印度教

4.Mixture of Religions (14th.C-19th. C)

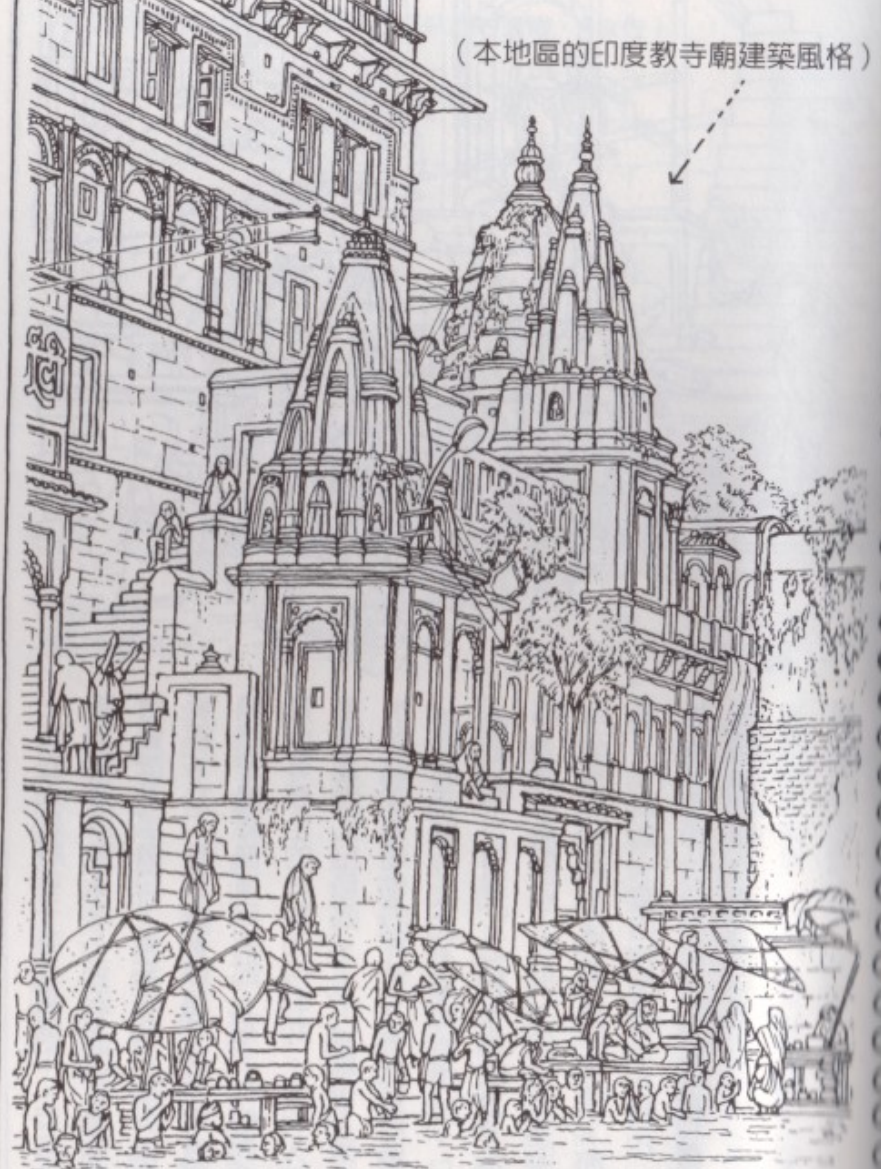
5.Recent Religious Reformation (18th C-)

1. Multiple Races & Religions(2)

- Now about **83** percent of the India people are **Hindus**, and about **11** percent are **Muslims(回教)**.
- The next largest religious groups, in order of size, are **Christians, Sikhs(錫克教), Buddhists, and Jains (耆納教)** .

Religion: an example of Hindu practice Bathing and death in Ganges.

《窺視印度》～妹
尾河童



(本地區的印度教寺廟建築風格)

▲ 印度教	82.72%
伊斯蘭教	11.20%
天主教	2.60%
錫克教	1.89%
佛教	0.71%
耆那教	0.48%

從船上看到的沐浴場

後面是朝聖者寄宿的宿處和神廟。

(不行沐浴儀式)

Muslim World

(divided between Shia and Sunni)

● source



Religions in India:

source

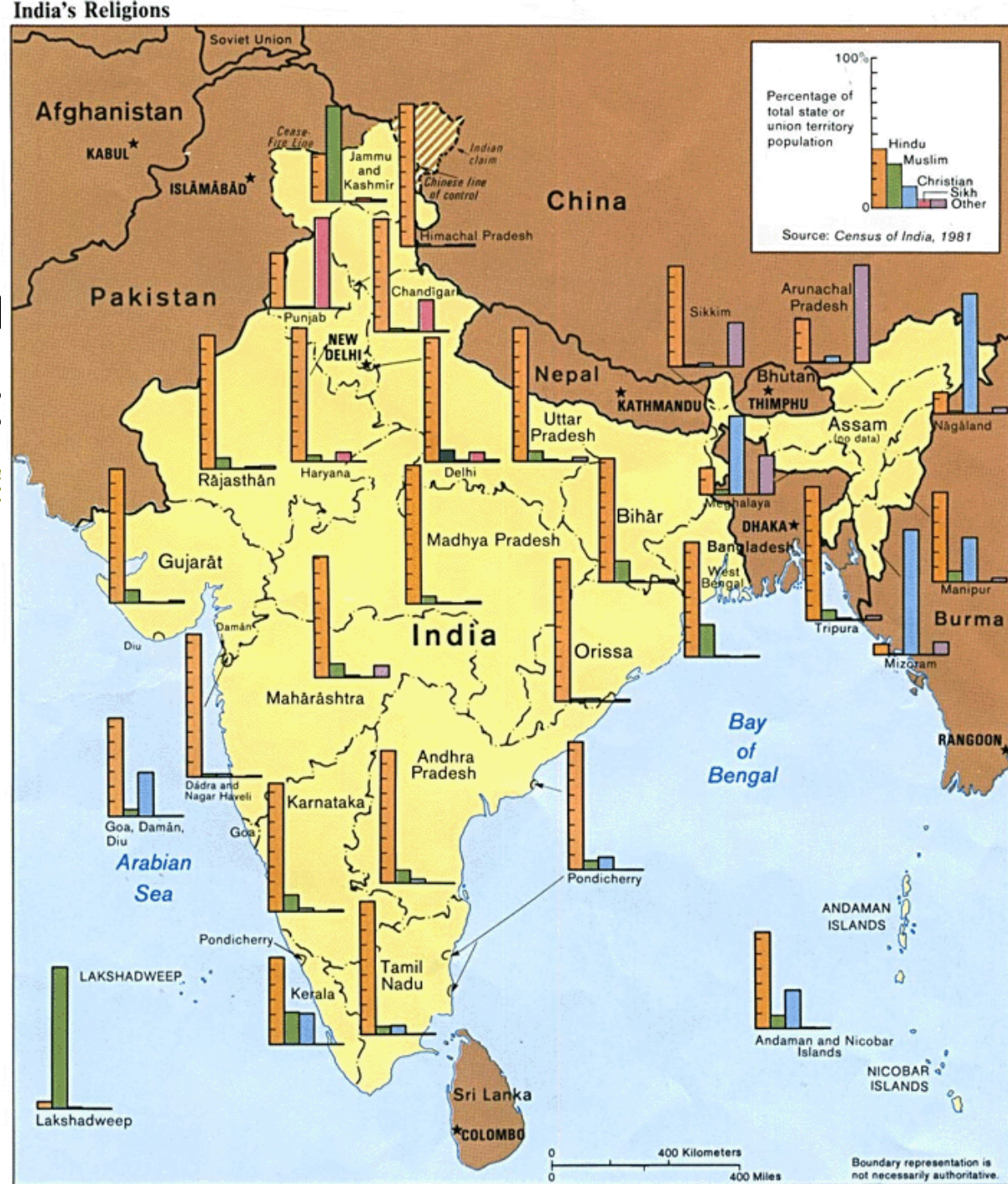
Orange -- Hindu

Green—Muslim

Blue—Christian

Red—Sikh

Other – Brown



Two examples of sacred sites:

瓦拉那西 (Varanasi. which Ganges passes thru')



(India -- Ganges 3:40)

卡傑拉霍(Khajuraho; 42:00)

Tourist site: Taj Mahal (11:00)

Discovery Channel Spirit of India

1. Other factors of Diversity:

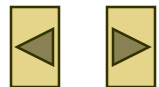
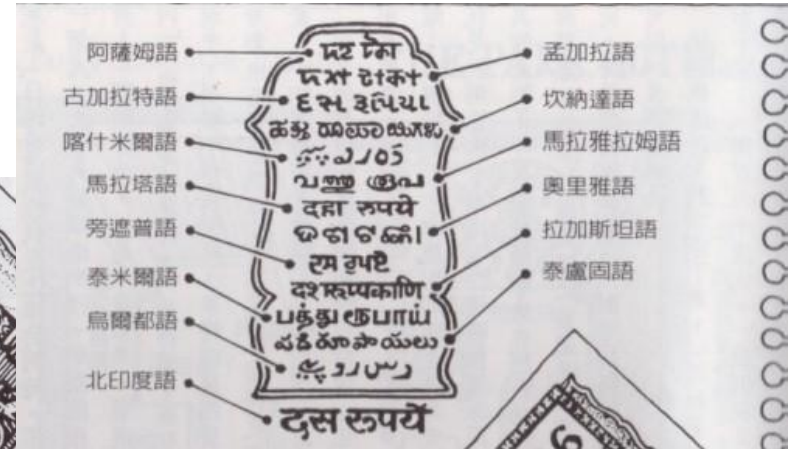
- **Language** (video: [The Indian Accent \(Indian English\)](#))
 - **14 major languages and more than 1,000 minor languages and dialects.**
 - the official language -- **Hindi**. (Many speak Hindi as a second language.)
 - **English** -- In 1965, **English** became an "**associate**" language. However, it is still commonly used by the government.
- **Caste system** of Hinduism: 3,000 castes and 25,000 subcastes in India
- more than 20 **political parties**

Languages on their money



不管
 是哪種
 紙幣，正反
 面一定都用十四
 種文字列出金額。這
 張十盧比（折合約一百
 五十日圓）的紙鈔就正反面
 都寫有十盧比字樣，再加上英語
 和阿拉伯數字，便有十六種。

（返國後馬上去印度大使館。出人意料
 地，要辨明這十四種語言還真非簡
 單任務。連擁有許多有識之士的
 大使館也花了一小時又二十
 分，而且還有兩種語言上
 面留有「？」記號。
 大使館的人也開
 始感興趣的樣
 子。）



Caste system

- The main castes: (video: [Is India's Caste System Still Alive](#))
 - **Brahman** (priest);
 - Kshatriya (ruler, warrior, landowner);
 - Vaishya (merchants);
 - Shudra (artisans, agriculturalists);
 - **Harijan** "outside" the caste system (once known as "untouchables") (source: <http://www.csuchico.edu/~cheinz/syllabi/asst001/spring98/india.htm>)
 - * Musicians-- Harijans (god's children) which used to be known as untouchables." ([reference](#))
 - (ref. [窺看印度] 妹尾河童眼中的種姓制度)

Caste system – Determined...

Ref.

- **by race?** “In a verse from the first millennium epic, the Mahabharata (摩訶婆羅多), Brigu, the sage explains: ‘The brahmins are fair, the kshatriyas are reddish, the vaishyas yellow and the sudras are black.’ [But] If different colours indicate different castes, then all castes are mixed castes.”
- **by work:** The Hindus also believe that a man's varna (caste) is determined by his profession and deeds and not by his birth.
- **Multiple meanings:** it changes its meaning according to the context it is used to denote “form, quality, class, category, race, merit or virtue.”
- Practically, Varna (caste) came to signify an endogamic (同族通婚) group, **its members linked by heredity, marriage, custom and profession** ([source](#))

Caste system -- Today

- Seen illegal since 1947;
 - Two Indias: the rich and the poor, not following the caste lines
-
- In some villages, some lower caste people are still marginalized, and **inter-caste marriage is still prohibited (e.g. *The God of Small Things*)**;
 - In 1998, “sixty people were killed by the Ranvir Sena, a self-styled armed militia of the upper-caste landed gentry, formed to crush the movements of Dalits (the untouchables) and agricultural laborers.” ([source](#)) Tsundur massacres in Andhra Pradesh ([source](#))

Exceptions . . . ?

- ***A Life Less Ordinary*** --Baby Halder, as a maid to an anthropologist who encourages her to write.
- Azharuddin Mohammed Ismail & Rubina Ali from ***Slumdog Millionaire*** → *Hollywood/Bollywood dream?*



As of March 5, 2011, however, Ali was homeless after their shanty in Garib Nagar, an illegal slum in north Mumbai burned down in a broader fire, this despite promises more than year before that the family would be rehoused in a proper, legal house.^[8] Ali's father claimed that the sum offered by the Jai Ho Trust founded by Danny Boyle was too little to purchase an apartment in an "acceptable area." (More

Exceptions . . . ?

- Azharuddin Mohammed Ismail & Rubina Ali from *Slumdog Millionaire* → *Hollywood/Bollywood dream?*



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British Colonization: East India Company

**Inequality between British
Imports and Indian Exports**

British Colonization: East India Company

- 貿易進出口關稅不公
- 1774 Warren Hastings of the **British India Company** became the first governor-general of India.

(“*The export, import, and manufacture of goods moved from the hands of independent Indian merchants to **intermediaries hired by the British East India Company**”.* source)

(In the early 1800s imports of Indian cotton and silk goods faced duties of **70-80%**. British imports faced duties of **2-4%**! Source)

British Colonization:

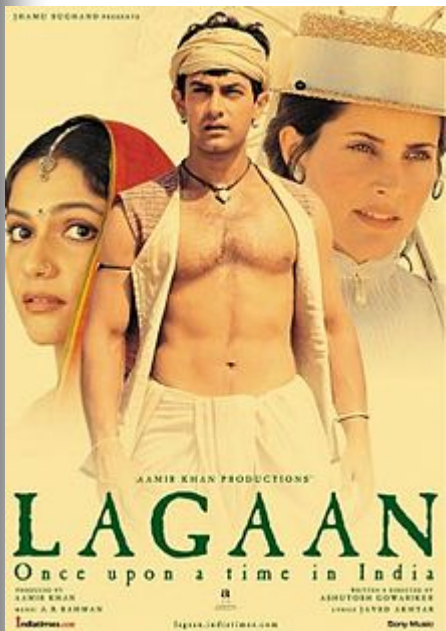
Consequences **Ref.**

1. **Machines replacing human labor:** 使用機器，迫使許多工匠無法發揮長處，
2. **Lower income:** 國民所得降低，導致暴亂。
3. **Setting up of the Indian National Congress:** 之後印度成立國會。
 - “. . .millions of ruined artisans and craftsmen, spinners, weavers, potters, smelters and smiths were rendered jobless and had to become **landless agricultural workers.**
 - *In the last half of 19th century, **India's income fell by 50%.** In the 190 years prior to independence, the Indian economy was literally stagnant - it experienced **zero growth.***
 - **1857 - 58 the Mutiny**
 - 1885 The Indian National Congress Party was set up. (Under mahatma Gandhi and jawaharlal Nehru)

Example (1): Lagaan 榮耀之役 (2001)

Ref.

- Setting: a small village of Champaner in North India in 1890s
- Protagonist: Bhuvan, Gauri, captain Russell and his sister, Elizabeth



Example (2): bridge party in A

Passage to India

Ref.

- In the party, only a select few of the English guests behave well toward the Indians. . . . Mrs. Moore scolds her son for being impolite to the Indians, but Ronny Heaslop feels that **he is not in India to be kind, for there are more important things to do**; this offends her sense of Christian charity.

Example (2): bridge party in *A Passage to India*

Ref.

- Indians separate from the British.



- Mrs. Moore trying to socialize



A Passage to India

Ref.

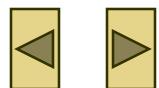
- Mrs. Moore: This is one of the most unnatural affairs I have ever attended.
- Ronny: Of course it's unnatural. Now you see.
- Mrs. Moore: I do not see why you all behave so unpleasantly to these people.
- - We're not out here to be pleasant.
- Mrs. Moore: - Ronny, what do you mean?
- India isn't a drawing room. We're out here to do justice and to keep the peace. I'm not a missionary or a sentimental socialist. - I'm just a member of the civil service.
- Mrs. Moore: - As simple as that.
- What do you and Adela want me to do? Sacrifice my career? Lose the power I have for doing good in this country?
- Mrs. Moore: Good? You're speaking about power. The whole of this entertainment is an exercise in power, and the subtle pleasures of personal superiority. (*band plays "God Save the King"*) God has put us on earth to love and help our fellow men.

Independence and Partition

- 1947 8/14;8/15 Partition into India and Pakistan; & Independence
- 1948 India achieved sovereignty.
- **1965** Indo-Pakistani war
- **1971-East Pakistan** separates from West Pakistan and **Bangladesh** is born
- 1975-1977 Indira Gandhi's **Emergency Rule** – To solve the poverty problem, she forced a lot of poor people to be neutered.
- 1998 -- Nuclear race
- 2008 -- Mumbai attacks

1) The border ceremony near Wagah.

2. Timeline at BBC



3. Independence, Partition & Women



Image source:
[http://archive.abcnews.go.com/sections/world/indiapak814/index.ht](http://archive.abcnews.go.com/sections/world/indiapak814/index.html)

ml

Partition



Partition (2)



Indo-Pakistani War

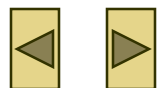
Ref.

- First Kashmir War (1947-1948)
- Second Kashmir War (1965)
- Bengali War of Independence (1971)
- Kashmir Border Conflict (1990?-Present)
- **Nuclear arms race** (1974- 1998 -) 1998年5月，印度和巴基斯坦相繼進行了11次地下核子試驗。
- **2001/12/13** Following the terrorist attack on India's Parliament, tensions between India and Pakistan increased, with machine gun, mortar and artillery fire across their border (called the Line of Control) **in disputed Kashmir.**



Recent Situations

- 2004 -- India refused to take foreign supports in the recent South Asia tsunami, offering to help the other affected areas instead.
- 2004 -- Peace Talk resumed
- 2008 → Fundamentalist bombing attacks in Mumbai and Kashmir
- 2010/4 --a high profile Pakistani cricketer, Shoaib Malik married the Indian tennis star Sania Mirza.
- 2011/2/10-- India agreed to resume **talks** with Pakistan
- 2017 China-India border standoff



Women in Traditional Indian Society, Iran and Afghanistan

1. Marriage:
widowhood, Child
Marriage

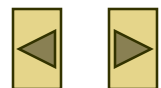
Sati



2. Purdah --
(Hijab)



Women in Traditional Pakistani Society



Impacts of Nationalism & Partition on women

Ref.

- Nationalist movement was considered top on the priority.
- Women were called to learn to be independent, yet they were not given suffrage nor seats in the National Congress.

- Deaths in the riots and 15 million refugees
- Women and the "ghost trains"

Impacts of Nationalism on the women in Iran & Afghanistan

• **Iran:** 伊朗本是一個擁有眾多虔誠信徒的伊斯蘭國家，可是1960年代以後，巴列維國王(Reza Shah Pahlavi)在伊朗進行大膽激進的**西方式社會改革**，引起了伊斯蘭勢力的強烈不滿。1977年開始，伊朗各地開始出現反政府運動，1978年下半年反政府運動達到高潮。1979年1月，巴列維國王被迫出國，因反對國王而流亡國外的**伊斯蘭精神領袖霍梅尼返回伊朗**。1979年4月霍梅尼宣佈成立伊朗伊斯蘭共和國，憲法規定**伊斯蘭教義為立國準則**，建立起一個政教合一的伊斯蘭國家。(source: [林思雲](#))

Afghanistan: Taliban rule (1996-2001)

聯合國人道關懷和媒體平台 (IRIN) 二〇〇七年的報導指出，**阿富汗女性中八七%是文盲**，七〇%到八〇%的女性婚姻非自主，每三人即有一人遭受身體、心理或是性暴力。(source)

Cultures (Others)

- Pop music
- Mutual influences of **Hollywood and Bollywood**

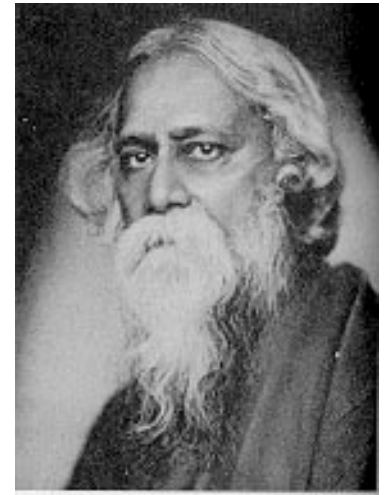


Ref. Literary Examples (1) –

Tagore

Ref.

- Over one thousand poems; nearly two dozen plays and play-lets; eight novels; eight or more volumes of short stories; more than two thousands songs, of which he wrote both the words and the music; and a mass of prose on literary, social, religious, political, and other topics.
- Known in Taiwan for his poems on nature and children.
- “Flute Music”: a migrant worker’s life in a city



Ref. Tagore: “Flute Music” –

Description of Poverty

Ref.

1. State of poverty: A man in a small room-

- Miserable living conditions
 - The room (stanzas 1-5; “Decaying walls, windows crumbling to dust in places/Or strained with damp.”)
 - description of the alley (4th stanza)
- compared to a lizard

2. Influences of poverty –

- Staying out to save the cost of light (2nd stanza)
- his girl -- (3rd and last stanza)

Monsoon darkness
sticks in my damp room
Like an animal caught in a
dead trap,
Lifeless and numb.
day and night I feel strapped
bodily
On to a half-dead world.

Ref. The influences of flute music

Ref.

- **Kantababu – one of the Harijans?**
- **Companion:** The sound of it comes in gusts
On the foul breeze of the alley -
Sometimes in the middle of the night,
Sometimes in the early morning twilight,
Sometimes in the afternoon
When sun and shadows glitter.
Suddenly this evening
He starts to play runs in Sindhu-Baroya rag,
And the whole sky rings
With eternal pangs of separation.
- **Takes him back to his village.**

Literary Examples (2) – “What is Worth Knowing”

Sujata Bhatt (b. 1956) –

- grew up in Pune, India,
- emigrated with her family to the United States in 1968.
- studied in the States receiving an MFA from the University of Iowa and went on to be writer-in-residence at the University of Victoria, Canada.
- currently lives with her husband and daughter in Bremen, Germany. ([source](#))



- **Look for (1) the signs of Indian culture and colonial influences; (2) the “Western” signs of displacement; (3) knowledge of geology and climate**

© Image by Frank Pusch [source](#)

Poems about/for Women

- **Poems** ("Purdah 1," "To Sylvia Plath")
 - Who are “she,” “you” and “we” in these poems?
 - Oppression of women in India and in the West.
 - Solutions?

Next Week

- **Mira Nair: Salaam Bombay**
- **“Gaiinda”**

References

- **India-Pakistan border ceremony – BBC**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NC9NeJh1Nhl&feature=first>

- **Changing face of modern India – BBC** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6-2hllmXok&feature=relmfu>