

Siege of Aornos

ancient Macedonian history

⋮ Actions

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Last Updated: [Article History](#)

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Date: 327 BCE

Location: [Pakistan](#)

Participants: [Macedonia](#)

Key People: [Alexander the Great](#)

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Siege of Aornos, (327 BC), conflict in which [Alexander the Great](#) seized a nearly impregnable natural [stronghold](#) blocking his route to India. Aornos is evidently modern Pīr Sarāī, a steep ridge a few miles west of the Indus and north of the Buner rivers in modern [Pakistan](#). Unable to storm the rock, Alexander seized the hill opposite and threatened the Indians' encampment with his catapults. They retreated but were caught, and many were slaughtered.



Pakistan

⋮ Actions

Also known as: *Islām-i Jamhūrīya-e Pākistān*, *Islamic Republic of Pakistan*, *Pakistan*

Written by [Lawrence Ziring](#), [Shahid Javed Burki](#) | [See All](#)

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flag of Pakistan

0:00 / 1:22

Audio File: National anthem of Pakistan

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Head Of Government: Prime Minister: [Shehbaz Sharif](#)

Capital: [Islamabad](#)

Population: (2023 est.) 232,690,000

Currency Exchange Rate: 1 USD equals 285.457 Pakistani rupee

Head Of State: President: Arif Alvi

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Recent News

May 31, 2023, 6:40 AM ET (AP)

[Pakistani police say gunmen kill 1 soldier and wound another in attack on polio workers](#)

Gunmen killed one soldier and wounded another Wednesday when they opened fire on security forces escorting a team of polio workers during a door-to-door inoculation campaign in a former Pakistani Taliban stronghold near the Afghan border, police said

May 24, 2023, 2:54 PM ET (AP)

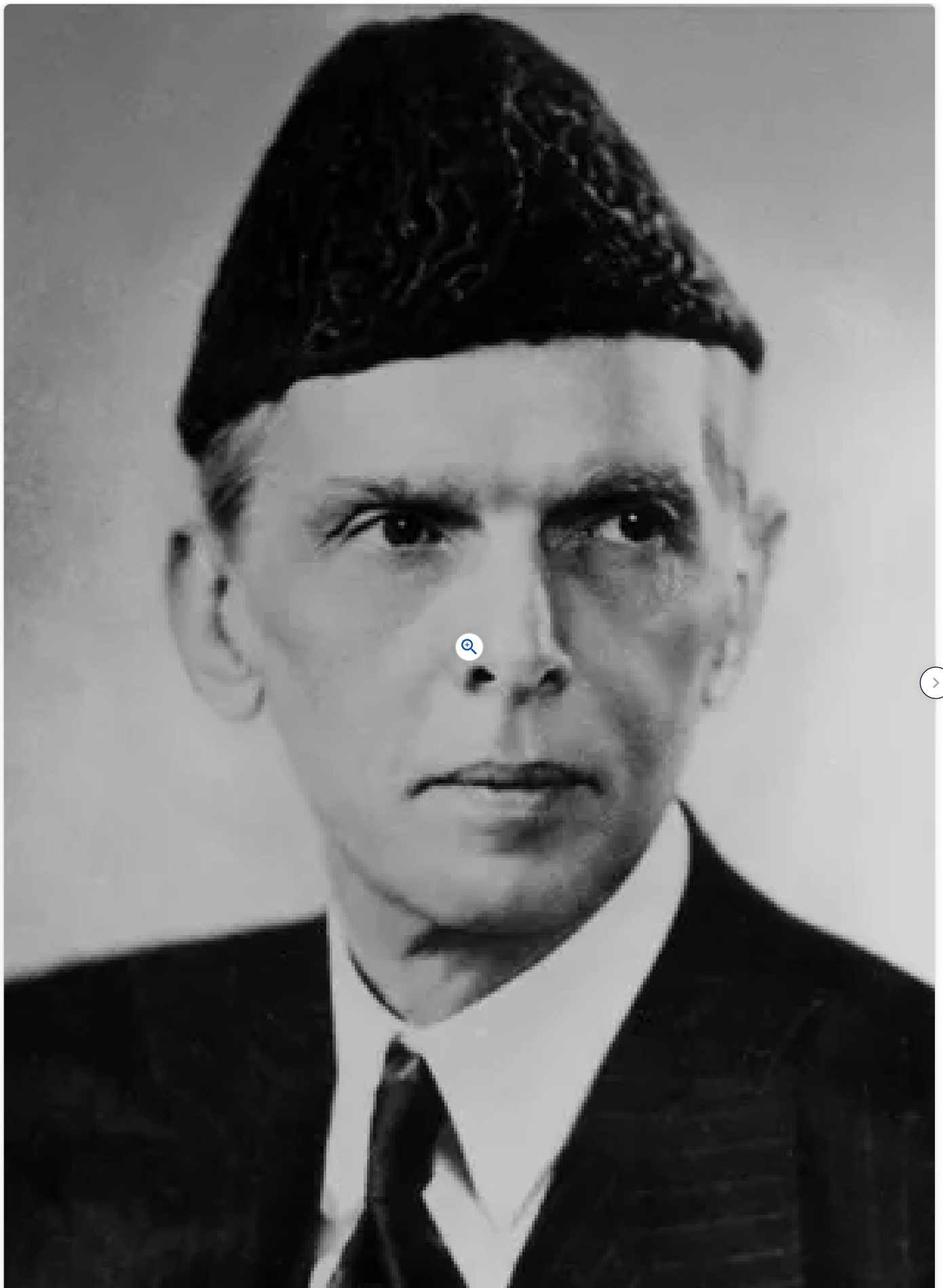
[Pakistan's ex-premier Imran Khan softens demand for snap vote amid crackdown on party](#)

Pakistan's embattled former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday softened his year-long demand for early elections and said he is forming a committee for talks with the government to end the country's lingering political turmoil

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Pakistan, populous multiethnic [country](#) of [South Asia](#). Having a predominately Indo-Iranian speaking population, Pakistan has historically and culturally been associated with its neighbours [Iran](#), [Afghanistan](#), and [India](#). Since Pakistan and India achieved independence in 1947, Pakistan has been distinguished from its larger southeastern neighbour by its overwhelmingly Muslim population (as opposed to the predominance of Hindus in India). Pakistan has struggled throughout its existence to attain political

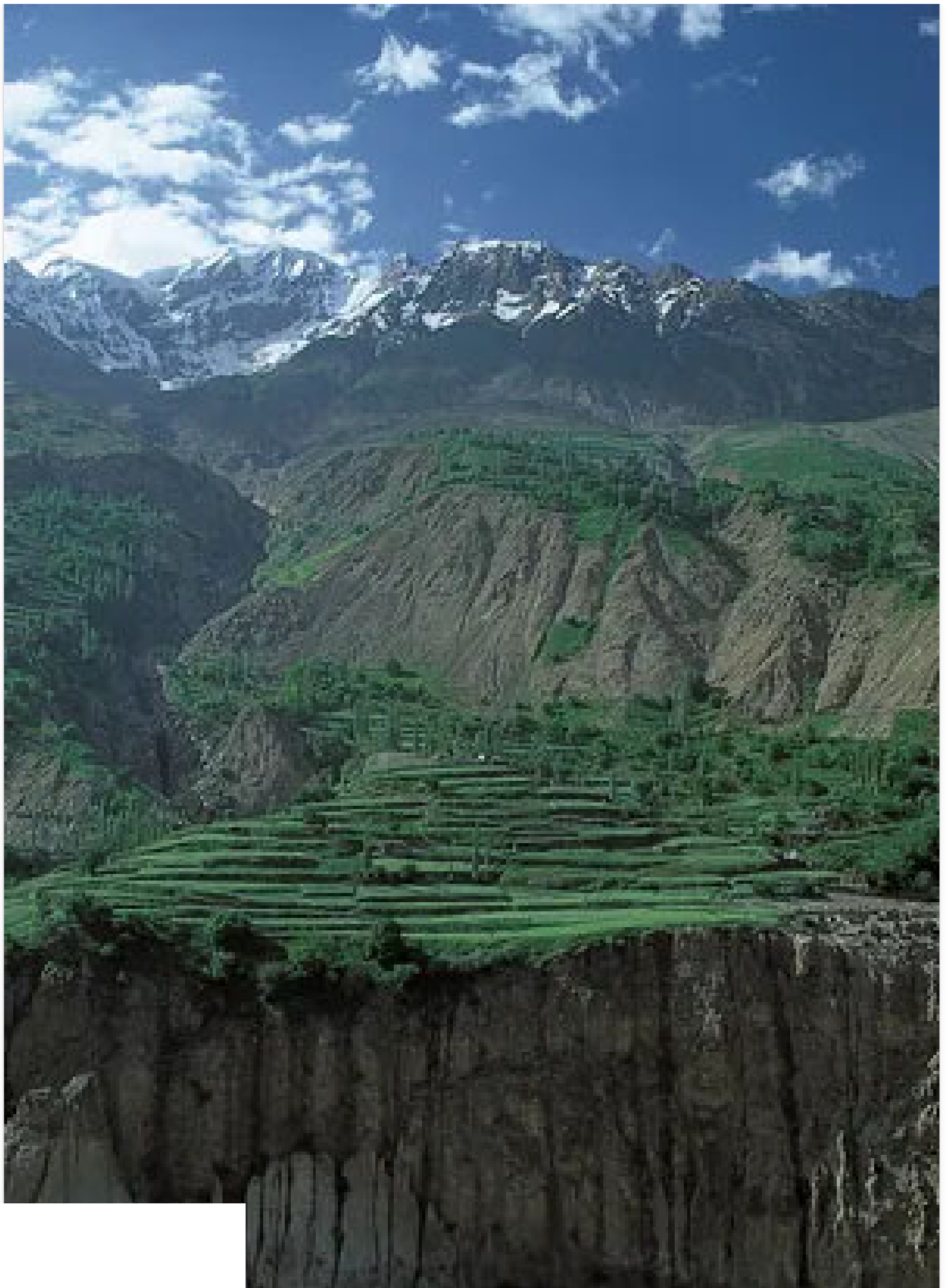
stability and sustained [social development](#). Its capital is [Islamabad](#), in the foothills of the [Himalayas](#) in the northern part of the country, and its largest city is [Karachi](#), in the south on the coast of the [Arabian Sea](#).



Mohammed Ali Jinnah

Pakistan was brought into being at the time of the partition of British India, in response to the demands of Islamic nationalists: as [articulated](#) by the All India [Muslim League](#) under the leadership of [Mohammed Ali Jinnah](#), India's Muslims would receive just representation only in their own country. From independence until 1971, Pakistan (both [de facto](#) and in law) consisted of two regions—West Pakistan, in the Indus River basin in the northwestern portion of the [Indian subcontinent](#), and East Pakistan, located more than 1,000 miles (1,600 km) to the east in the vast delta of the Ganges-Brahmaputra river system. In response to grave internal political problems that erupted in civil war in 1971, East Pakistan was proclaimed the independent country of [Bangladesh](#).







, a complex of valleys, and inhospitable plateaus, down to the remarkably even surface of the fertile
thward into the Arabian Sea. It contains a section of the ancient [Silk Road](#) and the [Khyber Pass](#), the
t outside influences into the otherwise isolated subcontinent. Lofty peaks such as [K2](#) and [Nanga](#)
ed region of [Kashmir](#), present a challenging lure to mountain climbers. Along the Indus River, the
te of [Mohenjo-daro](#) marks one of the cradles of civilization.



Yet, politically and culturally, Pakistan has struggled to define itself. Established as a [parliamentary democracy](#) that espoused [secular](#) ideas, the country has experienced repeated military coups, and religion—that is to say, [adherence](#) to the values of [Sunni](#) Islam—has increasingly become a standard by which political leaders are measured. In addition, parts of northern Pakistan—particularly the areas of [Khyber Pakhtunkhwa](#) formerly designated as [Federally Administered Tribal Areas](#) (FATA)—have become a haven for members of several militant Islamist groups, including the [Taliban](#) of neighbouring [Afghanistan](#) since the 2001 [U.S. invasion of Afghanistan](#). In various parts of the country, instances of ethnic, religious, and social conflict have flared up from time to time, often rendering those areas virtually ungovernable by the central authorities, and acts of violence against religious minorities have increased.



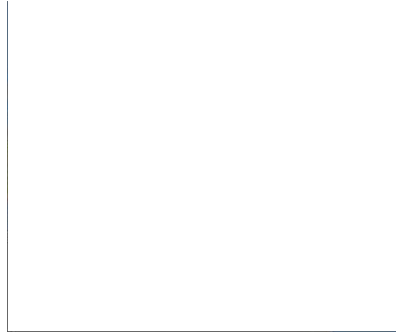
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At the time of partition in 1947, as many as 10 million Muslim refugees fled their homes in India and sought refuge in Pakistan—about 8 million in West Pakistan. Virtually an equal number of Hindus and Sikhs were uprooted from their land and familiar surroundings in what became Pakistan, and they fled to India. Unlike the earlier migrations, which took centuries to unfold, these [chaotic](#) population transfers took hardly one year. The resulting impact on the life of the subcontinent has reverberated ever since in the rivalries between the two countries, and each has continued to seek a lasting modus vivendi with the other. Pakistan and India have fought four wars, three of which (1948–49, 1965, and 1999) were over Kashmir. Since 1998 both countries have also possessed nuclear weapons, further heightening tensions between them.

Land

Pakistan is bounded by [Iran](#) to the west, [Afghanistan](#) to the northwest and north, [China](#) to the northeast, and [India](#) to the east and southeast. The coast of the [Arabian Sea](#) forms its southern border.



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Since 1947 the Kashmir region, along the [western Himalayas](#), has been disputed, with Pakistan, India, and China each controlling sections of the territory. Part of the Pakistani-administered territory [comprises](#) the so-called [Azad Kashmir](#) (“Free Kashmir”) region—which Pakistan nonetheless considers an independent state, with its capital at Muzaffarabad. The remainder of Pakistani-administered Kashmir consists of [Gilgit](#) and Baltistan, known collectively after 2009 as Gilgit-Baltistan (formerly the Northern Areas).

Relief and drainage



Physical features of Pakistan

Pakistan is situated at the western end of the great [Indo-Gangetic Plain](#). Of the total area of the country, about three-fifths consists of rough mountainous terrain and plateaus, and the remaining two-fifths [constitutes](#) a wide expanse of level plain. The land can be divided into five major regions: the Himalayan and Karakoram ranges and their subranges; the [Hindu Kush](#) and western mountains; the [Balochistan](#) plateau; the submontane plateau ([Potwar Plateau](#), [Salt Range](#), trans-Indus plain, and [Sialkot](#) area); and the Indus River plain. Within each major division there are further subdivisions, including a number of desert areas.