

A TEXTBOOK OF OBJECTIVE GEOGRAPHY



Tapas Bhattacharya
Alok Baptist



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CHAPTER 1

A COMPLETE INTRODUCTION ON THE WORLD GEOGRAPHY

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ABSTRACT:

The study of geography connects the social and physical sciences and may provide a conceptual framework for comprehending the world. We may start to comprehend the connections and elements that bind our human group together by studying geography. The fast movement of knowledge and technology, as well as the expansion of transportation and communication methods, are all contributing to the huge globalization that is currently taking place. The more we comprehend the world, the more equipped we will be to deal with the problems that our future holds. There are several methods for researching global geography. This textbook adopts a regional perspective and concentrates on subjects that depict the process of globalization, which helps us comprehend our global society and its current issues.

KEYWORDS:

Cultures, Ecosystems, Geography, Global, Landscapes.

INTRODUCTION

Numerous ideas related to geographic information science (GIS) are included in spatial analysis, which examines the relationships and distribution of various forms of information using computer databases. The position indications from the GIS data are fed into computer programs that turn them into points or other map elements. Landforms, climates, and the distribution of plants and animals are all topics covered by earth science. Studies of an area or region help us comprehend the dynamics of a particular interplay between human activities and the environment. When examining the effects of people on their environment, researchers look at how various civilizations have utilized and altered their surroundings. Geography gives natural or human events a feeling of location, making it possible to combine information from several disciplines into a useful form. You'll discover that geography often explains what happens where and why. The spatial method is used in world geography to better comprehend the constituent parts of our global society[1], [2].Through four historical practices, geography aids us in understanding the world.

1. Geographical examination of human and natural civilizations
2. Earth science
3. Local research
4. Human-environment interactions

Geographic's is the geographical study of the surface of the earth from the Greek geo, "Earth," and graphein, "to write". Geographers research the physical features of the globe, its people and civilizations, natural phenomena like climate, and the position of the world in the cosmos. Geography studies how all global physical and cultural phenomena relate to one another in space. Geographers also study how human activity is affecting the world, its climate, and its landscapes.

Eratosthenes of Cyrene (present-day Libya in North Africa), a Greek scholar who lived between 276 and 194 BCE, is credited with coining the term "geography" for the first time. He computed the circumference of the world and developed one of the first systems of

longitude and latitude. He also produced one of the first globe maps using the information that was accessible at the time. Maps and navigational systems were also constructed at the same time by other ancient societies in China, southern Asia, Polynesia, and the Arabian Peninsula.

Physical geography and human geography are the two primary concentrations within the field of geography. Both of these major subfields entail the study of location and the comparison of one place to another, and they both adopt a spatial viewpoint. The geographic study of natural phenomena, such as rivers, mountains, landforms, weather, climate, soils, plants, and any other physical elements of the earth's surface, is known as physical geography. The emphasis of physical geography is on geography as an application of earth science. The primary physical components of the earth the lithosphere surface layer, atmosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere living things as well as the connections between these components tend to be highlighted [3]–[5]. The following are some of the main physical geography research areas:

1. Glaciology is the study of glaciers
2. Geomorphology is the study of the characteristics on the earth's surface
3. Coastal geography, which is the study of coastal areas.
4. Climatology, which examines climates and climate change
5. Biogeography, which examines the spatial patterns of species distribution

DISCUSSION

Physical geographers may research where the earth is located inside the solar system. Those who study the spatial features and cultural perspectives of the natural environment are known as environmental geographers. Physical and human geography, as well as a grasp of how people conceive their surroundings and the physical terrain, are all necessary for understanding environmental geography. The natural topography at any given location on Earth is referred to as the physical landscape. The physical characteristics of the planet were created by tectonic plate movement, weather, erosion, and water. Yellowstone, Yosemite, and the Grand Canyon are just a few of the US state and national parks that make an effort to maintain distinctive physical landscapes for the public to enjoy. The study of human activity and how it relates to the surface of the globe is known as human geography. Human geographers study the geographic distribution of human populations, as well as racial and ethnic groups, political and economic systems, and other aspects of daily life. Focusing on the origins and effects of human settlement and dispersal over the landscape, they investigate patterns of interaction between human civilizations and varied surroundings. Human geography's core concerns are the economic and cultural elements of mankind, yet it is impossible to comprehend these aspects without explaining the environment in which these activities take place [6], [7].

The sections of the earth's surface that people have changed or produced are referred to as the "cultural landscape." A city's urban cultural landscape, for instance, may consist of structures like buildings, streets, signs, parking lots, or cars, while a rural cultural landscape might be made up of things like fields, orchards, fences, barns, or farmsteads. The cultural landscape of a place at a certain moment is influenced by local cultural elements that are specific to that location, such as religion, language, ethnicity, traditions, or legacy. The cultural landscape's colors, sizes, and forms often signify some amount of importance in terms of society standards. Understanding and assessing regional cultural variations is made easier by spatial dynamics.

Geographers have long relied on the field of cartography, or the creation of maps. Geographers examine the spatial (space) and temporal (time) linkages between a wide range of data kinds, including physical landscape types, economics, and human activities, in addition to cartography, which remains a crucial component of geography. The interactions and processes between people and their physical and cultural contexts are also examined in geography. Cartography and geographic information systems have grown in significance in contemporary sciences because maps are potent visual tools that enable us to demonstrate links and processes at work in the world. Geographers develop and use maps to convey spatial information about the surface of the world. Maps are the most popular way to illustrate various spatial features. Geographers employ geospatial approaches as tools to visualize, organize, and work with geographical data. Making maps is the art and science of cartography, which helps us comprehend what is happening in a specific location at a certain moment by spatially illustrating data. With the advancement of the global positioning system (GPS), mapping and location verification have gotten more precise. When detecting one's position on the planet or validating a point on a map, a GPS device may receive signals from orbiting satellites and determine a precise location in latitude and longitude. In addition to being integrated into goods like cell phones, portable computers, fish finders, and other mobile devices, GPS units are now commonplace in many transportation systems. Around the globe, GPS technology is extensively used in the transportation of people, commodities, and services [8], [9]. With the use of satellite photos or aerial photographs obtained from aircraft, remote sensing technology gathers information about the surface of the globe. Geographers may identify, comprehend, or explain a specific landscape, as well as ascertain the land use of a location, using remotely sensed photographs. The cartographic (map-making) process may benefit from the inclusion of these photographs as crucial elements. These technologies provide us the tools to look at and evaluate surface changes brought on by both natural and human sources. A great example of a computer program that displays photographs of places on the planet that have been remotely detected is Google planet. Using a computer software, geographic information science (GIS), also known as geographic information systems, assimilates and manages several layers of map data to provide detailed information on a single location. GIS data are often organized into layers and stored digitally. Layers of data may be sorted or analyzed by the GIS computer application to highlight a particular characteristic or activity. Applications for GIS software are many, ranging from mapping university students' hometowns to identifying the habitat range of a certain bird species. A GIS process using layers is shown below in Figure 1.

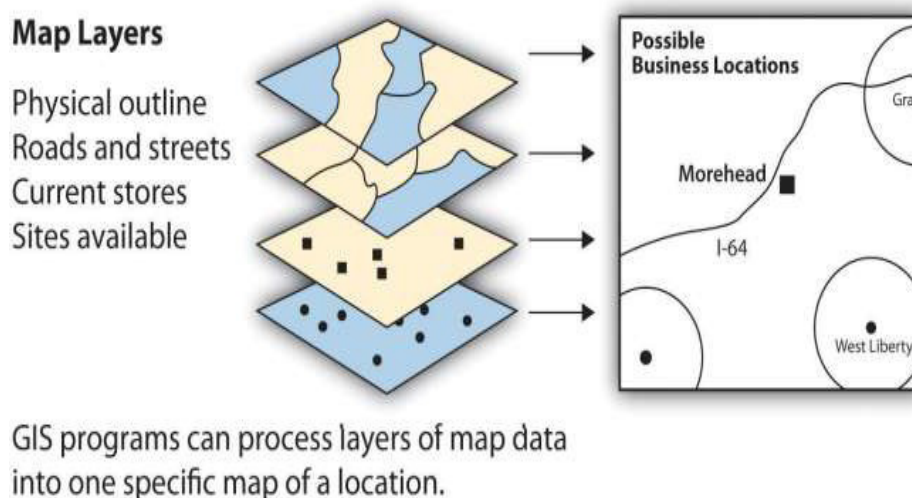


Figure 1: Shows s GIS Process Using Layers.

GIS experts often produce and evaluate geographical data for governmental organizations or commercial enterprises. They employ computer systems to produce the knowledge these businesses require in order to make crucial judgments from raw data. For instance, in commercial applications, GIS may be used to locate a retail shop in a desirable area based on the analysis of geographical data layers such as population distribution, highway or street configurations, and the locations of comparable stores or rival businesses. With the use of GIS, analysts may combine many maps into one to better comprehend a location in light of their own unique requirements. A key component of GIS is the storage of earth-related data (both cultural and natural), which can then be accessed and shown as customized maps for various studies or purposes. Computer and database system competence is necessary for GIS professionals. GIS software has completely changed the way that cartography is done during the previous 20 years; nowadays, almost all cartography is done with its help. Urban planning and other social and physical sciences also heavily rely on the examination of diverse cultural and natural phenomena using GIS software and specialized maps. Techniques for representing, analyzing, and predicting the geographical connections between various phenomena are also referred to as GIS.

Few people are aware of just how wide the discipline of geography is. Most people consider geography as a whole when they think about area studies. The study of the planet, especially how human activity has altered it, is what geography really entails. Understanding the shape of the earth's landforms is just one aspect of the sciences that make up geography. All of the planet's physical systems are included in physical geography. Studies of human culture, geographical linkages, human interactions with the environment, and many other areas of inquiry involving the many geography subspecialties are all included in the field of human geography. The geospatial methods, GIS, and remote sensing are the areas within geography where job prospects have increased the greatest over the last several decades, therefore students interested in a career in geography would be well served to master them.

Location of the Earth

Understanding an area or location's relative and absolute positions is the first step towards locating it on the planet.

The position on the surface of the earth in relation to other locations, taking into account elements like topography or availability to transit. One may compare the benefits of one area to those of another by considering its relative position. On the other hand, an absolute location refers to a precise position on the surface of the planet without taking into account its relationships to other locations. Absolute position is essential to the cartography process as well as to human endeavors that need for a shared system of identifying a location or point.

The earth also contains 360 degrees, and they are measured using a grid pattern known as the graticule. This is similar to how you were taught in geometry that there are 360 degrees in a circle or a sphere. Geographers can precisely identify, measure, and analyze spatial activity because lines of latitude and longitude give each absolute position on the planet an address in degrees north or south and east or west [10]. Geographers and cartographers use an array of fictitious lines to arrange places on the planet. Equator and prime meridian are the two main lines.

You may find your location on the earth by using the longitude and latitude systems that are created from these lines. When you go in an east-west direction, the line is the longest. On the two equinoxes, which take place in March and September, the sun is directly above at midday at the equator.

Geographical Regions

A region is a fundamental unit of study in geography; it is a portion of space that is defined by anything like a shared political condition, linguistic grouping, or physical characteristic. A region might be a formal nation with established political borders, like France or Canada; a region can be defined by a landform, like the Mississippi River drainage basin; or it can simply be the geographic area a shopping center serves. Comparable human behaviors, customs, or cultural traits may be used to categorize cultural areas. In order to map aspects of special interest, geographers employ the regional unit. Data may be compared across regions to help comprehend trends, spot patterns, or help explain a specific phenomenon.

Historically, intrinsic features that convey a feeling of location have been used to designate regions. Depending on the sort of region whether formal, functional, or vernacular their bounds differ own meaning and clearly stated purpose. A formal area has a governmental, administrative, or political border that is not subject to question or discussion. It may also include political boundaries. States, provinces, and even whole nations may be divided from one another by formal borders. Formal borders might include physical locations like the Rocky Mountains or New England. A formal boundary is one that is recognized by the government, such as the border of a national park. Governments in cities, counties, and school districts all have set borders.

Political borders of formal areas are greatly influenced by natural physical geographic factors. You will see that many political borders on a globe map are created by rivers, mountain ranges, and large lakes. For instance, a section of the border between the United States and Mexico is defined by the Rio Grande. The Saint Lawrence Seaway and the Great Lakes make up a significant portion of the eastern boundary between Canada and the United States. Europe's alpine mountain ranges draw boundaries, such as the one between Switzerland and Italy. Political disagreements often break out in neighboring regions, even if geographic characteristics might be useful as legal boundaries, especially if they include important natural or cultural resources. For instance, oil drilling along a country's shore might lead to a conflict between nations over which one has control over the oil resources. It is also debatable if offshore fisheries are overfished. Italy and Switzerland were at odds over a Neolithic mummy of a man who died around 3300 BCE. The corpse had been transferred to Innsbruck, Switzerland, but when it was discovered that it had really been discovered approximately 90 meters (180 feet) within the Italian border, Italian authorities claimed it.

Boundaries of functional areas within a specific area are determined by a practical function. When an area stops serving a purpose, its borders and functional region also come to an end. For instance, a newspaper delivery or service area may be used to establish a functional territory. The functional zone disappears if the newspaper goes out of business. Other examples of functional zones are retail centers, business service districts, and church parishes. They serve a particular area and may have specified restrictions for the area in which they would provide their services. A functional zone, or common service area, is something like the area to which a nearby pizza joint may deliver. Vernacular areas have arbitrary borders depending on individuals' opinions or ideas. Vernacular areas may be flexible, meaning that various individuals may have differing views on where they stop and begin. Concepts like the "Middle East" area are among the vernacular regions. Although many individuals have a general notion of where the Middle East is, many are unsure of which nations exactly make up the region. Additionally, there are other ways to refer to the Midwest or South in the United States. The position of the borders of the South or the Midwest may vary depending on who you ask. Depending on one's perspective, Kentucky may be considered to belong in the South or the Midwest. Similar to how different areas of

the United States have been referred to as the "Rust Belt," "Sun Belt," or "Biblical Belt" without having specific borders established. A vernacular area's boundary is more a matter of perception than of technically established standards. However, when employing one of the common words in a discussion, the majority of individuals would understand the overall subject being addressed [11], [12].

Regional Geography of the World

Global regional geography examines distinct global regions in relation to the rest of the globe. Landscape comparison factors cover both the geographical and cultural spheres. Who lives there is the key concern. How do they conduct their lives? Where do they get their money from? Location, type of climate, and topography are examples of physical elements that might be important. Cultural norms, ethnicity, language, religion, economy, and politics are examples of human elements. The goal of world regional geography is to comprehend the distinctive characteristics of regions in terms of their natural and cultural characteristics. It focuses on areas of varying sizes throughout the earth's surface.

The study of space may be crucial to regional geography. The distribution of cultural and natural phenomena within areas that are defined by diverse natural and cultural elements might be the subject of a scientific approach. Within any subject of study, such as regional economics, resource management, regional planning, and landscape ecology, the emphasis is on the spatial linkages. The regional emphasis of this textbook's topics emphasizes the process of globalization, which in turn aids in our understanding of the world community. In global regional geography, regions are united into bigger units called realms. Realms are vast areas of the earth that often include many regions and have a common overall location. Within each realm, regions are unified geographic areas.

Human Habitat and Climate

The capacity of the earth to receive and absorb sunlight is a key element in the ecosystem of the planet, and it also has a significant effect on human populations. Due to the extreme cold, there are no major towns or human settlements in Antarctica; instead, the majority of sunlight that does reach that latitude is reflected off the ground due to the tilt of the earth's axis and the associated angle of incoming solar radiation. Understanding climate is essential to figuring out where and why most people live where they do on Earth. Climates of type C that are moderate often provide the best conditions for human existence. Given that it gets the most direct sunshine throughout the year, the area between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn is beneficial for plant and animal life, providing there is sufficient moisture or precipitation. Even when portions of the mid-latitudes were covered by ice sheets, people have been living in the tropics for a very long time. The difficulty with tropical regions is that their soils are often deficient in quality and have had their nutrients leached away. The two key elements that draw human settlement are mild temperatures and easy availability to water, according to our current understanding of the earth's population distribution.

Water covers more than 70% of the surface of the globe. Less than 3% of the water is fresh, and the majority of that fresh water is kept under ice caps at either the North or South Poles, which is the main issue. Less than 1% of the fresh water on Earth is now available for human use; this fresh water is often found in lakes, rivers, streams, groundwater, and subterranean aquifers. Because precipitation is vital for producing crops, rearing animals, and providing fresh water to urban settlements, climate has a significant impact on where people choose to reside. To categorize different kinds of climate, some geographers have created classifications. A long-term typical weather pattern that is present in a certain geographic area is referred to as the climate. The word "weather" is often used to describe short-term or even

daily circumstances. Temperature and precipitation are the two primary components of climatic conditions. The Koppen-Geiger classification method has been used to categorize the numerous climatic types into six fundamental categories—A, B, C, D, E, and H—for the purposes of this review of global geography. The category of type E climates includes type H climates as a subset.

1. Type A: Climates that are tropical or equatorial
2. Type B: Climates that are dry or arid
3. Type C: Climates with a moderate or temperate range
4. Type D: Continental or chilly climates
5. Type E: Extreme or polar climates
6. Type H: (Unclassified) Type H Highland weather

CONCLUSION

The study of Earth's many different landscapes, ecosystems, and civilizations, as well as how they are connected, is known as global geography. This is a general summary of the significance of global geography in comprehending the planet's physical characteristics, human cultures, and the complex interactions between them. It emphasizes the importance of geography in tackling issues like resource management, urbanization, and climate change. Understanding the complex web of our globe may be done with the help of the study of global geography. Geography offers essential insights into the forces that define our world by investigating the physical characteristics of Earth, the distribution of civilizations, and the interplay between human societies and the environment. Understanding global geography is becoming more and more important in order to handle the difficult problems that mankind is facing as globalization continues to erode borders and increase interdependence. We can create a path toward sustainable coexistence and resource stewardship for both the now and the future via continual research and analysis.

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CHAPTER 2

UNDERSTANDING THE BOUNDARIES IN EUROPE: AN OVERVIEW

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ABSTRACT:

The complex topic of borders within the European setting is explored in depth in the study's introduction. Physical and figurative boundaries have been crucial in forming the history, politics, culture, and identity of the continent. This chapter offers a succinct summary of how changes in power, ideologies, and geographical demarcations have affected Europe's borders throughout time. This introduction offers the groundwork for a thorough investigation of borders' historical and current relevance as well as their influence on Europe's history, present, and future. Peninsulas, islands, and a variety of other features make up Europe's continent. The North Atlantic Ocean and Russia up to the Ural Mountains make up the historic borders of the European continent. An organic border to the north is created by the Arctic Ocean. The Mediterranean Sea, which encircles Malta and Cyprus as sovereign nations, serves as Europe's southernmost limit.

KEYWORDS:

Culture, Europe, Geography, History, Politics.

INTRODUCTION

Since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, Russia has been granted its own identity and is not included in the study of Europe in this work. Although Greenland lies close to Canada in North America, due to Denmark's colonial conquest of the island, it has long been seen as a part of Europe. Physically, Greenland is closer to North America. Turkey is included in studies of the Middle East despite having a section in Europe and being regarded as being in Asia Minor. The Bosphorus, also known as the Istanbul Strait, is a canal in Turkey that connects the Black Sea and the Aegean Sea, acting as a natural boundary between Asia and Europe. Europe is very near to North Africa; from Spain, one can view Morocco's coast across the Strait of Gibraltar [1], [2].

Presenting the Realm

Europe's historical pattern of growth, from the Roman Empire to the European Union (EU), is a case study in regional geography. The continent strives to address the cultural factors that both unify and divide it, from ancient empires to varied nation-states to a multi-nation union. Since the Industrial Revolution, European colonization has had a significant influence on the globe that is still felt today. The Industrial Revolution's rural-to-urban transition originally affected Europe, and it has an ongoing effect on emerging nations. Comprehending Europe's geography is crucial to comprehending the rest of the globe. This succinct breakdown of the fundamental ideas will teach readers a crucial lesson about globalization, which has an impact on every person on the earth. The ideas and standards that apply to Europe also hold true for other nations and areas.

Climate and Location

A northern continent is called Europe. For instance, the whole British Isles are located above the fifty-first parallel. Much of Europe is located north of the United States when we look at where it is on a globe in relation to the contiguous United States. Fargo, North Dakota and

Paris, France are located at similar latitudes. Athens, Greece, and St. Louis, Missouri, are located at similar latitudes. Considered as a significant factor in the development of the European character, Europe's northern location has an impact on its growing seasons and inhabitants' emotions. The Atlantic Ocean and Arctic Ocean both border Europe on its western and northern sides, respectively, while several seas round its numerous peninsulas and coastal districts[3], [4].

The climates of the planet are significantly influenced by the seas. Particularly around the equator, the seas capture and store enormous quantities of solar energy, which they then use to move heat through the atmosphere. Water may be transported hundreds of miles by ocean currents from one temperature zone to another. Maritime climates are often milder than continental ones, with lower temperature changes from day to night as well as from winter to summer, since seas can absorb so much heat. This affects large areas of Europe and the rest of the world's precipitation patterns as well as temperature. There are several ways that water modifies coastal ecosystems. Compared to land, water warms and cools more slowly. Because of this heat inertia, coastal settlements enjoy temperatures that are often milder than one would anticipate for locations this far north. Interior Europe lacks access to coastal seas and may have winters that are just as chilly as those in the upper Midwest of the United States.

DISCUSSION

The Gulf Stream, which may be the most significant stream for the climate of Western Europe, creates a mild environment for a northern latitude position. Type C weather prevails over the majority of Western Europe. The Gulf of Mexico is where the Gulf Stream is born since the waters there are warmed. Before crossing the Atlantic Ocean to reach Europe, this strong current travels over the US Eastern Seaboard. The western coastline islands of Scotland, which are at a latitude as far north as Hudson Bay, Canada, yet have a temperate enough temperature to sustain certain types of tropical vegetation, are where the Gulf Stream has its most noticeable effects. Another illustration comes from the Norwegian shore. Despite being mostly in the Arctic, Norway's coastline area doesn't get much ice or snow in the winter. The colder type D climates are found closer to Eastern Europe and Russia and deeper inland. Winters in this eastern area are cooler because colder air descends from the Arctic or from eastern Siberia. The Mediterranean Sea provides a type C climate along its coastlines by regulating the temperature to the south. Iceland and Norway are located at or close to the Arctic Circle, where type C and type E climates collide.

Four primary landforms in Europe

There are four primary landforms in Europe, as well as several islands and peninsulas and a range of climates. The Alpine area, Central Uplands, Northern Lowlands, and Western Highlands are the four primary landforms. Each one stands for a distinct geographical region of Europe. Europe's diverse physical environment has given rise to a wealth of species. The term "biodiversity" describes the variety of species and the number of individuals that make up each species in an environment.

Additionally, the physical environment offers raw materials and natural resources for human operations. Europe's proximity to the many rivers and oceans supports its temperate temperatures and advantageous relative placement. The Industrial Revolution in Europe, which gave birth to highly technological and urban cultures, was fostered by these beneficial growth elements. One of the major economic hubs of the world economy has emerged: Europe. High human population densities that have strained the environment are linked to the

urbanization of Europe. As a consequence, there has been extensive deforestation and habitat loss, which has in turn reduced the degree of biodiversity in the realm[5]–[7].

In Europe, there are many rivers, and they have long served as a reliable mode of transportation for both commerce and travel. The vast majority of Europe may be reached by water, either by the many rivers or the lengthy beaches of the peninsulas and islands. Europe is divided by two major rivers.

The Rhine and the Danube

Both originated in the part of southern Germany that is on or very close to the Swiss border. In Rotterdam, Holland, one of the busiest ports in the world, when the Rhine River runs north, it empties into the North Sea. Before draining into the Black Sea, the Danube runs past a number of significant European towns, including Vienna, Budapest, and Belgrade.

Alpine Area

The heart of the Alpine area is made up of the High Alps, which stretch from eastern France to Slovenia. The Pyrenees, which divide France and Spain, the Apennines, which run the length of Italy, the Carpathians, which wrap around Romania from Slovakia, and the shorter Dinaric Alps in the former Yugoslavia are all included in the Alpine Range. Minerals and ores that were deposited there by the earth's internal processes when the mountains were formed are often found in mountains. Mountains serve as a separating line that may divide individuals into various cultural groupings, which further isolates people. The Mediterranean coasts, which have more moderate type C climates with hot, dry summers and cold, rainy winters, are encircled by the Alpine area. Food items including olives, citrus fruit, figs, apricots, and grapes may be grown in this sort of environment. In the Mediterranean area, evergreen scrub oaks and other drought-resistant plants are widespread.

Uplands in the center

The term "Central Uplands" refers to the area bordering the major Alps to the north, which covers a significant chunk of southern Germany stretching eastward. These Alps' foothills are a fantastic supply of coal and other precious raw materials, which are used in industrial processes. For rearing cattle and cultivating dairy products, the Central Uplands are excellent settings. Oak, elm, and maple trees coexist with pine and fir trees in this region in the center of the continent's mixed deciduous-coniferous forest. In this area, there are four distinct seasons and year-round moderate precipitation.

Lowlands of the North

Similar to the Midwestern United States' breadbasket, Europe's Northern Lowlands have good agricultural terrain. Here, a sizable European population is fed by significant agricultural enterprises. The soils are generally healthy and the terrain is flat to undulating. The Northern Lowlands are a vast plain that stretches across northern Europe from southern France to the Ural Mountains of Russia before turning north. This region, which is mostly utilized for farming, is characterized by grasslands and regions with tall grasses. Bogs, heaths, and lakes may also be found in the lowland's region. A steppe biome dominates this vast plain that surrounds Ukraine in the east. It is a flat, sparsely forested area with short grasses that is mostly used for agriculture. The weather in this eastern region varies greatly from day to night and from summer to winter. The eastern steppe may have winter temperatures minus 40 °F and summer temperatures as high as 105 °F. This is comparable to the steppes of western North Dakota or eastern Montana in the US.

Western Highlands

Short, Rocky Mountains, known as highlands, are found across Norway, sections of Britain, and the Iberian Peninsula of Portugal and Spain on the western margins of the European continent. Fewer people live in these Western Highlands, and huge agricultural enterprises find them less appealing. Farming in the valleys and meadows or grazing cattle are often the only forms of agriculture. Highland cattle and wool goods are well-known for coming from the Scottish Highlands. Because they made hydropower and subsequently coal mining possible in England, the central chain of hills known as the Pennines became crucial throughout the Industrial Revolution. Wales' upland areas saw extensive coal mining. Tundra habitats predominate in Scandinavia's most northern areas. The permafrost that dominates this habitat, which is the coldest and driest on Earth, causes occasional bouts of summertime flooding. Wildflowers, low bushes, lichens, and mosses make up the majority of the flora [8], [9].

European Natural Resources

The geographical potential offered by Europe's physical landforms have propelled the continent through the Industrial Revolution and into the Information Age. European nations have taken use of their riches in natural resources and physical position to create a hub of commercial activity for the international market. To make the most of its natural resources, Europe has given manufacturing a high priority. Finding a balance between modernisation and environmental concerns has proven difficult in the heavily urbanized world. Industrial activities have aided in the extinction of many species and the deterioration of the ecosystem. Different parts of Europe are endowed with access to clean water, fertile land, and a variety of minerals. Iron ore is the most abundant mineral resource in Europe, and it may be found in Sweden, France, and Ukraine. Copper, lead, bauxite, manganese, nickel, gold, silver, potash, clay, gypsum, dolomite, and salt are other minerals that are found in minor amounts. The industrialization of the continent has been aided by extraction operations.

Fish is now considered to be a valuable natural resource in Europe due to the easy access to substantial portions of the Atlantic Ocean and several large oceans, lakes, and rivers. Around 10% of the fish caught worldwide is produced in the oceans around Europe. In Europe, fishing activity rose as the population did, mirroring the global trend. The impacts of overfishing are coming to the attention of Europeans more often. Due to overfishing and environmental changes that are reducing spawning and influencing natural mortality, stocks of Atlantic cod and Atlantic mackerel are seen as being at danger. For the same reason, eastern North Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks are getting attention. Other fish species in the North Atlantic and Baltic Sea are thought to be overfished. Due to the importance of fish to the European economy and for purely ecological grounds, changes to the fisheries are a major issue.

With the creation of the EU, the nations of Europe started collaborating on research and fisheries-related policy. Cod fishing is subject to tight and detailed rules and regulations as part of the Common Fisheries Policy. Because the regulations are so stringent and divisive, Norway and Iceland chose to leave the EU rather than ratify them. The impact of these regulations is not fully understood, but the North Sea cod populations do not seem to be recovering as rapidly or significantly as anticipated. More over 40% of the continent's surface is covered with forests, with the bulk on the Russian side. Most of the world's forests are found in Central Europe and the less populated Nordic and Baltic nations. Private landowners possess around half of the forestland in Europe. It's interesting to note that there are many distinct types of private ownership, including extensive family holdings, holdings by the

forest industry, and little to extremely tiny holdings by thousands of people. About 85% of the woods yield exploitable resources, and the majority of wooded land is managed. Due to a significant tree-planting project that has been underway since 2000, Europe's share of wooded area is increasing. Acid rain and air pollution have badly impacted woods like the Black Forest in southern Germany, which has also seen considerable logging activity. Pollution has also greatly harmed the forests of Poland, the Czech Republic, and eastern Germany.

Resources found in the soil are crucial. For the purpose of producing food, sustaining animals, protecting other natural resources like forests, and providing groundwater, soil is essential. In Europe, attention to soil resources is still in its infancy. Topsoil loss from construction and development projects, mining, pollution from industries and other sources, and acidification from acid rain are issues that need to be addressed. There is a plentiful supply of coal, which has mostly been exhausted, in a number of regions of Great Britain, including some offshore regions, as well as in the industrial hubs of Germany and the Ukraine. There are further coal resources in Russia, Belgium, France, Spain, the Czech Republic, Poland, and Slovakia. High amounts of air pollution have been caused by the combustion of coal. Since wind currents from Central European industrial zones transport pollutants into Scandinavia, the northern nations have been particularly concerned about acid rain. In many of the lakes in Scandinavia, fish populations have declined as a result of acid rain.

The economic circumstances of areas that rely on forests for their economic existence are deteriorating as a result of the threat to forest health. The North Sea has quantities of natural gas and petroleum, which were initially exploited in the 1970s. Norway, the United Kingdom, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Germany are among the five European nations that have rights to these resources, with Norway having the majority of the rights. The governments of these five countries concur that, although only being exploited a few decades ago, half of the North Sea's oil reserves have already been used up. Prior to the North Sea's petroleum product exploitation, Europe received its petroleum from Russia and the other former Soviet Union states. There are still many extraction activities going on in these locations. In Europe as well, hydroelectric power has proven significant. The European Energy Commission is putting a lot of effort and money into promoting the use of renewable resources like wind and solar energy since coal and oil supplies are almost exhausted and because there is a desire to minimize the environmental harm that dams inflict. European leaders decided to set a legally enforceable goal in March 2007 that by 2017, 20% of all energy must come from alternative sources. Additionally, sustainable biofuels must make up 10% of the transportation fuels utilized by EU nations[10], [11].

It wasn't by coincidence that Europe rose to prominence as a global economic power with good living standards. Due to its physical topography and cultural characteristics, this area has benefited historically from developments in the world. The Greeks brought ideas, philosophy, and organization to southern Europe. The idea of democracy was championed by Greek philosophers. Empire was developed to unprecedented heights by the Romans. The Romans influenced a wide range of cultures between around 150 BCE and 475 CE while ruling over a sizable chunk of Europe and North Africa. A unified infrastructure was brought to Europe by the Roman Empire. By constructing roads, bridges, aqueducts, and port facilities, the Romans linked their globe. They were adept at governing an empire. They encouraged the brightest and most competent craftsmen to concentrate on what they did best by making the most of the finest opportunities in each territory they governed. A market economy and the specialization of products were thus developed. Everyone was no longer

required to provide for oneself. In addition to buying goods created by others that were of greater quality than what they could make at home, people might sell what they produced on the market. Due to available resources or expert labor, some regions could convey specific items to marketplaces located far away. Southern Europe and North Africa were linked by the Roman Empire.

A common misconception about the Vikings of Scandinavia (Norway, Sweden, and Denmark; 900–1200 CE) is that they were armed bandits who pillaged and plundered northern Europe. They were farmers, excellent artisans, and busy merchants while being great warriors in combat. They established trade routes all throughout the north. The Vikings traveled across Europe's rivers by using their knowledge of the sea and maritime abilities. They were the original builders of the northern hemisphere, including North America and Iceland. They established colonies in what is now Canada, Greenland, and Iceland. Their longships were very adaptable and gave them an edge at sea. The Vikings advanced all the way to Constantinople inside Europe. According to history, the Byzantine Empire used Vikings from Scandinavia as mercenaries.

In general, the Norwegian Vikings attacked the areas to the west of Scandinavia, including Iceland, Scotland, Ireland, and Greenland. The Danish Vikings traveled more often to southern countries like England and France. Although the various Viking tribes may sometimes be found in the same locations, Russia and parts of Eastern Europe were the main trade grounds for the Swedish Vikings. The modern Scandinavian nations were founded after the major Viking era. During the Dark Ages, the Vikings established trade routes across northern Europe.

Colonialism

The resurgence of ideas, technology, and development did not begin until the end of Europe's Dark Ages. Europe underwent upheaval as a result of the Renaissance in the late fifteenth century. Columbus traveled across the Atlantic in 1492 with his three ships in order to set foot on the continent of America. This incident marked the start of a period of European colonialism that didn't end until after World War II. The colonies or protectorates that European nations still hold nevertheless bear the scars of colonialism. The economic theory of mercantilism, which encompassed governments' desire to dominate commerce and promoted the fast extraction of gold or silver from their colonies, was the driving force behind colonialism. The establishment of colonies outside of one's own nation was a component of colonialism, which was often done to increase imperial authority and exploit people for monetary gain. An interchange of new commodities and ideas across continents was made possible by the construction of bigger ships and a knowledge of maritime navigation.

For the sake of colonial expansion, North and South America were made accessible to European explorers. Newfound riches from the colonies were returned to Europe via colonialism by the Europeans. Outside of Europe, every part of the globe was targeted for colonization.

Africa was separated, "Latin" America was established, and Asia was made the focus of commerce and resource extraction. The fight to rule their planet was started by the few strong nations along Europe's Atlantic coast. Consider your native tongue and the boundaries of your nation if you reside in the Western Hemisphere; both were almost certainly the result of European colonization. The majority of the present-day political borders were established by colonial struggle or accord.

Agricultural Revolution

A variety of agricultural innovations from the post-Renaissance period had an effect on food production in Europe. Prior to this, the majority of agricultural practices were labor-intensive and rudimentary, but new technology was developed that significantly increased agricultural output. Technologies such as plows, seeders, and harvesters were developed, and land ownership and land reform changed to keep up with the developments. These developments aided the development of port cities, which opened up urban markets for agricultural surpluses. New crops, like as the potato, which revolutionized agricultural production, were brought back by colonial ships from the colonies. The term "agrarian revolution" is often used to describe the agricultural accomplishments of this time period. The technological advancements brought forth by the agrarian revolution, such the steam tractor and steel tools, helped to enhance agricultural productivity all across the globe.

Industry Revolution

Being an island nation, Great Britain built the biggest fleet in history and seized control of the oceans. Their imperial influence stretched from Australia to what is now Canada. A new industrial era that altered how people manufactured goods was introduced by the Industrial Revolution, which began in northern England in the late 1700s. The utilization of steam power, the smelting of iron, the steam engine, and the idea of mass production altered how commodities were created.

CONCLUSION

The introduction emphasizes how important borders have been in forming the landscape of Europe. Boundaries in Europe are intricate and multidimensional, including political, cultural, historical, and geographical aspects. These borders have served as both separators and connectors throughout history, affecting the development of nation-states, the occurrence of wars, and the push for regional integration. The changing borders of Europe are a reflection of the continent's turbulent history, which has been defined by power struggles, conquests, treaties, and initiatives toward collaboration. Beyond just being lines on a map, these borders are significant because they capture the struggles and victories of many peoples, the creation of identities, and the wrangling over shared places. As we go further into the subject, it becomes clear that the study of borders encompasses more than just the physical demarcation of limits; it also encompasses the domain of concepts, identities, and ambitions. The historical occurrences, political processes, and cultural contacts that have defined and continue to determine Europe's borders will be examined in more detail in the next parts of this study. In the end, knowing the factors that have shaped Europe's history and present requires an awareness of the complexities of its borders. We may learn a lot about the interconnections between civilizations, the causes of disputes, and the likelihood of collaboration in a constantly changing European setting by dissecting the layers of meaning buried in these borders.

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CHAPTER 3

IDENTIFYING THE BOUNDARIES IN RUSSIA: A REVIEW STUDY

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ABSTRACT:

An overview of the fundamental concepts underlying the intricate interaction between geographic demarcations and their many effects is given in the introduction to the issue of borders in Russia. The enormous landmass and varied topography of Russia have created complex border dynamics that have impacted its history, geopolitical tactics, cultural variety, and foreign relations. The main points raised in the introduction are summarized in this summary, which emphasizes the need of recognizing Russia's borders in order to understand its larger socio-political environment. Russia's borders are crucial to its dealings with other countries in the international sphere, especially in the Eurasian setting. The study of border-related disputes, diplomatic discussions, and cooperative projects emphasizes the need of well-defined and recognized borders in preserving regional stability. The Introduction also discusses how borders affect Russia's national identity and cultural diversity. Russia's boundaries are home to a variety of ethnic groups, each of which has added to the country's complex fabric of customs, languages, and cultures.

KEYWORDS:

Asia, Europe, Geography, Russia.

INTRODUCTION

Physically, Russia is the biggest nation; it is over twice the size of the United States. The majority of the population resides in the European portion of the nation, which stretches beyond the Ural Mountains into Siberia and the Russian Far East, where people have stronger economic and social ties to China than to Europe. The Trans-Siberian Railway's western and eastern termini, Vladivostok, may be reached by train in roughly a week of nonstop travel. There are no paved roads that span the whole nation. Due to its size, the majority of Russia needs eight time zones, plus a ninth for the European outpost of Kaliningrad, which lies close to Poland. Russia is home to world-class cities like Moscow, with its many billionaires and well-known Red Square, huge Arctic regions, enormous Siberian forests, grain fields that can compete with those in Kansas, and mountain towns in the Caucasus. A complex history of monarchy and dictatorship, abundant natural resources, extremes of riches and poverty, and a steadily aging population are all characteristics of Russia[1], [2].

It is a vibrant nation that is making the transition from a Communist state to becoming a member of the world economy. Both Europe and Asia contain Russia. The two continents are said to be divided by the Ural Mountains. With the exception of a very brief border with the tip of North Korea, the Asian side of Russia shares borders with Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and China to the south. The border with China is partially formed by the Amur River. The Bering Strait divides Russia from North America, with the Pacific Ocean to the east. The Arctic Ocean defines Russia's entire northern border, which runs from Norway to Alaska. During the lengthy winter season, most of the Arctic Ocean may be covered in ice. The bulk of Russia's land area is located above the latitude of 50 degrees north, making it a northern nation. The northern half of the nation is divided down the middle by the Arctic Circle.

The southern boundary of European Russia is shared by Georgia and Azerbaijan in the Caucasus Mountains. South of the latitude of 50 degrees, this area of Russia protrudes. The highest mountain range in both Europe and Russia is the Caucasus Mountains. On each side of the Caucasus Mountains, there are natural borders formed by the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. The sizable nations of Belarus and Ukraine form the principal boundaries with Eastern Europe. Russia borders Latvia, Estonia, Finland, and Norway in the far north. Although European Russia is significantly smaller than its Asian counterpart, it still makes up the majority of the nation, with Moscow serving as its administrative center. Russia's vast territory is home to a variety of natural landscapes, including tundras, steppes, mountains, and birch woods. Large landmasses like Eurasia and North America are characterized by Type D climates, which also predominate much of the nation. Land in the middle of a big continent tends to heat up quickly in the summer and cool down quickly in the winter because it is away from the moderating influences of seas. The summers and winters in these regions are notoriously hot and brutal [3], [4].

The Arctic Ocean borders northern Russia, and each winter, cold air masses from the Arctic sweep over Russia. Furthermore, due to its northern latitude and short growing season, Russia has never been an agricultural giant and often imports grain to feed its population. Deserts and steppes are created in southern Russia as a result of the mountain ranges to the south blocking summer rains and warm air masses that would otherwise arrive from South and Central Asia. The majority of Russians reside in the European region of the nation, on the Eastern European Plain, often referred to as the Western Russian Plain or the Russian Plain, which is the region with the highest agricultural productivity in the country. The Ural Mountains, a low-lying mountain range that runs across Russia from the Arctic Ocean to Kazakhstan, delineate the eastern limit of the plain. The mountains are regarded as the border between Europe and Asia and are home to resources of coal, iron ore, precious and semiprecious stones. The Caucasus Mountains, which span the chasm between the Caspian and Black Seas, are another mountain range to the south of the Russian Plain. The Central Siberian Plateau and the West Siberian Plain are located east of the Urals. The Eastern Highlands, the Central Asian Ranges, and the Yakutsk Basin. Natural resources of Russia are abundant, including wood, gas, and oil.

DISCUSSION

The Russian Empire steadily extended from its political center around Moscow/St. Petersburg to the land that is now the Russian Federation. From the fifteenth through the nineteenth century, Petersburg. By the end of the eighteenth century, Czarina Catherine the Great had increased the size of Russia to encompass Alaska which Russia eventually surrendered to the United States, the northern Caucasus Mountains, and what is now Ukraine on the north side of the Black Sea. The next century saw the Russian Empire grow westward into Poland and Finland, southeast into the remainder of the Caucasus, and eastward into Central Asia. The Soviet Union also known as the USSR proceeded to expand and consolidate its rule over the enormous region extending from Eastern Europe to the Pacific Ocean when the Russian Empire collapsed and was succeeded by it in the 20th century.

Growth of the Empire

Imperial powers included the Soviet Union and the Russian Empire. Meaning that these governments governed over a wide range of ethnic groups in remote locations, including those who spoke several languages, practiced diverse forms of deity worship, had varying skin and hair colors, and did not identify as Russian. Russia had the greatest empire in terms of land, despite the fact that the British and some other European countries had an apparently

more difficult job of administering empires that were widely dispersed around the globe. The task of governing this vast, varied kingdom was very difficult. Russification and the sword were used by the czars to dominate this empire. Russification is the process of attempting to make all Russian subjects as similar to Russians as possible while minimizing cultural distinctions. People were instructed in the Russian language and urged to become Russian Orthodox since they were all subject to the Russian czars. Russification was not particularly effective, and the more away from Moscow a person lived, the less probable it was that they would get Russified. Millions of Muslims were still present when the Soviet Union seized control of the Russian Empire, including in Central Asia, the Caucasus Mountains, and the Crimean peninsula in southern Ukraine[5]–[7].

When it came to managing the variety of the empire, the Soviets used a different strategy. The Soviets made the decision to organize and subsequently attempt to control the multiplicity of ethnic groups present inside the Soviet Union, as opposed to promoting unification under the Russian tsar, the Russian language, and the Russian Orthodox faith. They selected a few of the more prominent groups and Soviet Socialist Republics that matched these important groupings were founded. As a result, they established the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic, the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, and a separate republic for each of the fourteen major ethnic groups. A total of 85 other ethnic groups were not awarded their own republics, however several were given districts inside the Russian Republic. Theoretically, each of the Soviet Socialist Republics was a sovereign nation that made the Soviet Union its ally. In reality, however, these republics belonged to a totalitarian regime with far less autonomy than the states in the United States. Some ethnic/national identities were reinforced and others were harmed by the establishment of these republics. Similar to the Kazakh, Turkmen, and other SSRs, there was no completely formed Uzbek national identity prior to the establishment of the Uzbek SSR. Even while residents of a region could have shared a language, they did not consider themselves to be Uzbeks, Kazakhs, or Turkmen until the Soviet authorities forced them to do so. The national identities cultivated throughout the Soviet period came to fruition when these Soviet Socialist Republics were able to proclaim their independence from Russia in 1991, after the fall of the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union sent ethnic Russians to reside in regions of the Soviet Union that were not Russian at the same time as it organized minority ethnic groups into republics. Some were forced to go, such the Russians who were imprisoned in Siberian prison camps and who later remained in the region after being released. Other Russians were sent all across the empire to work in factories, power plants, and other businesses or to assist in running the government. The Russian government sent Russians to the remote regions of the Soviet Union in an effort to strengthen its hold over the individual republics and weaken the influence of the minority ethnic groups. Unintended repercussions of this program included the fact that when the Soviet Union fell apart in 1991 and the individual republics gained independence, they all had to cope with substantial Russian minorities. For instance, when Kazakhstan gained its independence, there were almost as many ethnic Russians as there were ethnic Kazakhs living there. Many Russians from the former Soviet countries have migrated to Russia in the twenty years since that time. Only approximately 24 percent of Kazakhs were ethnic Russians in 2010.

The Russian federation was founded with eighty-three federal subjects, including two autonomous federal cities, twenty-one republics, four autonomous districts, one autonomous oblast, forty-six provinces, and nine territories, which all function similarly. The two federal cities that act independently are Moscow and St. Petersburg. Each of the oblasts and krais has

a centrally appointed governor and a locally elected legislature. In the 1990s, the governorship was a post that was elected, but President Vladimir Putin modified the system to increase the authority of the central state. The republics, intended to house certain ethnic minorities, are permitted to have their own constitutions and administrations and to choose an additional official language in addition to Russian, but they are not regarded as sovereign states with the ability to secede. The autonomous districts, which are governed by either the central state or the province or territory in which they are situated, were also established for the benefit of ethnic minorities. Only around 1% of the population of the only autonomous oblast in the Russian Far East is still Jewish today, despite its creation as a home for Jews in the 1930s[8], [9].

Local Environmental Issues

The Russian republic's several regions each have unique environmental problems. The central region around Moscow, with all of its industrial activity and substantial metropolitan areas, pollutes the country's rivers by introducing sewage and chemicals. Due to the industrial centers present there, the streams east of the Ural Mountains are also affected by the same water pollution. Since 1991, the usage of automobiles has dramatically increased in Moscow and the industrial cities that surround it, which has increased air pollution. Russia is endowed with an abundance of natural resources, but using and extracting those resources has resulted in serious environmental harm. In the taiga and tundra regions, where there is a dearth of safety management, there have been significant oil leaks, the environmental damage from oil exploration and production has escalated. In North America, Europe, and Asia, the taiga is a vast area of boreal or evergreen woods that lies just south of the tundra. One of the biggest biomes on earth, the taiga is most prevalent in climatic types D. Russia's biggest biome is the taiga. Siberian cities' mining and smelting operations have increased air and water pollution in the area. These ecosystems are very delicate, and it will take a long time for them to recover from such harm.

The Caspian Sea, the Black Sea, and other bodies of water are all impacted by water pollution from the rivers. The waters of Lake Baikal, the biggest freshwater lake in the world, were formerly clear, but pollution from neighboring industrial activities has now invaded its waters. Fish populations like the caviar-producing sturgeon have been decimated as a consequence of increased pollution in the Black and Caspian Seas, overfishing, a lack of fishing laws, and lax law enforcement. Nuclear waste materials and decommissioned nuclear reactors from navy warships have been dumped in the Arctic seas of the Barents Sea off the northern coast of Russia. The effects of this nuclear contamination are little understood or researched. The number of old nuclear reactors from the Soviet period is enormous, and they will eventually need to be deactivated, adding to the problem of radioactive waste. In addition to being polluted by radioactive radiation, Siberia's many areas have been utilized for nuclear testing.

In a location with short growing seasons, farming was not an easy way to get wealthy. The great majority of the people was impoverished, and the majority were landless peasant farmers. A tiny elite clique made all of the political choices. Russia was still an agrarian nation and had not yet started a large-scale industrialization process at the beginning of the twentieth century, one hundred years after the Industrial Revolution swept through Great Britain and Western Europe. Few people in Russia accepted the status quo outside of the nobility, and there was a strong yearning for a new political order and form of governance. However, no one could agree on the structure of a new government. Russia had a civil war following the First World War. The final czar, Nicholas II, was removed from power during this upheaval, and he and his family were put to death. The Communist party known as the

Bolsheviks, literally translated as the "larger group," won the civil war, while other parties, notably the "smaller group," the Mensheviks, came in second. Vladimir Lenin, the leader of the Bolsheviks, and his followers started their mission to establish communism in Russia in 1917.

From St. Petersburg, where it had resided since the reign of Czar Peter the Great in the eighteenth century, the capital was transferred back to Moscow. Due to the Soviet Union's atheist government's desire to avoid any allusions to Christian saints, St. Petersburg's name was first changed to Petrograd and subsequently to Leningrad in honor of Vladimir Lenin. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was established over the entire Russian Empire. The Russian people exchanged their monarchy for a totalitarian Marxist dictatorship. From 1922 until 1991, there was a Soviet Union. Following Lenin, the Soviet ruler Josef Stalin became ill in 1922 and passed away in 1924. Having murdered his way to power, he was a brutal leader who executed or banished anybody who stood in his path. Stalin is renowned for launching economic initiatives that assisted in transforming Russia from a small, rural nation to a vast, industrial powerhouse[10], [11].

He advocated for quick industrialization, the replacement of small family farms with expansive community farms, the elimination of individual ownership of land or enterprises, and a sharp decline in organized religion. All of these adjustments cost a lot of money. An estimated thirty million people perished under his reign of terror. In 1932–1933, a severe famine spurred on by the forced collectivization of farmland murdered or starved to death between six and eight million people, many of them in Ukraine. Stalin often ordered the extermination of his alleged political rivals. The Great Purge is the name given to the biggest of them. In those years, almost one million alleged state enemies were put to death. Compared to all the concentration camps run by Adolf Hitler's Nazi dictatorship, more people died under Stalin. Stalin's purges of his people may never be completely understood in their entirety. Stalin's reign came to an end in 1953 when he allegedly passed away from natural causes. Some historians, nevertheless, think his close friends poisoned him.

The Soviet Union promoted the theories of German thinker Karl Marx, who lived in the nineteenth century. According to Marx, every aspect of political and economic life may be seen as a conflict between the different social classes. Marxists are those who follow Marx's theory, and the Soviet Marxism-Leninism is a subset of Marxism. Marxist theory holds that capitalism is an oppressive economic system in which the bourgeoisie oppresses the working class. Marxists contend that the proletariat should rise up in rebellion against the bourgeoisie, seize the wealth from the affluent, and turn it over to the state for management in the interests of the common people. In the end, there would be only a pure Communist society, with no social or economic classes, no private property, and no wealthy or poor. Governments that enact these concepts are regarded to be socialists since they implement socialism in reality.

The Soviet Union was a socialist country without free markets. Since economic choices in the Soviet Union were determined by the government rather than the market, it was a command economy. For instance, industrial output was planned by the central government during the Soviet period. The government would determine what was created, where it was manufactured, how much was produced, how many people worked on it, where the raw materials were sourced, and how the finished product was dispersed. The USSR was able to accomplish the fast industrialization it so desperately needed by uniting the whole nation to work toward similar objectives. The Soviets, however, grossly miscalculated the strength and effectiveness of free-enterprise capitalism, which allowed waste, fraud, and corruption to destroy their socialist system.

Collectivized agriculture was one of the Soviet Union's key economic characteristics. The Soviet authorities did not want a few wealthy capitalist farmers to undermine their economic system. Additionally, they did not want thousands of ineffectively run small farms in a nation that was always food insecure. They chose to consolidate agricultural output into big farm factories instead. Each region's agriculture was combined into a single, publicly owned enterprise. The state managed certain communal farms, while private cooperatives managed others. Individual farmers were compelled to transfer their land, livestock, farm equipment, and farm structures to the communal farm in their region during the time of transition to collective farming. The state also required a sizable portion of the crops that were produced. The government sometimes took the whole crop, forbidding even the storage of seed harvests for the next year. In 1932–1933, this led to a widespread famine. Even after the Soviet Union's disintegration in 1991, several regions of the nation continued to practice collective agriculture.

Cold War

The Soviet Union and the United States fought each other for dominance of labor, resources, and world power in the international community from the conclusion of World War II in 1945 to the fall of the USSR in 1991. Both sides drew supporters, and the majority of nations supported one of the two; very few chose to be neutral. Although there was no direct military combat between the United States and the Soviet Union during this time period, it did turn the globe into a political chessboard where each side sought to prevent the other from gaining power. The United States was always there to attempt to oppose every alliance that the Soviets made with a specific nation. The Cold War used wars, armed confrontations, sabotage, espionage, and covert operations. Both sides gathered as many lethal weapons as they could, including missiles and nuclear bombs. They took part in the race to launch humans into space as well. Vietnam, Korea, Grenada, Afghanistan, Angola, and the Middle East were all affected by the Cold War, which saw the Soviet Union finance one side and the United States support the other. In a variety of third-world states, including Cuba, Nicaragua, Chile, Guatemala, Mozambique, Laos, and Cambodia, covert or guerrilla battles using secret agents and political killings have been waged. The globe was split into two major camps during the Cold War, each possessing a significant quantity of nuclear weapons. The Berlin Wall separated the German city of Berlin, while the Iron Curtain split Eastern Europe. The capitalist democracies of Western Europe and the communist nations of Eastern Europe were separated by these physical obstacles. Germany itself was split into two distinct nations [12], [13].

Before the conclusion of the Cold War, a number of Soviet tyrants assumed power and passed away while in authority. Mikhail Gorbachev took over as president of the Soviet Union in 1985. Ronald Reagan served as the US president at the time. In the 1980s, the United States was outspending the USSR militarily while also seeing considerably quicker economic growth. The Soviet Union's economy was in trouble and in risk of collapsing at the same time that they were fighting an expensive war in Afghanistan. Gorbachev saw that changes had to be made in order to modernize the Soviet system, including opening up political life in order to give citizens a sense of pride in their nation and restructuring the economy. Gorbachev established glasnost openness and transparency of all government activity and perestroika restructuring of the economy with market-like reforms. The economic reform revealed underlying issues, and by 1990 the Soviet economy was in worse condition than ever. The Soviet Union came to an end in 1991 when fourteen of the Soviet republics proclaimed their independence. The Soviet state was unable to stop it at this time due to its weakness. Every single republic, including Russia now known as the Russian

Federation, attained independence. The smallest republics and autonomous regions that were located within the borders of the Russian Federation were the only areas that did not gain independence. People were able to move freely into and out of the former Communist nations when the Iron Curtain seemed to vanish overnight. For the first time since Czar Nicholas II was in power 73 years before, the ancient Russian flag was flying above the Kremlin, the seat of the Russian government. Both the Cold War and the Soviet Union's communist period were finished.

CONCLUSION

The physical borders of a country are more than just lines on a map; they are crucial landmarks that define a country's territorial extent and shape relations with other countries and the international community. Russia's enormous landmass and varied geographical characteristics have produced complex border dynamics that have influenced the country's historical, political, and cultural development. This Introduction explores the many facets of Russian frontiers. It looks at how the size of Russia's territory has affected its geopolitical tactics and interactions with its neighbors, presenting both possibilities and problems. The study of historical boundary changes and the drawing of present-day boundaries illuminates the complex procedures that have defined Russia's territorial integrity. The interaction and presence of these many groups inside the border framework has had a long-lasting effect on the sociopolitical environment of the country. Boundary issues are complicated on a technical and environmental level as well. Boundaries become not just political markers but also environmental interfaces as a result of the use of natural resources in border areas and the management of shared ecosystems. Grasping Russia's historical growth, geopolitical tactics, cultural variety, and international relations all depend on a knowledge of the country's conception of limits. This Introduction provides a framework for the next parts of this research by setting the scene for an in-depth investigation of the complex interactions between physical, cultural, and political borders.

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CHAPTER 4

DEFINING THE BOUNDARIES OF NORTH AMERICA

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ABSTRACT:

The intricate network of borders that make up the North American continent, which is known for its varied topography, cultures, and ecosystems, shapes the geopolitical, ecological, and cultural processes. These boundaries include political lines, ecological shifts, and cultural divisions, all of which add to the region's complex fabric. The idea of borders in North America encompasses a wide variety of physical, cultural, and political demarcations in addition to conventional geopolitical lines. North America's limits provide insights into the region's past, current issues, and potential futures. From the magnificent mountain ranges that divide landscapes to the subtle cultural borders that create identities. We may better comprehend the factors that have formed North America and are now at play in its future by exploring these complex limits.

KEYWORDS:

Culture, Borders, Geography, North America.

INTRODUCTION

The continent of North America stretches from the arctic areas of the Arctic in northern Canada and Alaska all the way south to Mexico and Central America. Geographers often divide the continent into two distinct worlds based on distinctions in physical and cultural geography. Both the United States and Canada have comparable physical topography as well as a shared development history that includes either a British or French colonial background. Mexico and Central America have more tropical temperatures and were primarily inhabited by the Spanish. The United States and Canada, the world's second and third biggest nations in terms of physical size, account for more than 13% of the total landmass. The Atlantic Ocean forms their eastern boundary, while the Pacific Ocean forms their western boundary. The Arctic Ocean lies to the north. Although the North American region is largely urbanized approximately 80% of the population lives in cities, huge expanses, particularly in Canada, remain sparsely inhabited. Although some locals remain, the vast majority of North America's diversified population is made up of immigrants or descendants of immigrants from other parts of the globe. The United States has the world's biggest economy, and both nations have excellent living standards as technologically advanced countries [1], [2].

North America is separated into many physical areas, each with its own characteristic landforms. The western section of the continent is defined by north-south mountain ranges in the physiographic provinces of the Rocky Mountains and Pacific Mountains and Valleys, with Intermontane Basins and Plateaus in between. The ancient Appalachian Highlands, a mountain range far less rugged than the Rockies but no less influential on the history and development of the United States, define the eastern section of North America. The Interior Lowlands and the Great Plains describe the continent's interior. To the north lies the Canadian Shield, the oldest geological region of North America and a sparsely inhabited area with poor soils. The Gulf-Atlantic Coastal Plain, which stretches from New York to Texas, is located on the continent's southern and eastern edges.

The frigid type E climate of northern Canada and Alaska's tundra, the tropical type A climate of southern Florida and Hawaii, the type C climates of the humid eastern United States, the seasonal type D climates of the northern United States and most of Canada, and the arid type B climates of the Southwest and Great Plains are among the climates of the United States and Canada. North America is characterized by two distinct climatic trends. The first trend is that temperatures rise as you move north to south and towards the equator. The second trend is that precipitation decreases from east to west throughout the continent until you reach the Pacific Coast, when it increases again [3].

The rain shadow effect of the western mountain ranges creates the second climatic pattern. Wet air masses from the Pacific Ocean migrate over the North American continent, colliding with the Cascades and Sierra Nevada. The Cascade ranges of Washington and Oregon prevent rainfall from falling on the leeward side of the mountains, resulting in semiarid conditions in eastern Washington and eastern Oregon. The western United States is subjected to a significant rain shadow effect. Water vapor condenses and is discharged as rain and snow when the air rises to pass over the mountains. This implies that there is substantially more precipitation west of these mountain ranges than east of them, resulting in dry and semiarid plains. The rain shadow effect affects the whole Great Plains region of the western United States, resulting in a semiarid type B climate.

DISCUSSION

The United States and Canada are both the result of European colonization. Before Europeans came, several Native American tribes lived in North America. The European invasion confronted complex native communities, federations, and customary local organizations. While the indigenous population of North America was vigorous at the time of the European encounter, the illnesses, weaponry, and sheer numbers of the European immigrants overcame these original peoples within a few centuries. The Europeans, particularly the Spanish, French, and British, left an indelible mark on their North American possessions. St. Augustine, Florida (1565) is the oldest colonial city in North America, created by Spain when Florida was a distant part of the Spanish Americas. In addition, Spain established colonies in what is now California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. The settlement patterns in those regions were comparable to those seen in the Spanish Colonies of Central America. While Spain controlled over what is now the southern United States, France reigned over Canada and most of the continent's interior. The French originally arrived in Canada in the late 1500s to fish in the North Atlantic, and they quickly extended their influence by establishing a fur trade throughout the Great Lakes and along the Mississippi River system.

European Territories in North America

Although there were fewer French immigrants than other European nations, particularly in what became the United States, the French period left behind place names (Baton Rouge and Detroit), land use practices, and a French-speaking community in Canada. Despite the early impact of Spain and France in North America, due to Britain's imperial domination in the United States and Canada, most North Americans use English as their native language. Jamestown, the first permanent British colony, was established in what became Virginia in 1607.

The British established a prosperous empire in the New World. Their thirteen American colonies were numerous, prosperous, and militarily powerful enough to achieve independence in 1776. Canada operates as an independent nation while being a member of the British Commonwealth[4]–[6].

North American Population Distribution

In 2006, the population of the United States topped 300 million. Canada today has a population of over 34 million people. Every year, around 2.5 million individuals are added to the US population. Immigration accounts for somewhat less than half of the increase, with birth rates accounting for the remainder. The rate of growth is less than the global average but faster than that of many other industrialized nations, including those in Europe. The population is not evenly distributed throughout North America, nor are population growth rates consistent across the continent. The majority of Canadians reside near the US border. The North American population is concentrated in cities, with over 80% of US residents live in urban/suburban regions. Furthermore, the population has been shifting southwest and westward over time. The southern section of the eastern coast, as well as Texas, Nevada, Utah, California, Oregon, and Washington, are seeing the highest rates of population increase in the United States. California, Texas, and Florida contributed for almost one-third of total US population increase since 1990. Nonetheless, the Northeast is the most densely populated region of the nation, due in large part to the megalopolis that comprises the corridor and includes cities ranging from Washington, DC to Boston. Ontario, Canada's southernmost province, has the highest population of Canadians. As a result, the province of Ontario is often referred to as South Canada.

Minorities have the fastest rising population in general. Hispanics are one of the fastest-growing groups in the United States. Another intriguing aspect of population expansion is the rise in life expectancy. As individuals live longer lives, the number of adults aged 65 has more than quadrupled in the previous fifty years. However, the expansion of this demographic category looks to be declining. People aged 85 and above had the biggest growth in this age group. The American people are always on the go. According to US Census Bureau figures, the typical American moves once every seven years; same numbers also anticipate that around forty million individuals will move each year. Data also show that Americans will relocate to cities. Since about 1950, there has been an increase in urbanization. Until that point, the majority of Americans resided in small towns or in more rural areas. Since then, the population density of cities, particularly suburban regions, has gradually increased, resulting in a rural-to-urban demographic shift. Suburbs now house the vast majority of people in North America [7], [8].

Some difficulties have arisen as a result of urbanization. Because the structure of these places often necessitates the ownership of an automobile, traffic congestion is a serious issue in many suburban and metropolitan communities. Overcrowding in schools, racial conflicts, and a growing economic divide between the rich and the disadvantaged are among challenges that have developed. As more people relocate to cities, housing and other resources may be unable to fulfill demand, leading prices to rise. The disparity between the expense of living in a city and the population's capacity to pay has exacerbated poverty and homelessness. There are also environmental concerns, such as how to decrease or eradicate smog, manage garbage, and provide enough clean water sources.

People from the British Isles dominated early immigration to America, resulting in an American populace that spoke English and practiced Protestant Christianity. There were minor localized outliers, such as Catholicism in Maryland and the extensive use of German in Pennsylvania, but English and Protestantism were the dominant languages throughout the American colonies. As migrants came in the United States from non-English-speaking nations, they acquired English and integrated into American culture within a generation, giving birth to the notion of the United States as a cultural melting pot. People were driven to the United States by the prospect of better economic prospects; most immigrants were

impoverished and came to earn a livelihood and improve their financial situation. Assimilation into mainstream society was seen as a must for success. They believed in the American Dream: that with hard effort, anybody, regardless of background, could achieve upward mobility and financial success. The dream came true for millions of Americans, yet it is still out of reach for many poor people.

The United States has roughly 310 million inhabitants in 2010, making it the world's third-most populous nation after China and India. The US population is one of the fastest growing in the industrialized world, expanding at a rate of roughly 1% each year. This is due to a fertility rate of roughly 2.1, which is greater than the 1.5 for most European nations, as well as a positive net migration rate more people arriving to the US than leaving it. In terms of human well-being, males have a life expectancy of more than 78 years, while women have a life expectancy of more than 80 years. While this may seem to be a high figure, particularly when compared to a century ago, life expectancy in the United States is lower than in 49 other nations.

Although English has remained the dominant language, the United States, as a nation of immigration, is home to individuals from all over the globe, as well as numerous cultural or ethnic minority groups. The ethnic minority groups in the United States comprised 16.3 percent Hispanic of any race, 12.6 percent black or African American, 5.0 percent Asian and Pacific Islander, and 1.0 percent Native American, according to the 2010 census. An intriguing tendency is that Asians are expanding faster than any other ethnic group in California, the biggest state in the US. According to the 2010 census, the Asian population in California has expanded 31.5 percent from 2000, reaching a total of five million people.

The Hispanic Population in the United States

The substantial rise of Hispanic/Latino immigrants to the United States has been one of the most noticeable changes in immigration trends over the last several decades. While there have long been Spanish speakers in the United States recall that Spain occupied Florida, Texas, and the Southwest before they became part of the United States, the Hispanic minority had little influence outside of a few sections of the nation throughout much of American history. Hispanics made up less than 5% of the US population in 1970, but by 2010, forty-eight million Hispanics made up almost 16% of the population. Beginning with the 2000 US census, Hispanics surpassed blacks as the biggest ethnic minority in the United States for the first time 12.5 percent Hispanic compared to 12.3 percent black. Between the 1990 and 2000 censuses, the Hispanic population in the United States more than doubled. Between 2000 and 2006, Hispanic population growth accounted for over half of national growth and rose around four times faster than overall population growth.

The rise in the Hispanic population in the United States is a direct consequence of greater Latin American immigration to the United States in the late twentieth and early twenty-first century, as well as the Hispanic community having higher fertility rates than the non-Hispanic US population. Despite the fact that over half of all Hispanics in the United States reside in California or Texas, there has been a significant rise in the Hispanic population outside of those states in the last decade, particularly in the South. For example, from 2000 to 2006, Hispanic population growth rates in Arkansas, Georgia, Tennessee, and North and South Carolina were between 55 and 61 percent. During that period, Hispanic populations in every part of the country increased by double digits. More than one-third of Californians are Hispanic (37 percent), 42 percent are non-Hispanic white, and a much smaller minority is African American 7 percent [9], [10].

What ethnic groups make up the Hispanic population in the United States? The majority (60 percent) were born in the United States, while the remainder are immigrants. Two-thirds are Mexican or of Mexican heritage, with the remainder coming from the US territories of Puerto Rico, Cuba, or the Dominican Republic. It should be noted that all Puerto Ricans are US citizens and may travel to and from the US mainland with no extra documents. Central America has more Hispanics than South America. Hispanics work in many occupations, but are more prevalent in agriculture, construction, and food service than in the non-Hispanic population.

People have long been drawn to the United States by the lure of possibilities and benefits. While many Latin American immigrants enter the country lawfully, according to the US Department of Homeland Security's Office of Immigration Statistics, there were around 10.8 million illegal immigrants in the US as of 2010; 62 percent are from Mexico. This figure is lower than in prior years, probably due to the economic downturn and higher-than-usual unemployment rates. The border between the United States and Mexico is about 1,970 miles long and goes across an arid and open territory between the two nations. It is difficult to restrict illegal immigration over this border because the lure of American employment is so strong that individuals would risk their lives to traverse the deserts of the Southwest. According to 2010 estimates, undocumented workers account for around 5% of the civilian workforce in the United States, including approximately 24% of the agricultural industry. Remittances from illegal employees in the United States to Mexico are believed to be in the billions of dollars. Mexican citizens residing outside Mexico who send money home to their family are the country's second-largest source of foreign revenue. Many Mexican households would struggle to make ends meet without remittances.

The African American Community

Prior to the Civil War, the majority of African Americans were located in the South, where they worked as slaves on the cotton and tobacco plantations that sustained the area. In several counties, blacks made up the majority of the population, and this did not alter after the war. Many of the newly freed slaves remained in the South as impoverished farm laborers long into the twentieth century. Even as late as 1910, the South was home to seven out of every eight African Americans. As the industrialization of northern cities accelerated in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, the increasing need for manufacturing employees was mostly satisfied by immigration from Europe, particularly from southern and eastern Europe. When the First World War broke out in 1914, however, European immigration started to dwindle.

European immigration almost came to a stop in the 1920s, when Americans imposed quotas to decrease the number of Eastern European immigrants. The companies in the Manufacturing Belt still needed labor at the time, but instead of Europeans, they hired African Americans from the South.

As a result, a huge exodus of blacks from the South to cities in the North and West occurred. Because of the significance of this journey to African Americans in the United States, it is known as the Great journey.

Between 1910 and 1925, more than 10% of African Americans moved north, and many more followed. Examining a map of African American distribution now reveals the impact of the Great Migration, since blacks' dwell in various sections of the United States, including the South and postindustrial cities in the north and Midwest. People of all races are moving to Sun Belt cities in search of work in emerging information technology and service sectors.

Religion Geography in the United States

The majority of early American immigrants were Protestant Christians: Puritans in New England and Anglicans (later termed Episcopalians) in Virginia. Members of the Society of Friends (Quakers) formed Pennsylvania, whereas Roman Catholic immigrants settled in Maryland. Even within that broad image, the United States had a significant degree of religious variety, and that diversity grew as new entrants arrived from other nations with varied religious traditions. The contemporary religious affiliation pattern in the United States is highly complicated, with adherents of almost every major denomination, as well as numerous smaller ones, found in nearly every region of the country. Having said that, there are distinct patterns in the geography of religion in the United States that tell tales about immigration and migration history, as well as other parts of American history. The map of major church organizations depicts areas of religious adherence worth investigating [11]–[13].

The map's most prominent feature is the block of red in the Southeast, where Baptist congregations constitute the dominant church body. Although Baptist churches constitute the dominant religious force in around 45 percent of all counties in the United States, the majority of those counties are in the South. This area is known as the Bible belt, and churches in this area are more likely than in other regions of the country to teach a literal reading of the Bible.

After the Civil War, Baptist churches increased in prominence in the South as more liturgical groups such as Methodists declined, and Baptist churches are popular among both African Americans and white inhabitants. Northern Appalachia and the lower Midwest from Ohio to Iowa and Kansas are also noteworthy Protestant regions. As shown on the map, some of these counties are Baptist, while others have a significant Methodist presence, while others have a strong Christian church presence (Disciples of Christ and historically comparable denominations). The Second Great Awakening of the early nineteenth century strongly affected the Methodists and other Christian denominations, who preached the belief that everyone may be saved via revivals. The movement allowed for significant showings of newly formed Protestant groups. The northern Midwest and Great Plains are the third Protestant region, including Minnesota, the Dakotas, and adjacent territories. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, this was the destination of German and Scandinavian Lutheran immigrants, and the major denominations in most of that region are still Lutheran.

The Roman Catholic Church is highly represented in the Northeast, West, and Southwest, where it is the biggest religious group in 40% of US counties. The Catholic dominance in the Northeast and Midwest may be traced back to nineteenth- and early twentieth-century immigration from Roman Catholic nations in Europe such as Italy, Ireland, and Poland.

Those previous Catholics have lately been joined by a substantial number of Hispanic immigrants. The domination of Roman Catholics in the western United States, the Southwest, and even Florida in the Southeast is a reflection of the country's large Hispanic population in those areas.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon Church or LDS) controls a territory that includes Utah and nearby states in the western United States. Mormon members flocked westward throughout the mid-nineteenth century, and Utah was their destination. People from all of the world's main faiths live in large metropolitan areas. Muslim communities are found in cities as a consequence of late-century immigration coming from countries such as India,

Pakistan, and the Middle East and relocating to cities for work. In southeastern Michigan, Detroit and its neighboring counties have a large proportion of Muslim immigration.

CONCLUSION

The limits of North America are much more than just physical borders; they have a significant impact on the continent. Political boundaries may both unite and divide civilizations, even though they are necessary for government and identity. Mountain ranges and river systems, for example, act as natural borders that shape ecosystems and have an impact on human settlements. The region's great variety is facilitated by cultural divisions, which are often anchored in history and legacy, but they may also provide difficulties. Ecological changes across different biomes serve as a reminder of the precarious equilibrium between human activities and the environment. Insights about the interdependence of North America's physical, cultural, and geopolitical elements may be gained through studying these limits, which emphasizes the need of collaboration and understanding in navigating the region's intricacies.

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CHAPTER 5

A COMPLETE IDENTIFICATION OF THE BOUNDARIES IN MIDDLE AMERICA

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ABSTRACT:

In the context of Middle America, an area distinguished by its many cultures, economy, and geopolitics, the idea of borders is of utmost significance. This essay examines the many aspects of borders in Middle America, including both physical and conceptual ones. It explores the socioeconomic, political, and historical influences on border development and change in the area. The study investigates how borders have impacted relations between Middle American nations and their international counterparts via case studies and historical events. The effects of shifting borders on regional stability, collaboration, and development are also covered. The conclusion of the abstract emphasizes the need for a sophisticated grasp of boundaries in order to successfully traverse the complicated dynamics of Middle America.

KEYWORDS:

America, Boundaries, Cultural Boundaries, Geography, Political.

INTRODUCTION

Middle America, the geographical area between the United States and South America, is divided into three major regions: the Caribbean, Mexico, and the Central American republics. The Caribbean area, the most culturally varied of the three, is made up of over 7,000 islands stretching from the Bahamas to Barbados. The Greater Antilles are the Caribbean's four biggest islands, which comprise Cuba, Jamaica, Hispaniola, and Puerto Rico. Hispaniola is divided into two parts: Haiti to the west and the Dominican Republic to the east. The Lesser Antilles are the smaller islands that reach all the way to South America. Trinidad is the southernmost island, located close off the coast of Venezuela. The Bahamas, situated in the Atlantic Ocean but connected with the Caribbean area, are the nearest islands to the US mainland. The Caribbean Sea in the middle, the Gulf of Mexico to the west, and the North Atlantic to the east encircle the area [1], [2].

Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama are the seven countries south of Mexico that make up Central America. Panama has a border with Colombia in South America. During the colonial period, Panama was part of the Spanish-controlled region of South America. To the west, the Pacific Ocean surrounds Central America, while to the east, the Caribbean Sea borders these nations. While the majority of the republics have both a Caribbean and a Pacific coast, Belize only has a Caribbean coast and El Salvador only has a Pacific coast. Mexico, Middle America's biggest nation, is often studied independently from the Caribbean or Central America. Mexico has a long land border with the United States, its northern neighbor. The Baja Peninsula, Mexico's first notable peninsula, borders California and the Pacific Ocean and stretches southward for 775 miles from California. The Baja region is mostly desert and lightly inhabited. The Yucatán Peninsula is located between Guatemala and Belize and stretches north into the Gulf of Mexico. The Yucatán peninsula was a component of the ancient Mayan civilization and is currently home to a large number of Maya people.

Middle America is not a cohesive domain, but rather one of great political and cultural variety. The cultural framework is made up of a varied mix of individuals from Amerindian, African, European, and Asian ethnic origins. This region is often referred to as "Latin America" due to the prevalence of colonization from European nations such as Spain, France, and Portugal that speak a Latin-based language. The fact is that Latin is not an active language, and despite the effect of colonization, Middle America has developed its own cultural identity, and the realm may be characterized by its people and their activities as much as by its physical landscape.

Geographical Location

The physical landforms of Middle America include volcanic islands and mountain ranges. Volcanic activity near the margin of the Caribbean Plate has resulted in the formation of many of the region's islands when volcanoes rose above the water surface. One such example is the island of Montserrat. In recent years, the volcano on this island has continued to erupt, showering the island with dust and ash and making life impossible. Many additional low-lying islands, such as the Bahamas, were created by coral reefs that rose above the ocean's surface. Not only has tectonic plate action generated volcanic islands, but it is also a persistent source of earthquakes, which continue to be a worry for the Caribbean population [3], [4].

The Central American republics stretch from Mexico to Colombia and serve as the last link between North and South America. The Panama Isthmus, the narrowest point between the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean, acts as a land bridge connecting the continents. Central America's spine is hilly, with several volcanoes situated within its ranges. Tropical type A climates occupy most of the Caribbean and all of Central America south of the Tropic of Cancer. The climate in the mountainous regions varies, with colder conditions found at higher altitudes. Mexico features several mountain ranges in the north, as well as highlands in the south. This realm has no landlocked nations, and coastal regions have been developed for fishing and tourism.

DISCUSSION

Mainland and Rimland

Taking a regional perspective to a realm's geography allows us to examine and contrast its features and traits. The division of Middle America into two geographic areas based on occupational activities and colonial dynamics is explained by location and physical differences: the rimland, which includes the Caribbean islands and the Caribbean coastal areas of Central America, and the mainland, which includes the interior of Mexico and Central America. Colonialism flourished in the rimland because it was mostly made up of islands and coastal regions accessible to European ships. Ships might easily make dock in a cove or harbor and claim the island for their home nation. After an island or coastal region was seized, it was transformed completely via plantation cultivation. Local people were used as servants or slaves on a farm. The area was cultivated with a single crop for export revenues, mainly sugarcane, tobacco, cotton, or fruit. The majority of these crops were not indigenous to the Americas and were introduced during colonial periods. Because European illnesses killed a large number of native Amerindian employees, slaves from Africa were brought in to perform the job. Plantation agriculture in the rimland was successful due to the importation of technology, slave labor, and raw materials, as well as the profit-making sale of the crop to Europe.

The rimland was altered by plantation cultivation. Disease and colonial domination decimated the native communities, and by the 1800s, the majority of the population was of African heritage. Native food crops were replaced by cash crops for export. Marginal fields were plowed up and turned into plantation grounds. Labor was often seasonal, with a strong need for labor during peak planting and harvest periods. Plantations were often owned by affluent Europeans who may or may not have resided on the property [5]–[7].

In terms of colonial dynamics and agricultural productivity, the mainland, which included Mexico and the interior of Central America, separated from the rimland. The interior did not have the same easy access to the sea that the rimland had. As a consequence, the hacienda land use style evolved. This Spanish idea aimed at acquiring property for social status and a pleasant living. Though they may have existed, export revenues were not the driving factor behind the enterprise. The indigenous employees were permitted to reside on the haciendas, where they worked their own plots for sustenance. Slaves from Africa were not common on the mainland. On the mainland, European colonialists would invade a region and make claims to enormous swaths of territory, typically hundreds of millions of acres. Haciendas will ultimately become the primary landholding arrangement on the Mexican mainland and in many other Middle American areas. The Amerindian people lost land ownership to European colonial overlords under the hacienda system. Property ownership or control has been a source of contention across the Americas, as property has passed from indigenous to colonial European possession.

The plantation and hacienda ages are passed. The abolition of slavery in the late 1800s, as well as cultural changes on the mainland, challenged the plantation and hacienda systems and resulted in land reform. Plantations were either converted into several individual plots or enormous corporate farms. The hacienda system was dismantled, and the majority of hacienda land was returned to the people, often in the form of an ejidos system, in which the community owns the property but individuals may benefit from it by sharing its resources. The ejidos system has its own set of issues, and many communally held lands are being transferred to private owners. The agricultural methods altered both the land use systems and the ethnicity of the inhabitants in Middle America. The Caribbean Basin's ethnic composition shifted from being exclusively Amerindian to being controlled by European colonists to having an African majority population. The mainland saw the mingling of European and Amerindian cultures, resulting in numerous sorts of mestizo communities with Hispanic, Latino, or Chicano identities.

The Invasion of Europe

Though the southern part of the Americas is usually referred to as "Latin America," this is a misnomer since Latin was never the lingua franca of any of the Americas' nations. So, what is the link between the southern Americas and Latin America? To grasp this relationship, the reader must recall the prevailing languages as well as the origins of the conquerors of the area known as "Latin America." Keep in mind that a country's name does not necessarily represent its official language. People in Mexico, for example, do not speak "Mexican"; they speak Spanish. Brazilians, on the other hand, do not speak "Brazilian"; they speak Portuguese. The remainder of the globe was greatly influenced by European colonization. Colonialism spread European languages and the Christian faith, among other things. The Roman Catholic Church has a long history of celebrating Latin Mass. Consider the Romance language family and how European colonization influenced language and religion in the Americas. Spanish and Portuguese, both Romance languages, are today the most commonly spoken languages in Middle and South America, respectively. This is why, despite its popularity, the phrase Latin America is not officially a valid name for this area. Despite the link to Latin-based languages,

Middle America is a more realistic word for the area between the United States and South America, while South America is the right name for the southern continent.

European colonization had an influence on Middle America in areas other than language and religion. Prior to the arrival of Christopher Columbus from Europe, the Americas lacked animals such as horses, donkeys, sheep, poultry, and domesticated cattle. This meant that there were no huge draft animals to plough fields or carry hefty loads. The wheel, which was so popular in Europe, was not seen in use in the Americas. Food crops differed as well: maize, squash, beans, chili peppers, and tobacco were all American crops. Other food crops imported by Europeans, either from Europe or its colonies, were coffee, wheat, barley, rice, citrus fruits, and sugarcane. Aside from food crops, architectural techniques, farming practices, and even illnesses were traded [8], [9].

The indigenous inhabitants suffered greatly as a result of the Spanish conquest of Middle America after Columbus. It is believed that fifteen to twenty million people resided in Middle America before the Europeans arrived, but only approximately 2.5 million remained after a century of European domination. Few indigenous peoples, such as the Arawak and Carib on Caribbean islands and the Maya and Aztec on the mainland, were immune to European illnesses such as measles, mumps, smallpox, and influenza. Local populations were annihilated as a result of battle, illness, and slavery. Only a few individuals in the Caribbean Basin claim Amerindian ancestry, and others believe that these few are not indigenous to the Caribbean but are descendants of slaves imported from South America by European colonialists.

In 1492, Columbus arrived on the island of Hispaniola with three ships. Hispaniola is presently split between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The Spanish conquerors swiftly conquered the indigenous inhabitants thanks to metal armor, weaponry, and other modern equipment. Because Europe was through an era of competitiveness, conflict, and scientific progress, the same mindset flowed over to the New World. Indigenous peoples were often rendered servants of Europeans, and opposition ended in conflict, war, and, in some cases, death. Conquistadors were Spanish troops, explorers, or adventurers who sought riches and rapid gain by pursuing gold, silver, and valuable stones. The European invaders were opposed against the native tribes in their drive for profit. The Roman Catholic faith was carried over from Europe and was vigorously pressed on the indigenous "heathens" with a "repent or perish" conversion strategy.

Many Caribbean islands have proclaimed independence, while others continue to be crown colonies of their European occupiers, with varied degrees of autonomy. Mexico won independence from Spain in 1821, and other Central American republics followed suit in the 1820s. In 1823, the United States enacted the Monroe Doctrine, which was intended to dissuade former European colonial countries from continuing political participation in the Americas. Despite a drop in European action in the area, US intervention has persisted in a number of locations. In 1898, the United States declared war on Spain, and Spain lost her possessions of Cuba, Puerto Rico, and others to the United States. Puerto Rico remains under US control and is not a sovereign nation.

The Aztecs and the Maya

Though the territory of Mexico has been inhabited for thousands of years, the Olmec civilisation, which was thought to be the predecessor to the later Mayan Empire, was one of the first to evolve into a civilization with huge cities. From 1200 BCE to 400 BCE, the Olmec thrived in Mexico's south-central areas. Mesoamerica is the name given by anthropologists to this area of Mexico and northern Central America. Because it was home to early human

civilizations, it is regarded as the region's cultural hearth. Following the Olmec, the Maya built a large society, and Mayan stone constructions are still popular tourist attractions. The Mayan civilization's classical period spanned from 300 to 900 CE and was focused in the Yucatán Peninsula area of Mexico, Belize, and Central America. Guatemala was once a significant component of this immense empire, and Mayan remains can be seen all the way down in Honduras. The Maya created some of the most spectacular cities and stone pyramids in the Western Hemisphere during the classical period. The empire's city-states were administered by a complex religious hierarchy. Mathematics, astronomy, engineering, and architecture were all advanced by the Mayan civilization. Based on the seasons and the solar system, they created an accurate calendar. The scope of their vast knowledge is still being unearthed. The Maya people and their descendants still exist today, but their empire does not.

The Toltec, who briefly ruled central Mexico, arose following the traditional Mayan period. They also seized control of parts of the ancient Mayan Empire from the north. The Toltec and Maya were displaced as the major civilizations in southern Mexico by the Aztec federation. The Aztecs, who moved eastward from their stronghold in central Mexico, created Tenochtitlán, the biggest and greatest metropolis in the Americas at the time, with an estimated population of 100,000 people. Tenochtitlan was situated in what is now Mexico City, and it was from there that the Aztec dominion spread to the south and east, becoming a vast empire. The Aztec federation was a regional authority that subjugated neighboring communities in exchange for taxes and tributes. Despite borrowing ideas and improvements from previous tribes like the Maya, they achieved significant advances in agriculture and urban development. The Aztecs came to prominence in the fourteenth century and remained so until the Europeans arrived.

1519-21 Spanish Conquest

Following Columbus' travels, Spanish conquistadors arrived in the New World in pursuit of gold, riches, and profits, bringing their Roman Catholic faith with them. Members of the zealous church strove to convert the "heathens" to their faith. Hernán Cortés was one such conqueror, landing on the Yucatán coast in 1519 with 508 troops. They moved westward toward the Aztec Empire. The Aztecs' riches and power attracted conquistadors like Cortés, whose purpose was to conquer. Despite having metal armor, steel swords, sixteen horses, and a few cannons, Cortés and his troops did not immediately face the Aztecs. Montezuma II, the Aztec ruler, first mistook Cortés and his troops for fabled "White Gods" coming to reclaim the kingdom. Cortés overcame the Aztecs by uniting the people who had been oppressed by the Aztecs and fighting with them. By 1521, the Spanish had completely conquered the Aztec federation [10], [11].

As previously stated, the Spanish conquest of Middle America had disastrous implications for indigenous inhabitants. Before Europeans came, it is believed that there were between fifteen and twenty-five million Amerindians in Middle America. There were just roughly 2.5 million remaining after a century of European domination. Cortés vanquished the Amerindians by assassinating the educated classes of religious clergy, priestly orders, and those in positions of leadership. Local peasants and laborers were able to survive. The Spanish destroyed the Maya and Aztec knowledge bases.

Their astronomical expertise, complex calendar, and engineering technology were all destroyed. Only via anthropology, archaeology, and cultural relearning can we completely comprehend the scope of these early civilizations. The Maya and Aztec ancestors still reside in the area, and there are dozens of additional Amerindian communities in Mexico with their own languages, histories, and customs.

The city of the Spanish Colonials

When the Spaniards constructed urban settlements in the New World, they built each town in the Spanish style, with a plaza in the middle. On one side of the plaza, there stood a church. Government offices and merchants were located on the opposite sides of the plaza. They were surrounded by residential dwellings. This design can still be found in practically all of the Spanish towns erected in Middle and South America. The Catholic Church was not just at the heart of town, but it was also a dominant cultural force influencing and molding the Amerindian communities captured by the Spanish. The cultural norm in Spain was to create urban centers wherever government or military assistance was required. In establishing new urban centers in their colonies, Spanish colonists followed a similar strategy. A commercial sector that extended out from the city center constituted the backbone of this concept. A luxurious residential neighborhood for the top socioeconomic strata spread out on either side of the spine, replete with office buildings, retail centers, and upper-scale markets.

Concentric zones of residential districts for the lower, working, and middle classes, as well as the impoverished, surround the central business district and the spine of most cities in Middle and South America. The first zone, the mature zone, has well-established middle-class residential communities with municipal facilities. The zone of transition, the second concentric zone, has lower working-class neighborhoods intermingled with regions with temporary homes and no municipal facilities. The outside zone, or perimeter, is where the city expands, with improvised homes and squatter communities. This area has little or no municipal services and relies on an informal economy. This outer zone often extends into the city, with slums known as favelas or barrios providing working-class access to the metropolis without its advantages. Poor immigrants who come in the city from rural regions often wind up on the city's outskirts, eking out a livelihood in some of the world's poorest living circumstances. The outer ring of cities in this Spanish model grows to the point where solid development takes root and municipal facilities are expanded to serve the population. When this ring matures, a new ring of squatter communities arises to create the city's new outer ring. The development cycle is repeated, and the city continues to grow. Middle and South America's metropolitan areas are rapidly developing. It is challenging to offer public services to many cities' outskirts. The barrios or favelas become isolated communities, replete with criminal leaders and gang activities that take the role of local protection.

Physical Characteristics

Mexico is the world's eighth-largest nation, almost one-fifth the size of the United States. Mexico is bordered to the north by the United States and to the south by Guatemala and Belize in Central America. The world's longest peninsula, the 775-mile-long Baja California Peninsula, which sits between the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of California also known as the Sea of Cortez, is one of Mexico's most noteworthy geographical features. The Peninsular Ranges are a group of mountain ranges in the Baja California Peninsula. The Tropic of Cancer runs across Mexico, separating it into two climatic zones: temperate to the north and tropical to the south. Temperatures in the northern temperate zone may be scorching in the summer, often exceeding 80 degrees Fahrenheit, but much milder in the winter. Temperatures in the tropical zone, on the other hand, change relatively little from season to season, with average temperatures remaining quite near to 80 °F year-round. Temperatures in the south tend to vary with elevation.

Mexico has a wide range of climates, including places with hot humid, moderate humid, and desert climates. Mountain ranges, foothills, plateaus, deserts, and coastal plains all have distinct climatic conditions. Summer and winter temperatures, for example, are harsh in the

country's northern desert regions. Temperatures in the Sonoran and Chihuahuan Deserts surpass 110 °F, but snow may be observed at higher levels throughout the year in the mountainous highlands. Two main mountain ranges that run north and south along Mexico's coasts are really extensions of mountains in the southwest United States. The Sierra Madre Occidental and Sierra Madre Oriental are approximately parallel. The Sierra Madre Occidental, an extension of the Sierra Nevada range, stretches 3,107 miles along the west coast of Mexico, with peaks up to 9,843 feet. The Sierra Madre Oriental stretches 808 kilometers along the east coast and is a continuation of the Rocky Mountains.

Copper Canyon, located in the northern Mexican state of Chihuahua, is almost seven times the size of the Grand Canyon. Six rivers flowed through a succession of twenty gorges to build Copper Canyon. Copper Canyon, in addition to spanning a bigger area than the Grand Canyon, is 1,462 feet deeper at its deepest point. Though sandy beaches are frequently associated with Mexico, the hilly areas are home to pine-oak woods. Because woods comprise more than a quarter of Mexico's area, lumber is a significant natural resource. Mexico ranks fourth in the world in terms of biodiversity, with the most reptile species, the second most mammals, and the fourth most amphibian and plant species. More than 10% of the world's species are thought to dwell here. Forest depletion is a major environmental problem, yet lumber is still a valuable natural resource. Natural habitat degradation occurs in tandem with resource depletion and population growth. Mexico has a variety of volcanoes, some of which are active. The primary language of the indigenous peoples of central Mexico occasionally sends out puffs of smoke that can be seen from Mexico City, reminding residents that eruption is a possibility. Popocatepetl is one of Mexico's most active volcanoes, erupting fifteen times since the Spanish arrived in 1519 CE. This volcano is near enough to humanity to endanger millions of lives.

CONCLUSION

The examination of borders in Middle America shows a complex interaction between socioeconomic, political, and cultural elements. Boundary demarcations caused by political aspirations, shifting territorial claims, and colonial legacies are common in the history of the area. These borders have operated as obstacles, preventing cross-border collaboration and integration while often acting as symbols of sovereignty. Middle America's shifting borders have provided possibilities and conflicts as it navigates the difficulties of globalization and interdependence. The understanding and management of these many borders is essential to the region's capacity to promote cooperation and mutual growth. To maintain peace and realize the potential of Middle America in the twenty-first century, a comprehensive strategy that takes historical contexts, cultural nuances, and geopolitical realities into account is necessary. This study emphasizes the need of ongoing analysis and diplomatic efforts to negotiate the tricky boundary issues in this area and secure a prosperous and peaceful future.

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CHAPTER 6

ANALYSING THE REGION OF SOUTH AMERICA

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ABSTRACT:

The importance of South America, with its many landscapes, cultures, and difficulties, is felt across the world. The essential characteristics of the area are briefly summarized in this abstract. South America has a great geographic variety, ranging from the vast Amazon jungle to the imposing Andes mountains. This variety has encouraged the development of unique civilizations and ecologies, adding to its significance on a cultural and ecological level around the world. Deforestation, economic inequality, and political instability are only a few of the region's urgent problems. For sustainable development to be promoted and South America's distinctive contributions to the world to be preserved, it is essential to recognize and solve these concerns. South America is the region that encompasses the southern half of the New World. This realm encompasses the whole continent of South America, which is physically smaller than North America.

KEYWORDS:

America, Culture, Geography, South America.

INTRODUCTION

The Western Hemisphere was known as the New World by Europeans. South America has a bigger geographical area than Europe, Antarctica, or Australia, but it is smaller than Africa or Asia. South America is situated further east than North America and has a smaller geographical area. Almost the whole South American continent sits east of the same meridian that goes through Miami, Florida. The continent is bounded to the east by the Atlantic Ocean and to the west by the Pacific Ocean. The Panama Isthmus forms a natural barrier between the South American continent and its northern neighbors. The Caribbean Sea forms the northern border. The continent has a wide latitude range. The equator runs right across the mouth of the Amazon River in the northern section of the continent. Ecuador is named for the fact that it is situated on the equator. The tropical climates of the vast Amazon Basin dominate the equatorial area. The Tropic of Capricorn passes exactly across the latitudes of So Paulo, Brazil, and Chile's Atacama Desert, revealing that the majority of the continent lies in the northern tropics. The Southern Cone of South America is located south of the Tropic of Capricorn and is home to the geographical areas of the Pampas and Patagonia. Tierra del Fuego is the realm's southernmost point, including both Argentina and Chile. Cape Horn, located on the south edge of the Tierra del Fuego archipelago, is considered the continent's southernmost land point. South America's southern frontier is marked by the Diego Ramirez Islands south of Cape Horn [1], [2].

A number of well-known island groupings are often associated with the geographical area of South America. Ecuador claims the Galapagos Islands as part of its territory. The Falkland Islands, also known as the Malvinas, are situated off Argentina's southern coast. They are geographically connected to South America, yet they are governed and controlled by the United Kingdom as an overseas territory. Argentina has claimed the Falkland Islands and is fighting the United Kingdom for them. Chile is the owner of the well-known Easter Island and the Robinson Crusoe Island in the Pacific Ocean. Because of their closeness to the

continent, certain Caribbean islands in the Lesser Antilles, such as the Dutch islands of Aruba, Curacao, and Bonaire, are frequently connected with South America.

The physical landscapes of South America range from the high Andes Mountains to the tropical rainforest of the Amazon Basin. This variety of physical characteristics provides several resource bases, enabling individuals to participate in economic activities, obtain riches, and meet their requirements. The vast Andes range has mineral treasures that have been mined since prehistoric times. Precious metals have been extracted from the mountains, providing significant chances to those who are lucky enough to be beneficiaries of their riches. Fossil fuels have been discovered in abundance in Venezuela and Colombia's far northern areas. The Amazon Basin has historically been a source of hardwood timber and, more recently, significant mineral richness. Some of the world's biggest iron-ore mines are found here. Brazil's vast plains and the rich soils of the Pampas enable extensive agricultural operations that produce food for the continent and the globe [3], [4].

Even the harsh Atacama Desert in northern Chile is home to some of the world's greatest copper deposits. Furthermore, the vast diversity of temperate zones allows for the development of a varied spectrum of species. Physical geography extremes in South America have generated both challenges and possibilities for individuals who live there. Many local communities formed themselves into governments or empires prior to the age of European colonization. When the Europeans came, the Inca Empire was the greatest in the world. The early empires built vast buildings that necessitated the movement of big cut stones weighing several tons without the use of modern equipment or technology. European colonization influenced the region in a variety of ways. Not only did Europeans battle and conquer indigenous Amerindian tribes such as the Inca, but cultural exchanges occurred that changed the way of life for many South Americans. Colonialism established many current nation boundaries and altered trade links with newly established colonies. The plantation system and the influx of African slaves transformed the ethnic mix of the people living along the eastern coast dramatically. Following the abolition of slavery, indentured servitude drew people from Asia to strengthen the labor base.

DISCUSSION

Indentured servants were often destitute people who agreed to serve for a certain length of time, generally less than seven years, in exchange for basic needs such as accommodation, food, transportation, or clothes. These employees were not often paid a salary, but rather a lump sum payment upon completion of the agreed-upon service. Indentured servants were treated like family and earned valuable experience and work skills to help them in the future. Many scenarios were even less pleasant and resembled a type of slavery in which persons died as a result of sickness, terrible surroundings, or death. The physical environment, as well as the effect of colonization, were both responsible for the cultural characteristics of South American areas. Ethnic majorities affected by early colonial development may be used to split the continent into regions. The interaction of ethnic groups from Europe, Africa, and Asia, as well as the indigenous people, has resulted in a varied cultural mosaic. For example, the majority of people in Guyana and Suriname are Asian, the majority of people in Argentina and Uruguay are European, the majority of people in Peru and Bolivia are Amerindian, and the majority of people in several places along Brazil's eastern coast are of African heritage. A considerable proportion of South America's population is of mixed ethnic origin. Understanding South American cultural geography aids knowledge of the region's human development trends.

South America's contemporary economic growth has contributed to its integration into the global economy. The realm's economic development levels vary greatly. Within many sections of the continent, there are evident indicators of core-peripheral spatial patterns, and rural-to-urban migration has been considerable in several locations. Rural areas in the Andes or the interior lack the economic backing required to update their infrastructure. At the same time, urban regions are quickly developing and fully connected with global markets and cutting-edge technology. The majority of major cities are concentrated around the coast. This urbanization pattern is mostly the product of colonial activities and impact. South American nations are cooperating to network trade and business activity. Trade treaties and economic unions have become common techniques of establishing commercial alliances to expand the world's economic potential [5], [6].

Geographical Location

The vast Andes Mountains and the huge Amazon River system dominate the physical landscape of South America. The Andes Mountain range stretches throughout the whole western section of the continent, from Venezuela to southern Chile. The Andes are the world's longest mountain range and the tallest in the Americas. The Andes Mountain range has over thirty peaks with elevations of at least 20,000 feet, several of which are active volcanoes. The Andes have isolated the Inca Empire, supplied mineral riches to those with the capacity to extract it, and served as a barrier to visitors traversing the continent. The minerals found in the Andes include gold, silver, tin, and other valuable metals. Mining became an important business throughout the colonial period and continues to be so now. The Amazon River, which runs through the heart of the continent and has a massive drainage basin amid the world's biggest tropical rain forest, is more than two thousand miles long. Many of the Amazon's tributaries are greater than many other rivers in the globe. The Amazon River, which flows parallel to the equator, vies with the Nile for the title of world's longest river. In 2007, a disagreement emerged over the true length of the Amazon River. Brazilian scientists used satellite photos and crews on the ground utilizing a global positioning system to compute the Amazon's new length. The Nile River's length was also determined using similar techniques. Both were discovered to be longer than previously measured. The exact length of each river is still being debated. The truest statement is that the Amazon River has the highest discharge of any river in the world, and it may also be the world's longest river.

The Amazon transports over one-fifth of the world's river water. The Amazon and its many tributaries drain the entire continent's interior, encompassing 40% of South America. During the rainy season, the Amazon River may stretch for more than a hundred kilometers. The Amazon River is devoid of bridges. Its source is a glacier stream in the Peruvian Andes, about 150 miles from the Pacific Ocean. Extended tributaries of the Amazon, such as the Rio Negro, Madeira, and Xingu, transport huge volumes of water across the Amazon Basin and are important rivers in their own right. The Amazon contains over 1,100 tributaries, a dozen of which are over a thousand kilometers long. Hydroelectric dams are built on the streams to provide power for the region's rapidly expanding development. The Orinoco River flows through Venezuela; the Sao Francisco River flows through southeast Brazil; and the Paraguay and Paraná Rivers flow south from Brazil into the Rio de la Plata between Argentina and Uruguay.

Lake Titicaca is located in the Altiplano Region in the Central Andes, on the boundary between Peru and Bolivia. The Altiplano Region is a broad valley located between two major Andean Mountain ranges. The term altiplano translates to "valley" in Spanish. South America has a significant number of altiplanos. They support agricultural productivity as well as

human settlement. Ancient civilizations dating back to early human settlements have lived in the Altiplano Region. Lake Titicaca is a big freshwater lake that stretches for 120 kilometers and is 50 km wide. The lake's surface is about twelve thousand feet above sea level, and it is more than nine hundred feet deep in certain sections. Normally, at such high heights, the temperature drops below freezing, limiting cultivation. The huge lake, on the other hand, works as a solar energy collector, receiving energy from the sun during the day and releasing it as heat at night. The redistribution of energy allows for a moderate temperature surrounding the lake, which is ideal for producing food crops. The Altiplano Region has sustained human settlement for thousands of years due to plentiful fresh water and the capacity to cultivate food and catch fish. The ancient stone site at Tiahuanaco on the Bolivian side of the lake includes some items dating back to 1500 BCE or earlier. People continue to live on and around Lake Titicaca on a subsistence basis[7]–[9].

The Atacama Desert is located across the Andes Mountains from the Altiplano Region. The Atacama Desert is one of the driest locations on Earth, with no rain falling in certain areas in recorded history. Under normal conditions, the Atacama would be a barren zone devoid of human activity, but this is not the case. Here are some of the world's biggest copper deposits. Nitrates, which are often used in fertilizers, are also abundant. Mining in the Atacama Desert has resulted in great riches for those who have been lucky enough to benefit from the earnings. The rain shadow effect is to blame for the Atacama's extreme aridity. At this latitude, the Andes are fairly high, and the winds blow in rain clouds from the east. When the clouds approach the mountains, they climb in height, discharging precipitation but never reaching the Andes' western flank. East of the Andes, South America features enormous agricultural plateaus, such as the Mato Grosso Plateau, which encompasses a piece of the huge cerrado agricultural area of central Brazil. The Cerrado is a large plain that has been cultivated for agriculture, yielding massive harvests of soybeans and cereal crops. The Brazilian Highlands, a large coffee-growing area, border the Cerrado to the southeast. Another outstanding agricultural location with rich soils and ample rainfall is the Pampas in eastern Argentina, Uruguay, and southernmost Brazil. Farming, cattle ranching, and even wineries may be found here, making the Pampas the Southern Cone's breadbasket. Patagonia, which includes the southern region of Argentina east of the Andes, is to the south of the Pampas. Patagonia is a prairie grassland area with little rainfall due to the rain shadow effect of the Andes to the west. The major activities of Patagonia are cattle and other livestock farming. The production of natural resources such as oil, natural gas, and precious minerals is attracting interest in the area.

The Llanos are a grassland area with scrub woodlands located in Venezuela and Colombia, situated between the Andes Mountains and the Guiana Highlands. Because of the remoteness of the territory in the Orinoco River basin, the human population is limited. The Guiana Highlands in southeast Venezuela and the Guianas are a remote collection of hilly plateaus characterized by rough scenery and tropical weather. Angel Falls, the tallest waterfall in the world, is situated here, with a free fall of more than 2,647 feet and a total plunge of nearly 3,212 feet. Lake Maracaibo, a vast inland lake accessible to the Caribbean Sea, is located northwest of the Llanos and the Guiana Highlands in Venezuela. Maracaibo, a coastal lake, sits on massive oil deposits that supply Venezuela with economic prosperity.

European Imperialism

The colonial history of South America affected its early cultural environment. With their empires and small tribes, the indigenous people were no match for the Iberian conquerors who introduced European colonization to the continent. South America was entirely colonized by two major Iberian powers: Spain occupied the western section of the continent,

while Portugal colonized the east coast of what is now Brazil. The only territory not colonized by those two powers was the little region of Guianas, which was colonized by the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and France. With the entrance of the Iberian conquerors, everything changed. The local indigenous people's core concepts of culture, religion, and economy were disturbed and pushed to shift. It is no surprise that the two prominent languages of South America are Spanish and Portuguese, and that Roman Catholicism is the dominating religion of the region. Colonialism was also responsible for bringing food crops to Europe, such as the potato, which originated in the Peruvian Andes. Coffee is becoming a major export for Colombia, Brazil, and other tropical nations.

Coffee did not originate in South America, but was brought there by colonial activities. The same may be said for sugarcane, bananas, and citrus fruits; oranges were not indigenous to South America, yet Brazil is now the world's leading supplier of orange juice. Colonialism was motivated by the desire for a rapid profit from the selling of commodities such as gold or silver, and there was a ready market for things not present in Europe, such as tobacco, grain, exotic animals, and tropical woods. The introduction of plantation agriculture by the Europeans resulted in a strong need for manual employees. When local populations were unable to satisfy labor demands, the slave trade was used to bring millions of African laborers. These African slaves imported their own distinct customs and traditions, affecting the Western Hemisphere's culture and demography. The present indigenous Amerindian population, which is a fraction of what it was before Europeans came, accounts for just a tiny proportion of South America's overall population. European conquerors often acquired the finest land and dominated the region's commercial commerce. South American acculturation is inextricably linked to the European colonial experience [10], [11].

Francisco Pizarro and the Inca Empire

A young Spanish explorer called Francisco Pizarro, stationed in what is now Panama, heard reports of silver and gold discovered among the South American Indians not long after Hernán Cortés destroyed the Aztec Empire of Mexico in 1521. He conducted multiple sailing expeditions around South America's west coast. He created Lima, Peru's maritime city, in 1531 CE. Since 1200 CE, the Inca governed a vast empire that extended from central Peru and encompassed the high-altitude Altiplano Region surrounding Lake Titicaca. From Ecuador to Northern Chile, the Inca Empire ruled. The Inca were not the most numerous people, but they were a governing class that ruled over other oppressed ethnicities. Pizarro faced the Inca army and defeated them in a series of military maneuvers with less than 200 soldiers and a dozen horses. In 1533, the Spanish captured the Inca leader. The Inca Empire fell two years later, in 1535. The Inca Empire was powerful because of the abundance of gold and silver found in the Andes. According to legend, Pizarro imprisoned the captured Inca leader in a tiny chamber and told him that if the room was filled with gold to the top of the Inca leader's head, he would release the Inca leader. The chamber was filled with gold that had been summoned from the people and the countryside.

The Inca leader was compelled to convert to Catholicism and be baptized before being slain by the conquistadors. The gold was melted down and returned to Spain. The Andes' mineral richness made the conquistadors wealthy. Lima was previously one of the world's richest cities. Throughout the colonial period, Europeans continued to control and exploit mineral mining in Peru and Bolivia. Since colonial times, European elites or a Mestizo governing class have dominated or controlled the native Amerindian populations in the Andes. Many Amerindian communities resided in this area before the Inca Empire, including those who created and lived in the ancient city of Tiahuanaco, which may have bordered Lake Titicaca during a previous climatic period when the lake was considerably bigger. Humans have

clearly inhabited in South America for thousands of years. Travel between South America and the Mediterranean area may have happened earlier than existing historical records show. Many of the ruins in South America's western region have not been thoroughly excavated or examined by archaeologists, and the size and scope of many of the stone structures attest to the advances in engineering and technology used in an era when, according to historical records, only primitive tools were available.

The Continent's Iberian Division

The Spaniards were not the first European conquerors to occupy South America. The tiny European monarchy of Portugal also exerted colonial influence, forcing changes in languages, religion, and economy. Portuguese ships travelled down South America's eastern coast, claiming the land for the monarch. The Portuguese did not discover huge gold or silver deposits, but they wanted the territory in order to expand their kingdom. Soon, the Spanish and Portuguese were vying for the same territories in South America. The matter was raised to the Roman Catholic Church in 1494. The Tordesillas Line was created on a map to partition South America into Spanish and Portuguese territories. The territory that is now Brazil became the most important Portuguese colonial holding in South America, a hub for plantation agriculture akin to that of the Caribbean. As a result, Brazil has a sizable African population, and the majority of Brazilians speak Portuguese and are Roman Catholics. The Spanish colonies did not gain independence until 1816 and 1818, when Chile and Argentina broke away in a southern independence movement. Simón Bolívar headed northern freedom efforts. The Spanish had been beaten in South America by 1824. Brazil gained independence from Portugal in 1822, when the prince of Portugal proclaimed an independent Brazil and appointed himself as the country's first emperor. It wasn't until 1889 that a real republic and the end of the empire were announced [12], [13].

The Guianas and Colonialism

The northeastern Guianas were the only European possessions in South America that were not controlled by the Spanish or Portuguese. The British, Dutch, and French all had competing claims to various areas of the Guianas. French Guiana is still a French colony today. Persistence, time, and patience were necessary throughout the transition from colony to sovereign state. Guyana and Suriname gained independence in the second half of the twentieth century. The Guianas' coastline position presented European colonialists with an ideal location for plantation production. The Atlantic commerce system was easily accessible to coastal cities. African slaves were transported to the Guianas to work on plantations as a result of the active slave trade in the Atlantic. When slavery was abolished, indentured servants were brought in from other regions of the globe where the same European powers had colonized. The cultural dynamics of the Guianas were completely altered by colonialism and plantation cultivation. The primary urban centers along the coast are port cities. The Guianas follow a pattern similar to the Caribbean rimland and are included in numerous studies with the Caribbean. Currently, bauxite mining and oil resources along the coast give a limited revenue, and many people depend on subsistence agriculture.

Guyana

The climate of Guyana and its neighbors is tropical type A. The major central sections are mostly forested. Despite some deforestation, forests comprise more than 80% of Guyana's geographical area, with a broad spectrum of woods ranging from dry evergreen forests to tropical rain forests, and thousands of plant species unique solely in this region. Guyana's natural environments and biodiversity are unrivaled, thanks to the climate, varied landforms, and generally intact ecosystems. Its vast rain forests are home to a plethora of species that are

not found anywhere else. The inner areas are still more than 70% virgin, but this will change if logging, mining, and deforestation are not properly controlled. Before its independence in 1966, Guyana was known as British Guiana. Before the advent of the Dutch, who built the first colony there in 1616, the territory was home to Carib and Arawak populations. By 1831, the British had gained control and designated British Guiana a colony. Until slavery was abolished in 1834, African slaves were the primary source of plantation labor. At the time, indentured slaves from a variety of nations were sought for work; the majority were East Indians from South Asia. Thousands of servants from China and other countries were also there. Guyana's population of fewer than one million people is a mix of African, East Indian, and Amerindian. The remaining are ethnically diverse and European. East Indians have a religious heritage that comprises both Hindus and Muslims. Approximately half of the population has converted to Christianity. Ethnic divides make coordinating politics and social activities harder. One political issue, for example, is that minority groups with higher economic advantages would dominate the political arena regardless of the views of other ethnic groups.

CONCLUSION

South America is a fascinating example of the complex interactions between nature and human civilization. Its unrivaled geographic variety has given rise to a diverse range of civilizations and ecosystems while also posing significant problems. The Amazon rainforest, which is sometimes referred to as the "lungs of the Earth," is always under danger due to deforestation and climate change. While the Andes mountains have traditionally promoted commerce and cross-cultural interchange, they also provide difficulties for infrastructure and growth. In spite of these difficulties, the economies of South America have shown resilience and development potential, propelled by industries like mining, agriculture, and tourism. Understanding and recognizing the region's distinctiveness is crucial for supporting sustainable development and maintaining its worldwide significance as the world community deals with environmental and socioeconomic concerns.

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CHAPTER 7

FIGURING OUT THE BOUNDARIES OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

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ABSTRACT:

The history, politics, and socioeconomic dynamics of Sub-Saharan Africa have been significantly shaped by the boundaries of the continent. The numerous facets of these borders are examined in this chapter, including their historical roots, colonial effects, and post-independence modifications. The research aims to clarify the intricacies and effects of Sub-Saharan Africa's borders, providing light on their continued significance in a contemporary setting via a thorough review of primary and secondary sources. The complex and multidimensional framework created by the boundaries of Sub-Saharan Africa has had a significant influence on the socio-political, economic, and historical dynamics of the area. This abstract investigates where these borders came from and how they have changed through time, starting with pre-colonial periods and ending in the present. It explores how colonial powers influenced the region's borders and the possibilities and problems they create for the many ethnic, cultural, and linguistic groups living there. The ramifications of these borders on resource allocation, interstate relations, and regional integration initiatives are also highlighted in the abstract. The present study highlights the persistent relevance of Sub-Saharan Africa's borders in the present by examining historical and modern sources to illuminate their multifaceted structure.

KEYWORDS:

African, Africa, Colonialism, Sub-Saharan, Relations.

INTRODUCTION

Sub-Saharan Africa refers to African nations located south of the Sahara Desert. At the broadest point of the continent, the African Transition Zone crosses over the southern border of the Sahara Desert. Many of the nations in the African Transition Zone are part of Sub-Saharan Africa. The continent is divided into four regions: Central Africa, East Africa, West Africa, and Southern Africa. The Horn of Africa, located at the eastern extremity of the African Transition Zone, is sometimes included in the area of East Africa. The nations covered in each area vary per map, however this overall geographic classification is useful in recognizing country locations and features. Madagascar is a vast island off Africa's southern coast that is typically excluded from the other regions due to its geological characteristics and biodiversity being significantly distinct from the continent[1], [2].

The African continent is surrounded by saline water. It is bounded on the east by the Indian Ocean and on the west by the Atlantic. The southern extremity of the continent, off the coast of South Africa, is known as the Cape of Good Hope, where the Atlantic and Indian oceans meet. Africa includes a number of tiny island groupings that are both affiliated with the realm and separate governments. The sovereign nation of Cape Verde is located around 350 miles off the coast of West Africa in the North Atlantic. The two islands that make up the autonomous nation of So Tomé and Príncipe, a former Portuguese colony, are located just south of Nigeria on the eastern side of the Gulf of Guinea near the equator. Equatorial Guinea is a tiny nation that contains an island off the coast of Cameroon where its capital is situated. The Seychelles, Comoros, and Mauritius are autonomous republics in the Indian Ocean around Madagascar.

There is substantial diversity in how Sub-Saharan African areas are drawn or recognized on maps. The disagreement is not about which areas make up Sub-Saharan Africa, but over which nations are included within each category. There are similarities and contrasts between the areas. Cultural geography varies greatly from nation to country and ethnic group to ethnic group, although there are similar cultural trends throughout all Sub-Saharan African areas. For example, colonization has had a significant historical role in forming the nations. Families are big, and all areas are seeing increasing rural-to-urban migration. Every area features big metropolitan centers, which are frequently port cities that serve as the core sites and are surrounded by a huge rural hinterland[3], [4].

Globalization has entered the equation, linking these formerly isolated places to the rest of the globe. Communication and transportation advancements have resulted in networks linking Africa to global markets. Sub-Saharan Africa has a youthful population that is always on the move, looking for whatever possibilities or benefits they may discover. Political leadership is often changed by coups or military takeovers, and authoritarian control is widespread. Sub-Saharan Africa is home to some of the world's poorest nations. Poverty is seen both in the countryside and in the greatest cities' urban slums. Civil wars are an unfortunate aspect of any region's history. In some regions, violence and war persist, while others have political stability and flourishing economy. The most notable dynamic in Sub-Saharan Africa is the variety of human geography. The diversity of ethnic groups, dialects, and religious connections generate significant centripetal and centrifugal forces that interplay in a vibrant sea of cultural diversity.

The majority of the population is agricultural, but some are learning the skills needed to adapt to the growing globalization tsunami that is bringing new technology and ideas to the continent. The continent's metropolitan core regions are the primary focus of global trends in technology and communication. These urban core locations display the usual core-periphery spatial connection characteristics. Sub-Saharan Africa is divided into various core and periphery locations. The social elites who have links to the global economy and frequently control political activity provide the key metropolitan centers political power. These core metropolitan regions are often magnets for persons seeking work from big families in rural outlying areas. Millions of Africans seeking job are prepared to relocate to cities or even other nations to find work. Rural immigrants are often not of the same ethnic group as those in power, laying the groundwork for discriminatory laws that penalize the numerous minority groups who are not linked with the government. These dynamics may feed protest movements aimed at destabilizing the strong elite. Several proposals have been made to help level the socioeconomic playing field. One of the most notable choices is the establishment of a democratic government in which the majority of the people have a say in who holds positions of leadership and authority.

DISCUSSION

The Sub-Saharan region exhibits broad patterns and dynamics of people and places. Large family sizes, rural lifestyles, and low-income levels are typical demographic trends throughout the areas.

Throughout the continent, patterns of an economy focused on agricultural output and mineral extractive industries, as well as disruptive shifts in political leadership, are frequent. Each area contains a wide range of ethnic groups and languages. The most common belief systems south of the African Transition Zone are Christian and animist, but Islam is dominant north of the zone. Where multiple faiths converge and fight for governmental authority, division and civil unrest may emerge. These ideas will be reinforced throughout the chapter. Sub-Saharan

Africa's cultural mosaic is broad and complicated, and this chapter will summarize the fundamental trends and patterns with particular instances to help put it all into context.

Sub-Saharan Africa's Physical Geography

Because of climatic and cultural characteristics, the African Transition Zone separates North Africa from the rest of Africa. The zone is characterized by cultural clashes and desertification. North of the zone, dry, arid type B climates, widespread in the Sahara Desert, predominate. South of the zone, tropical type A. Global climate change is still shaping the continent. The Sahara's shifting dunes are progressively drifting southward toward the tropics. Desertification continues in the zone as natural factors and human activities put pressure on the land via overgrazing and a lack of precipitation. Type B climates reappear in the southern latitudes, south of the tropics. The Kalahari and Namib Deserts are found in Southern Africa, mostly in Botswana and Namibia.

Sub-Saharan Africa lacks extensive mountain ranges similar to those found in North or South America, Europe, Asia, or Antarctica, despite its size. There are, however, elevations of up to 15,000 feet in the Ethiopian Highlands and Ethiopian Plateau. East Africa is home to a number of well-known high-altitude volcanic peaks. Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, on the border with Kenya, is the highest peak in Africa, standing at 19,340 feet. Mt. Kenya, which lies nearby in Kenya, is 17,058 feet high. The Rwenzori Mountains on the Congo/Uganda border rise over 16,000 feet and provide a rain shadow over the area. Despite being proximity to the equator, these mountains have permanent glaciers. Mt. Cameroon in Central Africa is more than 13,000 feet high and located on the continent's western edge. The Cape Ranges of South Africa are low-lying mountains that rise no higher than 6,000 feet. Africa is made mostly of plains and plateaus rather than extensive mountain ranges. The plateaus may have elevations ranging from 1,000 to 2,500 feet. The eastern rift valleys that stretch along the tectonic plate boundaries from the Red Sea to South Africa are the only continuous features [5]–[7].

Africa's major rivers include the Nile, Niger, Congo, and Zambezi. The Nile River vies with the Amazon for the title of world's longest river; the White Nile branch originates in East Africa's Lake Victoria, while the Blue Nile branch begins in Ethiopia's Lake Tana. The Niger River travels across West Africa, with its mouth in Nigeria. The Congo River crosses the equator with a wide tropical drainage basin, producing a volume of water second only to the Amazon. The Victoria Falls on the Zambia-Zambia border are the most renowned feature of the Zambezi River in the south. The Victoria Falls is the world's biggest waterfall. Other notable rivers include the Orange River, which forms part of the boundary between South Africa and Namibia. Sub-Saharan Africa has a number of huge lakes. The biggest is Lake Victoria, which borders many East African nations and is the world's second-largest lake by surface area. Only Lake Superior has a larger surface area in North America. A number of huge lakes may be found in the east rift valleys. Lake Malawi, Lake Tanganyika, and Lake Albert are three of the major lakes along the western rift. Lake Turkana, which approaches the Ethiopian border, is located to the northeast of them. Lake Chad is situated on the border of Chad, Mali, and Nigeria in the African Transition Zone. Lake Chad has shrunk dramatically in recent years.

The equator extends through the heart of Sub-Saharan Africa, giving tropical climates of type A. These areas often get more rainfall, resulting in lighter, leached-out soils that may be less productive than areas with richer volcanic soils, such as those found in rift valleys. Root crops, as well as millet and corn (maize), are prevalent throughout Africa. Seasonal rains impact the growth season in the savanna areas of the east and south. Savanna soils are often

less productive and cannot be relied on to meet the agricultural demands of expanding populations. Savannas are often grasslands or scrub woodlands that get seasonal precipitation. Cattle and cattle grazing are popular in savannas, and migrations to follow seasonal grazing conditions are typical. Larger agricultural operations occur in select locations of Southern Africa with type C climates. However, Sub-Saharan Africa lacks the vast areas of rich alluvial soils seen in the Northern Hemisphere. The ever-increasing agricultural population has long relied on the land for food and survival, but these circumstances do not bode well for Africa's future. Population growth outpaces any gain in agricultural output.

Sub-Saharan Africa's growing population is putting a strain on the natural environment. Natural capital is being drained at an unsustainable pace if carrying capacity has been surpassed. Deforestation is taking place in locations where firewood is in great demand, and trees are being taken down faster than they can regenerate. Expanding human populations are also threatening the natural richness for which Africa is famous. Large game species like rhinoceroses, elephants, and lions have all been killed or poached, with disastrous results. Although the establishment of wildlife preserves and national parks has helped to stop the flow, poaching remains a severe issue even in these protected regions. Human population expansion has also put pressure on gorilla and chimp numbers[8], [9]. Humans are killing these creatures for bush meat, and human activities are destroying their habitats. Physical Features of Sub-Saharan Africa is show below in Figure 1.

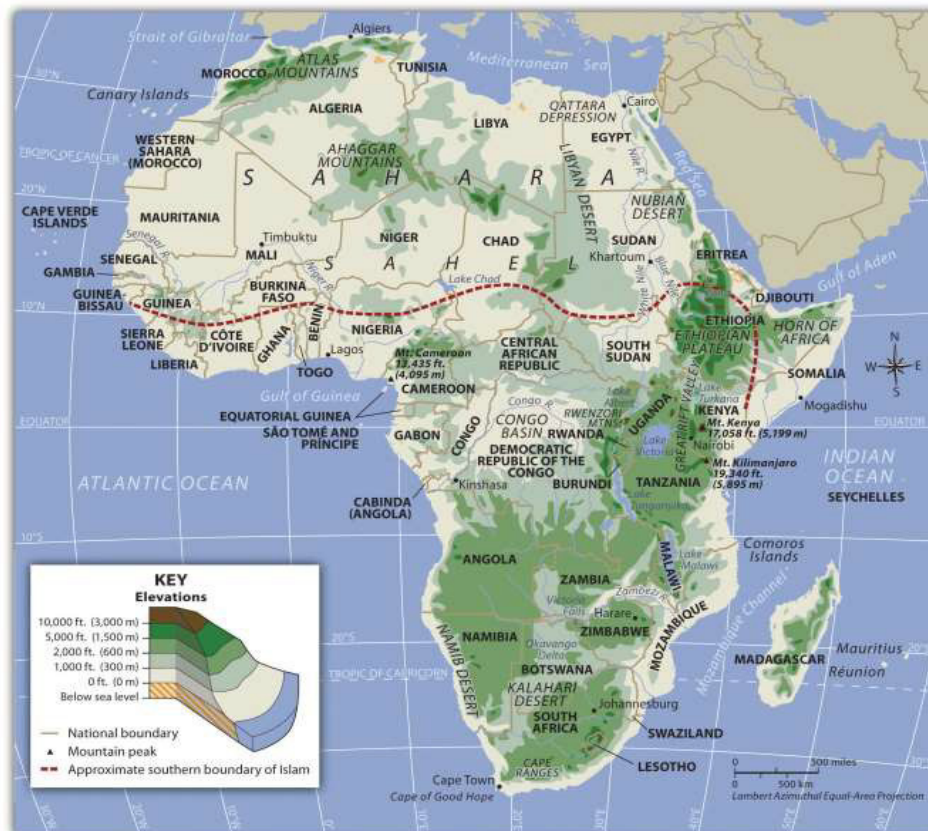


Figure 1: Physical Features of Sub-Saharan Africa

Sub-Saharan Africa lacks lengthy mountain ranges like those seen on other continents. The major rivers are the Nile, Congo, and Niger. The primary deserts south of the African Transition Zone are the Namib and Kalahari. The Great Rift Valleys are East Africa's longest physical features.

The Slave Trade, Kingdoms, and Empires

West Africa was home to a number of major empires that influenced African culture and people. Early commercial commodities included gold, salt, copper, and ivory. The area benefited greatly from mining and collecting these goods. Slavery became a component of group fighting, since the victor frequently seized prisoners to serve as servants or slaves. The Ghana Empire (790-1076 CE) was responsible for one of West Africa's early power consolidations. Despite its great power and riches, it was just the first of a series of empires to emerge in the area. The Mali Empire (1230-1600 CE) followed the Ghana Empire and was notable for its riches and size. The empire controlled important mining enterprises such as gold, copper, and salt. The Mali Empire spanned a territory the size of Western Europe, stretching from the Niger River to the Atlantic coast. The empire, which began as a federation of local clans, encompassed numerous smaller provinces or kingdoms and had a significant effect on the region's laws and cultural history.

The Songhai people, who lived to the east of the main Mali Empire, were one of the indigenous republics that sprang from the Mali Empire. For ages, the Songhai had been centered on the city of Gao, and in the fifteenth century, they founded the Songhai Empire, one of the biggest empires in African history. During this time, Timbuktu rose to prominence as an urban hub, and its educational institutions became well-known. In the end, Moroccan Berber armies conquered the Songhai Empire, splintering it into several smaller kingdoms and ethnic tribes. South of the Niger River empires thrived coastal kingdoms such as the Ashanti and Dahomey during the colonial period. Local African populations had to battle with colonial European merchants and conquerors who had better weaponry and technology. Aside from the mining riches of gold, copper, salt, and ivory, the slave trade was a driving factor that drew trading ships from all around Europe.

The Ashanti Empire was situated along the Atlantic coast in what is now Ghana and Ivory Coast; this area acted as a commerce corridor via which products from the northern areas passed to reach the coastal trading centers. The Ashanti Empire prospered as a result of the commercial possibilities. By the time the Europeans came, Ashanti trading links had developed to the point that they could provide colonial ships with slaves, ivory, and gold. During colonial times, Ghana's coastline region was known as the Gold Coast. Similarly, the Ivory Coast earned its name from its involvement in the elephant ivory trade. The Ashanti were notorious for their role in the slave trade and must now cope with the consequences. Because of the large number of local people from this region who were sold into the European slave trade and carried to the Americas, this region of West Africa bordering the Atlantic was dubbed the Slave Coast. East of the Ashanti Empire, the once-powerful Kingdom of Dahomey was primarily engaged in the slave trade. Slave trade with Europeans provided them with rifles and other guns that they could employ in wars with their regional opponents. The kingdom earned the wrath of its neighbors as a pariah state by selling its military prisoners into transatlantic slavery rather than murdering them, as was the usual in combat. Following the colonial period, the Kingdom of Dahomey became the nation of Benin [10], [11].

The slave trade gave prosperity to many of Africa's slave-trading countries. The need for slaves prompted many African monarchs to extend their slave-trading enterprises, capturing more people to sell to European slave traffickers. Millions of Africans were seized by fellow Africans, sold into slavery, loaded onto ships, and sent to slave masters in the Americas. The entire number of slaves traded into the Atlantic slave trade will never be known, although estimates vary from ten to twelve million. Sub-Saharan Africa was home to states and kingdoms. In what is now Ethiopia, early kingdoms thrived. The Axum Empire in East Africa

was an illustration of the dominance of the early African savanna kingdoms in the east. The conflict between Islam and Christianity divided the area, resulting in the African Transition Zone, which acts as a dividing line between the two faiths. Ethiopia has kept its Christian roots, whilst Islam has taken hold in the north and east. The remains of Great Zimbabwe, south of the equator, provide witness to the region's power foundation that thrived there for millennia. The Zulu Empire flourished in the nineteenth century in what is now South Africa.

Sub-Saharan African colonialism

You cannot escape the effect of European colonization no matter where you go in the globe. Colonial actions had a wide-ranging impact on Sub-Saharan Africa, the residue of which may still be seen today. European colonial powers moved into Africa to seize colonies. Slavery and the North Atlantic Trade Triangle are discussed in the Brazil debate. Slavery had various effects in Africa. Many African communities played important roles in capturing and keeping slaves for exchange with European traders. These organizations still exist and have had to deal with the consequences of their involvement in the slave trade's supply chain. By 1900, European colonial powers controlled the majority of Africa. Only the Kingdom of Ethiopia and the territory of Liberia formed as a haven for freed slaves retained their independence. Otto von Bismarck of Germany held the Berlin Conference in 1884, which largely influenced how Africa was colonized. The goal of this meeting, which comprised fourteen colonial European nations and the United States, was to split Africa and agree on colonial border lines. Germany had limited claims in Africa, and Bismarck hoped to gain an advantage by pitting the other nations against one other. At the time, more than 80% of Africa was still free of colonial rule. Claims were disputed over and boundary lines were established according to European accords on a big map of Africa.

There was little consideration given to the interests of local ethnic communities. Close-knit communities were split into various colonies by colonial borders. Ethnic distinctions were ignored. Warring factions were often housed in the same colony. The Europeans, seeking profits from cheap labor and resources, had little regard for the indigenous people or culture, and often used cruel tactics to control them. The Berlin Conference resulted in the majority of Africa's existing boundaries, and many of the geopolitical difficulties that face Africa today may be linked back to this event particularly, as well as colonialism in general. European colonialism persisted in Africa until the conclusion of World War II, when many European nations were economically depleted. The United Nations (UN) was founded in 1945. One of the fundamental goals of the UN was to supervise the decolonization of European territories. Nonetheless, colonialism persisted throughout Sub-Saharan Africa. It wasn't until the 1990s that the last colony was liberated. Conflict arose as a result of the transition from colony to sovereign country. Civil battles raged over who would rule the land when the Europeans were driven away. The transition to complete independence has taken a tremendous toll on African nations, but in many instances has resulted in stronger political systems and more democratic rights. Ghana became the first nation in Sub-Saharan Africa to win independence in 1957.

CONCLUSION

Sub-Saharan Africa's borders exhibit a complicated fabric of historical, colonial, and modern influences. The ethnic makeup, cultural dynamics, and resource distribution of the area have all been significantly impacted by these borders, which were often imposed arbitrarily during the colonial period. Post-independence efforts to redraw or redefine borders have sometimes resulted in disputes and diplomatic difficulties. These borders' complex interactions with ethnic identities have given rise to both uniting and dividing forces within and across nations. Furthermore, these boundaries often influence the control and administration of significant

resources, which has an impact on regional cooperation and growth. Understanding the complexities of Sub-Saharan Africa's borders is essential for promoting stability, collaboration, and sustainable development in the area as it continues to change in the twenty-first century.

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CHAPTER 8

UNDERSTANDING THE BOUNDARIES OF SOUTHWEST ASIA AND NORTH AFRICA

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ABSTRACT:

The borders between North Africa and Southwest Asia are the result of a complex interaction of geographical, historical, cultural, and political factors. The complexity of these borders and their importance in influencing the regional dynamics are highlighted. It explores the historical history of borders caused by colonization, conquests, and treaties as well as the impact of physical elements like deserts, mountains, and water bodies in defining boundaries. The abstract also highlights the influence of these limits' cultural and religious associations, as well as the ongoing geopolitical difficulties that affect them. For a full understanding of the larger environment in which regional interactions and conflicts take place, it is essential to understand the complex nature of the borders between Southwest Asia and North Africa. The examination looks at how boundaries have changed through time, how geographical elements affect how limits are defined, and how cultural, religious, and political forces have shaped the area. A thorough knowledge of the dynamics in Southwest Asia and North Africa is revealed by looking at the fluidity and complexity of these borders.

KEYWORDS:

Boundaries, Culture, Geography, North Africa, Southwest Asia.

INTRODUCTION

Although the continents of North Africa and Southwest Asia cover a large and vast geographic area, their areas have a lot of things in common. North Africa, Southwest Asia, and the Turkestan nations (a geographical region in Central Asia) make up the three geographical areas that make up this realm.

The nations that border the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea from Morocco to Sudan are considered to be part of the North African area. The African Transition Zone, the Sahara Desert, and the Atlantic Ocean all about the realm. Egypt's control of the Sinai Peninsula gives it land in both Africa and Asia.

The Middle East, Turkey, Iran, and the Arabian Peninsula are all part of the second area, Southwest Asia. Levant is a common name for the region on the eastern coasts of the Mediterranean Sea, which is generally considered to be a part of the Middle East. Although officially only referring to Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, and Iraq, the phrase "Middle East" is sometimes used to refer to the whole of Southwest Asia. Between China and the Caspian Sea, in an area known as Central Asia sometimes known as Turkestan, are the "stan" nations of Kazakhstan through Afghanistan[1], [2].

In Central Asia, the prefix stan, which means "land of," is often used for nation names. The only nation in Central Asia that was not a formal component of the Soviet Union is Afghanistan. The region between the Mediterranean Sea and the Persian Gulf is sometimes referred to as the Middle East, a word from Europe that unites the Near East with the Far East. Europeans have always regarded Turkey, with its capital city of Istanbul, as a part of the Near East. The Murder on the Orient Express train ran between Paris and Istanbul in the

renowned Agatha Christie book. Orient and occident are terms for the east and west, respectively. Because China and India were referred to as the Far East and Turkey as the Near East, the area in between became known as the Middle East. Although it is not totally true, this phrase is often used to describe Southwest Asia.

Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia, three little nations in the Caucasus Mountains, are connected to our world both geographically and historically. Although they are legally European nations, they were once a part of the Soviet Union. Chapter 1 of "Introduction to the World" contains information on these nations in depth. Historically known as Asia Minor due to the majority of its land mass being in Asia, Turkey is a country with territory in both Europe and Asia. Turkey is connected to the European continent through the region of Turkey that is located to the west of Istanbul. Cyprus is a little island in the eastern Mediterranean that shares borders with Turkey and has links to the Middle East in the past. Cyprus is officially a member of the European Union and a nation in Europe. Afghanistan has always been a nation in transition, bordering both Iran and China[3], [4].

It has been captured by several civilizations, and numerous factions have battled for its area. Due to its vast natural endowments, Afghanistan is now a crucial player in the globalization process, but its political situation is fragile and chaotic. Sudan, a nation that is physically in Africa, is included in this realm because it has characteristics in common with the other three areas. East Africa and Sudan might both be studied together. Sudan is located inside the African Transition Zone, which also spans the largest portion of the continent. The African Transition Zone establishes a border between the regions of North Africa and Southwest Asia, separating the influence of Islam to the north and the influence of Christianity to the south. Additionally, it marks the border between the more tropical type A climates of Equatorial Africa and the dry and arid type B climates.

DISCUSSION

Eritrea, Somalia, and Ethiopia are among the nations that make up the African Transition Zone's easternmost portion. While this region is often discussed in other settings, in this textbook, the pertinent details are found in the chapter on East Africa. Conflicts on the basis of race, culture, or politics may arise in the African Transition Zone. The nations of Turkestan, Southwest Asia, and North Africa is shown below in Figure 1.



Figure 1: The Regions of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Turkestan

The three primary prevalent characteristics shared by the nations of the realm have an impact on all other human endeavors. The region's climate is the first significant factor that unites them. Although there are other kinds of climate in this region, the dry or desert type B climate predominates and covers the majority of the land. Other climatic types include the type H highland climate (cold temperatures at the high altitudes with mild temperatures at the bases), which is found in the mountains of the Maghreb, Iran, or Central Asia, and the more tolerable type C climate, which is found in coastal areas near the sea. The type C climate of the Mediterranean coast encourages human growth and provides the setting for several sizable port cities. Overall, each region's enormous desert expanses are uninhabited. The Sahara, which borders the Libyan Desert and the Nubian Desert, is the biggest desert in the world and is located in North Africa. The Empty Quarter of the Rub' al Khali (Arabian Desert) includes around one-third of the Arabian Peninsula. There are vast desert areas in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan with few, if any, people living there. The significance of water as a priceless natural resource is shown by this feature of the domain. The majority of people in the realm rely more on the supply of water than they do on oil.

The majority of individuals in the realm are Muslims, which is the second characteristic. Islam is practiced in many ways across the various branches of the religion in daily life. The divides' disparities have fueled friction or outright hostilities. Islam functions in more ways than one. It also acts as a potent cultural force that has traditionally brought people together or kept them apart. Due to the polarizing character of the religion, there have often been violent political clashes between organizations of various Islamic views. In addition, Islam serves as a uniting factor that connects Muslims who share similar ideas via shared relationships. Islam gives everyday life direction and regularity. Faith may provide solace and a way of life. Saudi Arabia is home to Mecca and Medina, two sacred cities. Jerusalem and the two holy Shia Muslim sites of Karbala and Najaf in Iraq are among the other holy cities for various branches of Islam. Although Islam rules the world, other faiths are important in different places. From Lebanon to Egypt, Christianity is widely practiced, while Israel is a Jewish state. In addition, there are adherents of the Baha'i religion, Zoroastrianism, and communities like the Druze, to mention a few [5]–[7].

The presence of substantial natural resources is the third characteristic that all three realm areas have in common. There are large quantities of oil, natural gas, and vital minerals in North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Turkestan. It seems sense that not all nations have the same number of reserves and that some may have none at all. However, when it comes to how the nations increase their national wealth, oil exports have dominated economic activity in relation to the rest of the world. This world is on the periphery. The energy needed to support the world's major economic centers and keep up their high standards of life is a resource that the realm can provide. Huge financial gains from the sale of these resources have historically been kept by the elitist head of state or his clan and have not always trickled down to the majority of the populace. The nations' main goals now are to control and profit from natural resources, which leads to wars and armed military operations in places like Iraq and Afghanistan.

Cultural Fire Pits

Fresh water availability and management have traditionally enabled humanity to increase their abilities to cultivate food crops and engage in cultural activities. Due to their periodic hunt for food, hunter-gatherer tribes were less stationary and more mobile. Humans stopped needing to travel as soon as they learned how to cultivate crops and produce enough food in one location. The Middle East of today is the location of the oldest human settlements. Indicators of early urbanization patterns depending on the availability or excess of food may

be found in early human communities. Domestication of animals and the cultivation of grain crops were two aspects of the transition to permanent settlements. Domestically produced and harvested fruits and vegetables. The actions of this time period produced the first instance of the rural-to-urban movement connected to the Industrial Revolution or current progress in human history. The capacity to produce surplus food is said to have given people the time and means to settle in cities and form structured societies, many of which later developed into political organizations or regional empires.

Some of the world's oldest towns, including Jericho, are thought to have been founded in the Middle East about 10,000 BCE. Mesopotamia and the Nile Valley in Egypt are two cultural hearths in the same area that have historically contributed significantly to the idea of human progress. Both regions, which served as incubators for the development of human civilization, are currently the subject of investigation and research. Along the banks of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in what is now Iraq, Syria, and southern Turkey, a unique human civilisation rose in Mesopotamia. The components for the development of a human civilization that is highly regarded due to its enormous contributions to our human history were climate, soils, and the availability of fresh water.

Along with the Fertile Crescent, Mesopotamia

Between the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers is where Mesopotamia, which means "land between rivers," is situated. There was Neolithic pottery discovered, which was dated to before 7000 BCE. As early as 5000 BCE, humans in this region began to urbanize. In the Mesopotamian area, people were migrating, creating great cities, and establishing their sense of human civilization. During the Bronze Age (about 3000 BCE or later), Mesopotamia gave birth to a historical civilization that includes the Assyrian, Babylonian, Sumerian, and Akkadian Empires. Mesopotamia was home to illustrious cities like Ur, Babylon, and Nineveh. Their prosperity was aided by their abilities to manage water and produce surplus food. They constructed sophisticated irrigation systems. To build the civic infrastructure and a military to defend and serve the city or empire, large grain storage silos were required. The phrase "fertile crescent" derives from the fact that human activity in this region reached all the way to the Mediterranean Sea. On the eastern edge of the Fertile Crescent, near the Mediterranean shore, several ancient communities had established themselves effectively. For nations like the Phoenicians, who traded all over the Mediterranean, the towns of Tyre and Sidon served as ports and entry points for trade and commerce. During the Bronze Age, ancient towns like Damascus and Jericho, which were founded in the same area, were excellent instances of early human urbanism. These two cities are among the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities [8], [9].

Civilization of the Nile

In what is now Egypt, human civilisation also began to develop along the Nile River basin. In the Giza Plateau, just outside of Cairo, the pyramids and the Sphinx bear witness to human achievements that once existed here. The Nile River flooded in the spring, bringing water and nutrients to the region around the Nile Valley. The capacity to sustain an organized, urbanized civilisation resulted from the ability of the land to provide an abundance of food. The region's lifeline is the Nile River. The timing for the origin of the civilization along the Nile River is sometimes disputed, although Egyptologists believe the first dynasty governed both Upper and Lower Egypt circa 3100 BCE. In the fifth century BCE, the ancient Greek historian Herodotus proposed that Egypt was "the gift of the Nile." Because the Nile River flows north, Upper Egypt is in the south while Lower Egypt is in the north. "Upper" and "Lower" are elevational words. Geologists calculate that the Sphinx was built about 10,000

BCE based on the erosion patterns on it. The capacity of people to use the environment's potential opened the door for modern technological development. For thousands of years, the Egyptian civilisation thrived and left a legacy that affected and benefitted its neighbors in the surrounding area.

Humanity has a rich legacy that may be used to comprehend its past thanks to the human endeavors that gave rise to the civilizations in Mesopotamia and along the Nile River in Egypt. These civilizations are where many of our myths, folklore, and mythologies have their roots. Many of the religious and early philosophical concepts in the Western world have their roots in the cultural history of this region. Modern scientists and scholars have reason to pause and acknowledge the high level of organization and structure that must have gone into developing and managing these civilizations because the engineering feats required to build the magnificent temples and pyramids have by themselves been studied and analyzed over the centuries. These ancient people were developing several fields of science and the arts. Writing, arithmetic, engineering, and astronomy were all developing to a very high level. The discovery and interpretation of artifacts like clay tablets and hieroglyphs provide further insight on the developments of these civilizations and their contributions to the development of human civilisation as a whole [10], [11].

Availability of freshwater

Human settlements have long been founded on the availability of water for human consumption, agriculture, navigation, and the creation of energy. Water is one of the essentials for human survival. The prevalent type B climate in North Africa and Southwest Asia makes the availability of water even more important. Nearly as many different approaches have been used to deal with the water crisis or get access to fresh water. There are many of people anywhere there is fresh water. In the past, water has been moved from a source to a destination via canals, aqueducts, or specialized channels. Throughout the realm, there are several Roman and older aqueducts remains. The residents of this region are still impacted by the problems related to water consumption. The need for fresh water has increased as a result of rapid population expansion and industrialization. Different types of water may be found in the arid areas. For instance, individuals may collect nearby-surface subsurface water from oases, springs, or wells that are well known. The Elburz Mountains in Iran and the Atlas Mountains in North Africa are examples of mountainous areas that retain rainfall to increase the amount of precipitation. The raindrops may then be used to water crops in the valleys. In locations without mountains, it is necessary to find or create new ways to get fresh water.

Libyan Underground Water

Libya obtains its water supply in the Sahara region from deep wells that tap into the massive aquifers underlying the desert, which were filled with water when the area was tropical thousands of years ago. Fossil water is the name given to the liquid. In Libya, extensive networks of canals and pipelines have been built to harvest fossil water and utilize it for urban or agricultural uses. Large towns like Tripoli and Benghazi have received fresh water from the desert thanks to the man-made river project, one of the biggest of its type. Infiltration of seawater from the Mediterranean has affected the local drinking water in Benghazi. Political borders are located underneath underground aquifers, making the distribution and management of water political issues that might result in armed conflict. How rapidly the water is consumed and how many people use the aquifer system will determine how long the project could last. The biggest issue with this method is that subterranean aquifers aren't thought of as renewable resources, therefore as more nations

draw on them, the water supply would run out more rapidly. The water table decreases when water is withdrawn from aquifers for industrial agriculture. Local communities that depend on well water may eventually need to drill deeper wells or relocate to areas where water resources are still present.

The Nile in Egypt

Egypt uses water from the Nile to irrigate crops in order to produce a large amount of food. Annual floods of the Nile blanketed the region with new water and sediment for thousands of years. The land became more productive as a result, but the frequent floods severely damaged the social infrastructure. The 1970s saw the construction of the Aswan High Dam, which helped manage floods in the Nile Valley. Water had to be poured onto the land since the river no longer yearly flooded. The minute amounts of salt in the water gradually accumulate in the soil as a result of the frequent and widespread use of this method of irrigation, decreasing the productivity of the land. A prevalent issue in dry settings is a process known as salinization. Fresh water must flood the fields, dissolving the salt, and then move the salty water back off the fields in order to remove the salts from the soil. Egypt's worry about high soil salinization and declining agricultural production is rising. Egypt's expanding population has a significant impact on the food supply. More than half of Egypt's 80 million residents reside in rural regions, and many of them depend on agriculture to support the production of food that is essential to the stability of the nation's economy [12]–[14].

Water from the Euphrates and Tigris rivers

The Tigris and Euphrates rivers are the main sources of water for the Fertile Crescent area. Both originate in Turkey and meet in the river known as Shatt al-Arab, which empties into the Persian Gulf. The Euphrates, the longest river in Southwest Asia, originates in Turkey and runs through Syria before entering Iraq. Turkey has constructed substantial dams on the Tigris and Euphrates to facilitate hydroelectric power production and for agricultural reasons. There is less water going downstream for Syria or Iraq since water in Turkey is diverted for agriculture. In the Tigris-Euphrates Basin, disputes over water supplies continue to be a significant problem. The Atatürk Dam in Turkey, which is the biggest dam on the Euphrates, has a reservoir behind it that can retain the river's entire annual flow. The Euphrates is dammed in by all three nations, while the Tigris is dammed by Turkey and Iraq. To improve collaboration within the Tigris-Euphrates Basin, the three nations signed an agreement in 2009. The three nations all depend on agriculture to supply food for their expanding populations. Due to the Iraq War and subsequent riots and rallies in Syria that have exacerbated political animosity between the three nations, agreements to share water have proven challenging.

Israel's conservation of water

Israel has implemented creative measures to save water and use it effectively. Fertigation is the term for drip irrigation combined with fertilizers. The region makes considerable use of fertilization. Israel cultivates plantation crops like bananas, which need a lot of water. In order to preserve water, material is used to cover banana trees so that sunshine may reach the plants but less transpiration occurs. Israel has made efforts to recycle water wherever it can. Gray water is sewage water that has been cleaned and extracted for use in agriculture. Many residents of Israel and the Palestinian territories in the West Bank get their water from underground wells. Controlling the water is a controversial topic at times. The management of water is now a source of political tension in locations like Israel and the West Bank, much as it may have been for the early Mesopotamian civilizations. Countries who can afford it have started desalinating saltwater due to a scarcity of fresh water and increased pressure on

water resources. The Arabian Peninsula's oil-rich governments make considerable use of this procedure. Israel is putting into action a similar strategy to meet their growing population and fresh water needs.

CONCLUSION

The borders between North Africa and Southwest Asia show a complex interaction of political, cultural, historical, and geological forces that have formed the dynamics of the area. These borders are dynamic manifestations of the intricate relationships between communities, countries, and geographical regions, not static lines on a map. These borders have changed throughout time as a result of invasions, colonization, and changing political alignments, often leaving enduring marks on the identity of the area. These borders have been significantly shaped and influenced by the varied geography of mountains, deserts, and coasts, both as natural barriers and as routes for commerce and contact. In addition, the region's inhabitants have developed close cultural links that transcend political boundaries because to their common historical experiences, languages, and religious beliefs. Due to continuous geopolitical battles, resource disputes, and the ambitions of many ethnic and national groups, the borders between Southwest Asia and North Africa are still significant today. The difficulty is in regulating these borders in a manner that fosters stability and collaboration while still respecting the ambitions and identities of those living in the area. The diverse viewpoints and interests of the residents of the region must be taken into account when attempting to define and manage these borders, as well as the need for peaceful conflict resolution and cross-border cooperation for economic growth, environmental sustainability, and cultural exchange. Recognizing the fluid nature of borders and their multiple impacts is essential in this changing geopolitical scene. The borders between Southwest Asia and North Africa may be channels for cooperation and shared prosperity rather than causes of conflict through promoting communication, diplomacy, and understanding.

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CHAPTER 9

IDENTIFYING THE BOUNDARIES IN SOUTH ASIA

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ABSTRACT:

South Asian borders are a dynamic and complex fabric that combines topographical, historical, and political elements. This essay provides a thorough examination of the many types of regional borders. It investigates how ethnic diversity, geopolitical factors, and colonial legacies affect how boundaries are drawn. The research also explores border conflicts, transboundary problems, and the function of regional organizations in resolving boundary-related concerns. A greater comprehension of the historical backdrop and current dynamics of South Asia is achieved by examining the varied characteristics of borders in the area. Many of these divisions are overcome by cultural and linguistic linkages, proving that a common history may promote understanding even in the face of political differences. Additionally, regional organizations and economic integration have tried to promote cooperation between South Asian nations, highlighting the potential for cross-border development and reciprocal progress.

KEYWORDS:

Asia, Boundaries, Central Asia, Geography, South Asia.

INTRODUCTION

Asia is the biggest of the seven continents in the globe. It has a diverse range of geographical landscapes, political divisions, and ethnic groupings. South Asia, East Asia, and Southeast Asia are further Asian areas in addition to Russia, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia, which were covered in earlier classes. From the center of the continent, South Asia spreads south to the Indian Ocean. The Indian Ocean, the Himalayas, and Afghanistan make up South Asia's main borders. India and Pakistan are separated from Bangladesh by the Bay of Bengal to the east and the Arabian Sea to the west. The western border is the arid area where Pakistan and Iran share a border. Hinduism and Buddhism, two of the world's main faiths, both originated in this region, although there are also sizable Muslim communities and significant numbers of adherents to a number of other religions. The three major faiths in South Asia are Hinduism, Islam, and Buddhism. While both Pakistan and Iran are Islamic nations, with Iran being mostly Shia and Pakistan being primarily Sunni, respectively, each one represents a substantial branch of that religion. On the eastern edge of the realm, where Bangladesh, India, and Myanmar share a border, religious divisions are particularly noticeable. While most Indians identify as Hindu, Bangladesh is mostly a Muslim nation. Most people in Myanmar adhere to Buddhist traditions. Additionally, Sikhism is a significant religion in the Punjab area, which is situated along Pakistan's and India's northern borders [1], [2].

Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, and the Maldives are among the nations in South Asia. The Himalayas are the tallest mountains in the world and the most prominent physical feature of the northern rim of South Asia. They divide South Asia from East Asia along the boundary of Tibet, an autonomous territory of China. The Himalayas are also shared by Nepal, Bhutan, India, and Pakistan. The historic area of Kashmir is split among India, Pakistan, and China further north along the Himalayan range. Off the coast of southern India, on the other side of the Himalayas, are two island nations. The Republic of Maldives is an archipelago off the southwest coast of India, while Sri Lanka is a sizable

tropical island off the southeast coast of India. Maldives is made up of about 1,200 islands, the tallest of which is just seven feet, seven inches above sea level. There are just roughly 200 inhabited islands in the Maldives.

Natural resource management and population expansion must coexist in harmony for the future of the realm. There are over 1.5 billion people living in South Asia, who come from a diverse spectrum of ethnic and cultural groupings. Political organizations with roots in the realm's colonial heritage, particularly under Great Britain, have been created to bring the varied populace together. The realm was significantly impacted by British colonialism; its long-term impacts include political tensions and divides in countries like Kashmir and Sri Lanka. South Asian nations are being forced to create a trade network and implement economic policies among themselves as a result of current globalization dynamics. Despite not being one of the three major economic hubs of the globe, South Asia is starting to compete on the global stage. India is often referred to as being in the semiperiphery, which implies it exhibits characteristics of both the core and the periphery but is not truly located in either. India continues to be the dominating nation in South Asia and borders every other nation in the region either physically or maritimately[3], [4].

All of the nations to the north of Afghanistan were once a member of the Soviet Union. The South Asian nations had to use diplomacy to maintain a balance in their ties with the Soviet Union and the United States during the Cold War since they were surrounded by the superpowers. With its opponent, India, Communist China has utilized Tibet as a buffer state. China is a growing economic giant. Russian efforts to re-establish themselves in the world economy have been ongoing since the fall of the Soviet Union. Russia exhibits characteristics of the semiperiphery, similar to India. Despite being geographically on the other side of the globe, the United States has had a significant influence on South Asian events. Since 2001, the United States has been at war in Afghanistan, a neighboring country, and has also been a significant commercial trade partner with South Asian nations. The fact that the US and its neighbor China have established strong trading ties complicates the issue. The nations of South Asia have been propelled into the international scene by economic growth and international commerce.

DISCUSSION

The Indian Plate and the Eurasian Plate collided to create the continent of South Asia. The world's tallest mountain ranges were created as a result of this process, which began some 70 million years ago. The majority of the South Asian continent was produced from the original Indian Plate's terrain. The Himalayas increase height by one to five millimeters every year due to pressure from tectonic activity on the plates. These seismically active regions often experience destructive earthquakes and tremors. The immensity of the Himalayas has had a significant impact on local people's customs and beliefs. For some of the local faiths, some of the mountains are holy. Northern South Asia's physical geography is dominated by the Himalayan Mountains. At 29,035 feet, Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the whole globe. Three significant rivers that originate in the Himalayas flow across South Asia. The Indus River originates in Tibet and runs through the heart of Pakistan, where it has been a hub of human civilisation for thousands of years. A central area of India is formed by the Ganges River as it passes through the north of the nation. After passing through Tibet, the Brahmaputra River reaches India from the east before merging with the Ganges in Bangladesh and flowing into the Bay of Bengal.

While the Maldives in the south have some of the lowest altitudes in the world, some of them being barely above sea level, the northern section of this area has some of the highest

elevations in the world. Low altitudes may also be found along Bangladesh's southern coast. Every year, when the monsoon, a seasonal wind shift, hits, there is severe flooding and catastrophic damage to the region's infrastructure. On the other side, monsoon rains do not reach sections of Pakistan and western India's vast Thar Desert. In actuality, Baluchistan, a province in southwest Pakistan, is mostly arid and desert-like.

The Geographical Physical

The high Himalayan ranges are met by the mountains that run along Pakistan's and Afghanistan's border across Kashmir. Between India and China, the Himalayas operate as a natural border, while Tibet is protected by the kingdoms of Nepal and Bhutan. Shorter mountain ranges known as ghats are located further south along India's east and west coastlines. The Western Ghats have a maximum height of 8,000 feet but often only rise to 3,000 feet. A great variety of biodiversity may be found in these ghats. Despite not being as tall as the Western Ghats, the Eastern Ghats share many of its physical characteristics. Large coffee and tea plantations may be found in the ghats, which also serve as a home to a variety of wildlife. The Eastern and Western Ghats are separated by the Deccan Plateau. North of the two Ghat mountains, in the center of India, lie the Central Indian Plateau and the Chota-Nagpur Plateau. The Chota-Nagpur Plateau, which features a tiger reserve and serves as a haven for Asian elephants, receives an average of 52 inches of rain every year thanks to the monsoon rains [5]–[7].

The Monsoon

A monsoon is a seasonal wind shift that is connected to a lot of rain. The South Asian rivers and streams get water for irrigation from the summer monsoon rains, which typically occur between June and September. The Thar Desert serves as the system's fuel throughout the summer, when the continent warms up. Warm, moist air from the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean is drawn in by the vacuum created by the rising hot air. This causes clouds that are heavy with moisture to move over the ground, where the water precipitates out as rain. The South Asian Monsoon System is shown in Figure 1.

Up to the Himalayas, South Asia receives moisture from the monsoon rains. Water vapor from moisture-rich clouds condenses as they climb in altitude in the Himalayas, becoming rain or snow that nourishes the main rivers including the Ganges, Indus, and Brahmaputra. A comparable structure is created in the south along India's west coast by the Western Ghats. During the monsoon season, certain parts of Bangladesh and eastern India get up to six feet of rain, resulting in serious floods in others. The Bay of Bengal's shore is where the most severely affected areas are, including Bangladesh. Because the rain clouds have lost moisture by the time they have passed over India, there is reduced risk of flooding in western India and Pakistan. West of the Pakistani border, amid the vast Thar Desert, desert conditions are clearly visible. In this vast desert, less than ten inches of rain fall annually on average. The height of the Himalayas on the northern edge of the area prevents warm, humid monsoon air from passing over the mountain range. For Tibet and Western China, the Himalayas operate as a precipitation barrier and provide a significant rain shadow. Most of South Asia's rainfall is caused by the monsoon.

The system has often run its course by October, and the monsoon season is ended. The winter monsoon is characterized by chilly, dry winds originating from the north, and throughout the winter, the cold, dry air over the Asian continent blows to the south. During the winter, South Asia has a dry season. Other regions of the globe, like southern China and sections of Southeast Asia, also have a pattern of a wet summer and a dry winter. One more observation on the monsoons: There is a wet winter monsoon as well as a rainy summer monsoon in a

few tiny areas of South Asia, including Sri Lanka and southeast India. In their situation, rainfall from the Bay of Bengal might be absorbed by the winter monsoon winds before they reach their beaches.

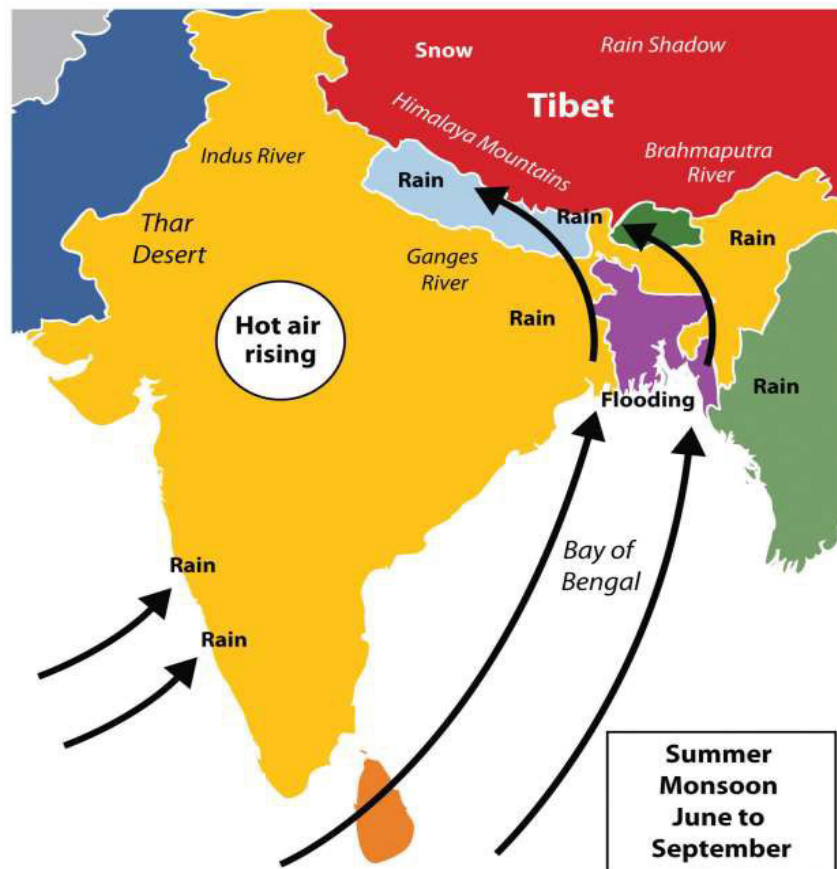


Figure 1: The South Asian Monsoon System

Primitive Civilizations

Humans have long inhabited the Indian subcontinent, where cities independently formed and civilization first appeared. The Indus Valley civilisation, which lasted from around 3300 BCE to 1500 BCE, was the first civilisation to emerge on the subcontinent. Small communities at the beginning of this Bronze Age civilisation eventually connected to form a larger regional network. Urban centers evolved into many commercial and religious networks that extended as far as Central Asia, Southwest Asia, and maybe Egypt. The planned architecture of the civilisation is renowned. Major streets running north-south and east-west were planned for the towns and villages of the urban stages. Its drainage system transported waste water outside of the city. This civilisation also had a uniform material culture. Its pottery and metallurgical artifacts all had a fairly similar style and were dispersed across a vast geographic region, which assisted in the identification of the culture's breadth[8], [9].

It is possible for invasions by outsiders to result in an infusion of fresh thoughts, ideas, and technology. Similar effects were undoubtedly produced by the Indus Valley Civilization on the area it occupied. The historical occurrences of older periods are not well known. Language, religion, and ethnicity all provide information that we use to infer historical events. Indo-European languages are important to South Asia. It is assumed that immigrants from the west, where these languages were prevalent, introduced these languages to the area. Hindi, for instance, could have become the regional tongue as a result of Aryans from Persia

and other civilizations spreading the language to South Asia. A number of empires that ruled the area throughout history found rich terrain in the northern plains of South Asia, which stretch across the Ganges River basin and into the Indus River valley of modern-day Pakistan. Different eras of Iron Age customs arose after the collapse of the Indus Valley Civilization. Iron metallurgy and specific ceramic traits make up the majority of this Iron Age culture's features.

One of ancient India's largest and most powerful political and military dynasties, the Mauryan Empire ruled from 322 to 185 BCE. Chandragupta Maurya established this kingdom in 322 BCE. He quickly conquered regions that Alexander the Great's soldiers had dislodged during their advance westward. The commerce, agricultural, and commercial activities of the area were significantly increased under the flourishing Mauryan Empire. This empire established a single, effective system for administration, security, and finance. Ashoka the Great, who reigned over a sizable era of peace and prosperity, was one of the greatest rulers in the Mauryan dynasty. Throughout most of his reign, Ashoka embraced Buddhism and prioritized peace. He built hospitals, schools, and important road networks throughout the empire. The majority of people on the island of Sri Lanka are still Buddhists as a result of his promotion of Buddhist beliefs.

As soon as Islam spread over the continent, it became to be a significant influence in South Asia. The Delhi Sultanate refers to all Muslim rulers or kingdoms that governed India from 1206 and 1526. In 1526, when it was incorporated into the rising Mughal Empire, the Delhi Sultanate came to an end. From the 1500s through around the middle of the nineteenth century, the Islamic Mughal Empire reigned over much of northern and central India. After 1725, a number of causes contributed to its precipitous demise, with European colonization serving as the icing on the cake. Although Muslim-focused, the Mughal Empire maintained a liberal religion policy. This empire's classic era lasted from 1556 until 1707, starting with the beginning. The Taj Mahal, the Red Fort in Lahore, and the Agra Fort are just a few of the structures that are often associated with India which were constructed during this time.

South Asian colonialism

South Asia was not immune to colonialism's impact on the globe. A great illustration of how colonialism contributed to the creation of the majority of the world's present-day political boundaries can be found in South Asia. Ships from colonial Europe started to arrive in South Asia in the sixteenth century to conduct commerce. In order to do business in Asia and India, the British East India Company was founded in 1600. They dealt in commodities like as cotton, silk, and spices. Later, European countries started to construct colonies in order to profit from wars and ferocious rivalry between kingdoms. From 1857 till 1947, Britain was in charge of South Asia. The smallest state in contemporary India is Goa. It was initially seen by Portuguese merchants in the sixteenth century, who quickly seized it. For the following 450 years, Portugal controlled Goa as a colony. The majority of the little region's inhabitants had been coerced into becoming Christians by the middle of the 1800s. But many Hindu customs have persisted in the area. In India, the expatriate population observes Hindu festivals. Christmas and Easter in particular are observed as Christian festivals. Many of Goa's ancient structures, which represent its Portuguese heritage, are built in the European style, including the churches and secular architecture. Locally, this building is known as "Indo-Portuguese." Goa was one of the countries where colonial rule lasted the longest. In 1961, it was at last seized by India.

After 1947, the British lost control of South Asia. The British Empire was no longer under the same level of control as it previously was due to local opposition and the terrible

repercussions of World War II. Great Britain shifted its attention away from expanding its empire and toward internal growth. After the British left India, they became aware of the profound cultural distinctions between Muslims and Hindus and established political borders in response. East Pakistan was created out of India's east, while West Pakistan was carved out of India's west. The new boundaries between the Hindu and Muslim majorities, however, cut across several population clusters, and portion of the population suddenly found itself on the incorrect side of the line. As Hindus and Muslims battled to emigrate to their preferred countries, the West Pakistan-India division turned into a devastating civil war. The civil war, which claimed the lives of over a million people, is constantly brought up in today's political discussions between Pakistan and India. The Sikhs, who are native to the Punjab area in the center, also endured severe suffering. India has the highest Muslim population of any non-Muslim state since some individuals choose not to go[10].

In 1973, there will be another civil war between West Pakistan and East Pakistan. The states shared the same administration when they were initially established in 1947, despite the fact that they were almost 900 miles distant, lacked a common boundary, and were inhabited by people of different ethnicities. The civil war, which lasted for around three months, led to the establishment of Bangladesh and Pakistan as independent nations. The majority of the population there is of Bengali origin, thus the name Bangladesh. Bangladesh and Pakistan both rank among the ten most populated nations in the world. One of the most obvious ways that Europeans influenced South Asia was undoubtedly via language. English is the preferred language for secondary education in contemporary India and Pakistan. The military and government often use it. In Pakistan and India, especially in rural regions, the majority of signs and advertisements are in English, unlike many other Asian nations. During communication in their own language, educated individuals alternately use English words or whole phrases. Since Hindi and Urdu are the primary languages of northern Pakistan and India, respectively, this language has been referred to as Hinglish or Urglish by certain academics.

Within this Asian peninsula, cricket is a significant national and cultural sport. The fierce competition between India and Pakistan's national cricket teams is a reflection of the ongoing hostilities between the two countries. Every four years, the International Cricket Council hosts and presents the Cricket World Cup. Three South Asian nations India (1983), Pakistan (1992), and Sri Lanka (1996) have won the Cricket World Cup[11], [12].

South Asian population

Three of the ten most populated nations in the world are located in South Asia. Pakistan and Bangladesh are the fifth and sixth biggest countries in the world, respectively, while India is the second largest. huge families and a high birth rate result in huge populations. South Asian rural residents have often had big families. Religious traditions may or may not advocate for anything but a high fertility rate. The Kingdom of Bhutan, on the other hand, is the nation in South Asia with the lowest population density. The population density of Bhutan is around 50 persons per square mile. Bhutan has limited agricultural land and is hilly. In Bhutan, more than one-third of the population lives in cities. A major worry for the realm is population increase. An growth in population necessitates the production of more food, energy, and natural resources, all of which are in low supply in many places.

CONCLUSION

The idea of borders encompasses a complex interaction of history, geography, politics, and culture in the context of South Asia. This investigation of the region's borders highlights how important they are in determining the socio-political environment. These borders have been

influenced by historical legacies, colonial influences, and post-independence ambitions. The different countries in this area have been split and linked by natural elements including rivers, mountains, and oceans. The continual border disputes and talks in South Asia, which reflect the intricate relationships between states, are proof of the volatility of the region's borders. These disagreements serve as a symbol of the difficulties and possibilities that come with defining boundaries in a place with such a wide variety. While these disagreements may sometimes lead to tensions, they also serve as a reminder of the need of diplomatic collaboration and communication. The study of borders in South Asia reveals their dual function as barriers and connectors. These limits are constantly being defined and redefined by the region's history, geography, and modern dynamics. To promote peace, collaboration, and advancement in South Asia, a balanced approach to border management, one that honors history, recognizes cultural linkages, and favors diplomatic solutions, is essential.

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CHAPTER 10

A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW ON THE PERIPHERAL STATES OF SOUTH ASIA

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ABSTRACT:

The South Asian Peripheral States are a group of outlying nations that are often distinguished by their relative isolation, difficult economic circumstances, and distinctive geopolitical dynamics. This essay examines the similarities and distinctions amongst these outlying nations namely, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan, and the Maldives. It explores their political, economic, and historical backgrounds to give insight on the elements that lead to their marginal position. The research also takes into account how the main regional powers affect these nations and how they affect the regional dynamics. This research intends to provide a full grasp of the intricacies involved with the periphery states of South Asia by evaluating the difficulties and possibilities experienced by these nations. The fortunes of these periphery republics have been significantly shaped by the impact of important regional actors like India, China, and Pakistan. The fate of these nations is interwoven with the interests of these bigger powers as South Asia remains a hotbed for geopolitical manoeuvre.

KEYWORDS:

Afghanistan, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Punjab, South Asia.

INTRODUCTION

Between Afghanistan and Myanmar (Burma), and south of China, the Indian subcontinent is a sizable region that projects into the Indian Ocean at the southern edge of Asia. The southern nations of the Maldives and Sri Lanka, as well as the northern territories of the Punjab, Kashmir, Nepal, and Bhutan, are all included in the Indian boundary. The Indian Tectonic Plate and the Eurasian Plate collided to produce this continent, which has a lengthy tectonic history. The Himalayas, the world's tallest mountain chains and ranges, were created as a result of this tectonic collision in the northern and northwest region of the Indian subcontinent. Northern Pakistan and Kashmir are where you may find the Karakoram Mountains. They create an arc that runs the length of South Asia's northern border when joined with the other Himalayan Mountain ranges. Bhutan and Nepal both have Himalayan locations. Some of the tallest peaks in the area may be found in the Himalayan mountains, including Mount Everest which is situated on the boundary between Nepal and China and K2 which is situated in Pakistan. The mountain ranges known as the Hindu Kush, which border this region, are located in western Pakistan and western Afghanistan. A sizable, productive flood plain is produced by the Indus River when it emerges from the Karakoram Mountains' northern region. The Indus River System includes four major tributaries throughout its northern region. These five rivers together make up the Punjab area of Pakistan and India, which is known in Punjabi as the "land of the five rivers"[1], [2].

The Punjab

The Punjab is a populous, agriculturally productive area on the Pakistani side of the border with India. The Punjab is divided between Pakistan and India. There is often a high population density when there is abundant fresh water and food production. Pakistan's Punjab has the highest population density. The Punjab is a distinct state in India. The agricultural

productivity in its river valleys is good, and a large portion of the food required to support the sizable populations of the two nations comes from these places. Both the Punjab Province of Pakistan and the Punjab State of India are home to the Punjabi people. During Partition, which took place in 1947 in conjunction with the birth of Pakistan and India's independence, this vast cultural region was divided into two nations. An Indo-European language called Punjabi is spoken by the majority of people in the Punjab. People having Punjabi ancestry are seen as one of South Asia's major ethnic groupings in a broader sense. Pakistan's population is made up of around 45% Punjabis.

The Punjabis in Pakistan are divided into tribes and groups according to their traditional vocations. Punjabis have historically been farmers and warriors, and in current times they are still seen as being involved in farming and the military. The majority of Punjabis in Pakistan are Muslims, while there is a small minority of Christians. Indian Punjabis are members of several traditional communities, many of which are also found in Pakistan but with a larger population. Since the majority of the Punjab's Muslim people moved to Pakistan in 1947, the majority of Indian Punjabis are Sikh, with a small minority of Christians [3], [4].

The Sikhs, who have a faith distinct from Islam or Hinduism, are native to the Punjab area of Pakistan and India. Guru Nanak Dev (1469–1538) is credited with founding Sikhism. This religion rejects all racial, ethnic, and gender divisions. There is no priestly class in Sikh religion. Everyone has equal and complete responsibility for living a moral life that ultimately results in the redemption of all people. God is the global universal spirit, and heaven and hell are not actual locations. Sikh males have historically kept their hair and beards long and worn turbans on their heads. A worldwide religion, Sikhism. The Golden Temple, a well-known Sikh monument and spiritual hub, is situated in the Indian city of Amritsar in the Punjab province. Sikhism is a system of religious thought and practice sometimes referred to as the Gurmat, guru advice, or Sikh Dharma (or way of life). The name "Sikh" is derived from the Hindi and Punjabi word "Sikhna," which means "to learn." The universal God is the central tenet of the Sikhism religion. Sikhism encourages people to pursue salvation by self-discipline and introspective reflection on God's name and teachings. However, it should be noted that Sikhs have a nonanthropomorphic conception of God; in other words, they do not believe that God has a form, shape, or mentality that is like to our own. The fifth-most practiced religion on Earth today is Sikhism.

DISCUSSION

Sikhs were promoted to positions of authority during the British colonial colonization of South Asia in order to assist the British in governing the Muslim and Hindu people. The significant numbers of Muslims and Hindus in the area often cast a shadow over the Sikhs. Many Sikhs want the Punjab area to serve as the new homeland for the nation-state known as Khalistan in order to achieve their goal of having their own nation-state free from Muslim or Hindu dominance. To support the establishment of Khalistan, they have organized rallies and marches.

However, the Indian government has clamped down on armed groups who support the Khalistan idea. In the 1970s and 1980s, the Khalistan movement was more prevalent; it has since become less so.

The cause's supporters continue to make an effort to recruit young people and international funds. The governments of Pakistan and India do not favor Khalistan, and it is unlikely that it would materialize very soon. The devolutionary quest for a nation-state political entity for a specific group of people with identical goals or background is shown by Khalistan.

The Kashmir Kingdom

The old country of Kashmir, a distinct country before the British partitioned South Asia, is situated in the high mountains of the north. When the British demarcated the border between India and Pakistan in 1947, Kashmir's maharajah made the decision to stay independent rather than becoming a member of any nation. In Kashmir, over 75% of the population was Muslim; the remaining population, which included the maharajah, was mostly Hindu. This system worked for a while until Pakistan's Muslim population persuaded the Muslim majority to join Pakistan. The maharajah requested aid from the Indian troops during a Muslim rebellion. India was more than happy to comply and used the occasion to confront Pakistan once again. Today, Kashmir is split, with Pakistan in charge of the northern part, India in charge of the southern part, and China in charge of some of the eastern part. Despite the implementation of a cease-fire, combat has nonetheless broken out sometimes. Uncertainty surrounds Kashmir's future. Given that they all possess nuclear weapons, none of the participating nations wants to launch a major conflict[5], [6].

Instead of being about labor and resources, the battle in Kashmir is about strategic location and water control. Whether or whether there are plentiful minerals in Kashmir's mountains to be mined is uncertain, but even if there were, there wouldn't be much mining going on to spark a war. Water is one of the most significant physical geography aspects. The Indus River enters Pakistan from Tibet via Kashmir. The existence of the population in northern Pakistan depends on maintaining control over this river system. Pakistan may experience a water deficit in the north of the nation if India built a dam on the river and diverted the water to the arid areas on their side of the border. The partition of Pakistan and India, which divided Muslims and Hindus along the border area, is another factor in the Kashmir dispute. The dispute over who controls Kashmir has brought the religious divisions to the fore once again. The gap between those who favor Pakistan and those who prefer Hindu-dominated India has been exacerbated by extremist groups within Kashmir's Muslim minority.

The Kingdom of Bhutan

The tiny, mountainous, landlocked Kingdom of Bhutan is situated between China and India close to the lofty Himalayas. Over 23,000 feet is the height of the mountain summits. Less than one million people live in Bhutan, which is about half the size of Kentucky, a US state. The subtropical climate of the southern lowlands is mild, whereas polar temperatures prevail at higher elevations of the snow-capped mountains. The country's inhabitants refer to it as the "Land of the Thunder Dragon" because of the severe storms that often hit it. Large portions of Bhutan's natural environment remain unaltered by human activity. Bhutan is a popular tourism destination because of its natural beauty and distinctive tradition and culture. Bhutan is a tiny nation with little high-tech business participation or industrial activity. The primary economic sectors, which employ around 60% of the nation's people, are forestry and agriculture. The two main forms of farming are animal grazing and subsistence farming. The country's steep mountains and isolated position make it difficult to expand its little infrastructure. Bhutan's primary commercial partner, India, has contributed significantly to the growth and financial health of the nation.

Bhutan is using contemporary communication and transportation technology, which is altering how the nation is linked to the rest of the global economy. Bhutanese citizens are now able to contact with individuals from across the globe because to satellite and cable television, mobile phone networks, the Internet, and major airline service. The introduction of technology services has compelled the Bhutanese government to take action to safeguard the country's natural resources and cultural heritage. One of the modifications' main focal points

is now tourism. The nation has increased its efforts to encourage tourism, but has focused on a certain kind of tourist. The largest barrier for vacationers has been the high cost of traveling to Bhutan. The providers of Bhutanese tourism have rigorous rules that visitors from countries other than India and Bangladesh must abide by, including high daily costs merely to enter the country. Bhutan's tourism is growing, yet the country still has very strict rules and standards. With the help of these measures, the nation's environmental stability will be maintained, and the cultural influence of foreigners will be kept to a minimum.

About 75% of people practice Buddhism, which is the official religion of the country. The remaining 25% of people follow Hinduism, which is the second most popular religion. The notion of gross national happiness (GNH), which is used as a guide to measure the influence of a project on the culture and people of Bhutan, has been one of the cornerstones of the government in controlling development projects. The strict development regulations have served to preserve the Bhutanese people's way of life while safeguarding the nation from significant environmental destruction. Although some of the actions may seem severe to outsiders, the nation is taking them in order to improve the health and welfare of its citizens. For instance, cigarette products are not allowed to be sold in the nation. After centuries of monarchical governance, democratic elections are becoming the norm. The goal of the transition is to give the populace greater direct influence over their nation and government[7]–[9].

The subject of marriage is one of Bhutan's interesting cultural aspects. While arranged weddings continue to be the norm in many of the smaller villages, love marriages are growing increasingly prevalent in cities. Women are now granted the right to inherit under the law. The female offspring of a family inherit the family home and personal belongings. Male offspring do not often inherit. Men are expected to support themselves independently, and if they are married, they often live with their wives. The nation of Nepal, which is surrounded by the Himalayas, the tallest mountain range in the world, is cut off from all seacoasts and protected from the outside world by India and China. Nearly 30 million people live in Nepal, which is roughly the same size in terms of land as Bangladesh. In an area that is experiencing catastrophic deforestation and soil erosion, more than 80% of its population is engaged in agricultural activities. To create homes, prepare meals, and stay warm, people chop down trees. The monsoon rains sweep dirt from the mountain fields into the lowlands because there are no trees to keep the material in place. It is just a matter of time until Nepal experiences a serious catastrophe due to the country's rapidly expanding population and declining ability for food production. The southern Tarai lowlands of Nepal have the finest agricultural land, whilst the northern region is mostly mountainous. Human settlement in the north is limited by the Himalayas' high altitude. The country's rapid population increase has recently outpaced its rate of economic expansion.

Mt. Everest is Nepal's most well-known tourist destination among the country's many others. In addition, there are many old monasteries and temples. An unassuming hiking business is supported by swiftly moving streams and steep alpine terrain. Visitors visiting Nepal have the chance to experience a vibrant culture that few outsiders can. The drawback is that investing in infrastructure and services is necessary for tourism. These investments divert money away from the public services that the Nepalese people depend on, such as hospitals, schools, and clinics. Tourism-related revenue is always required and desired, but choosing between it and investments may be challenging. Because Nepal's tourism regulations are less stringent than those of Bhutan, tourists from all over the globe will continue to flock there. The Deforested Landscape of Nepal is shown below in Figure 1.



Figure 1: The Deforested Landscape of Nepal

In Nepal, Hinduism predominates, while the north is increasingly influenced by a Buddhist fusion. Shiva is the protector god of Nepal. The most important Shiva shrine in the whole world, Pashupatinath Temple, is situated in Kathmandu, the country's capital. This Shiva temple is a popular destination for Hindu pilgrims from all over the globe in addition to being a UNESCO globe Heritage Site. In Nepal, Hindu and Buddhist faiths coexist often. In certain circumstances, followers of both faiths may venerate or worship the same deities or temples.

Another UNESCO World Heritage Site in Nepal is Lumbini, which is located close to the Indian border city of Bhairahawa (Siddharthanagar) and is known for being the birthplace of Siddhartha Gautama, the founder of Buddhism. In the vicinity of Lumbini, Prince Siddhartha Gautama was born about 563 BCE. The prince has been honored by the city, which has dedicated several monasteries and shrines to him. Monasteries and temples are the only structures permitted in a whole development zone. No further public or commercial structures, including hotels, stores, or companies, may be built inside the zone. The many schools of Buddhism each have their own distinct defined areas of the zone. Buddhist devotees from all over the globe visit Lumbini often.

Local Nepalese states were combined into one kingdom and subject to monarchy in the late 1700s. Up to the middle of the 20th century, royal families controlled the country. Since 1947, Nepal has been free of British control, but it has struggled to form a reliable central administration. In 1951, the ruling royal family was removed, and in 1990, more democratic changes were implemented. Chinese Communist Party sympathizers have participated in insurgency activity. Political instability brought on by persistent demonstrations and civil disturbances has discouraged travel and severely weakened the economy. Mass demonstrations were staged by the Maoist Communist movement and other opposing political groups, which resulted in a peace agreement. A federal democratic republic was established as a result of the subsequent elections. In 2008, Nepal's first president took the oath of office. There is still a lot of hostility in the nation between those who support the royal family and those who want it to be disbanded. Political and economic development in Nepal would be very difficult without a stable administration.

South Asia

Beautiful island Sri Lanka is nearly half the size of Nepal. The island features a central range of wooded hills and mountains with a warm, tropical type A climate. To irrigate the rice fields and other agricultural areas, rivers flow outward from the center. The finest farming is found in the southwest regions of the island, where Sinhalese rule. The island's natural cinnamon has been grown since colonial times as a significant export. Coconuts, coffee, and tea are significant export commodities as well. The island is home to multiple wild elephant populations, four biosphere reserves, and several national parks. Sri Lanka has the potential to develop into a significant international commerce center and a top tourist destination with high salaries. The actual topography or location of Sri Lanka is not a factor in determining the country's potential; rather, it is colonialism and the cultural or ethnic differences between the Sinhalese majority and the Tamil minority that are to blame[10]–[12].

South Asians practice a variety of faiths. Muslims live in Pakistan and Bangladesh. Hinduism predominates throughout India. Although almost 90% of Nepal's population is categorized as Hindu, many adhere to a special hybrid of Hindu and Buddhist beliefs. Bhutan is a tiny, enigmatic, mountainous nation that practices Buddhism. Sri Lanka is a diverse nation with a sizable Buddhist majority and a vibrant Hindu minority, and it has its own particular conditions. On the island, tensions between the main and minority ethnic groups long fuelled a low-intensity civil war. Politics, ethnicity, and religious divisions have sometimes caused the nation to come to a standstill. Around 2,500 years ago, Sinhalese people from somewhere in northern India migrated to the island of Sri Lanka. Buddhism and the Sinhala language, a member of the Indo-European linguistic family, were introduced by the Sinhalese. For millennia, they made a home on the island. Portugal and Holland were the first colonizers of Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka came under British rule during the colonization of South Asia. At the time, it was known as Ceylon; Sri Lanka became its official name in 1972. British conquerors planted tea plantations at the island's central higher elevations because they were ideal for growing tea. Thousands of more Tamil migrants from southern India were transported by Britain over the Polk Strait to Ceylon to work the plantations. The majority of Tamils are Hindus and speak a Dravidian language.

The Tamils stayed in Ceylon after the British were expelled from South Asia and fled the country. Only 10% of the population now is Tamil, and they are mostly concentrated in the island's northeast. The majority Sinhalese on the island have been under pressure from them to partition the country politically and give them independence. The Sinhalese government and the Tamil guerillas, sometimes known as the Tamil Tigers, fought an insurgency-fueled civil war for decades. In this fight, between sixty and eighty thousand people perished. The Tamil Tigers initially only had control of the Jaffna Peninsula, but subsequently staked claims to most of the island's northeast. The Tamil Tigers intended to legitimate the Eelam government they had established in the north. In 2009, the Sri Lankan president declared the civil war to be over, and the Tigers later conceded defeat. Due to the destruction of Sri Lanka's tourist sector and the deterrence of foreign investment, the island's economic potential were severely diminished.

The Maldives

The Maldives are a collection of 26 atolls that located just north of the equator in the Indian Ocean, southwest of India. They have a combined area of barely 115 square miles. There are 1,200 tiny islands total inside the atolls, of which 200 are inhabited. Beginning in 1558, Portugal ruled the Maldives as part of its imperial advance into Asia. In 1654, Holland succeeded the Portuguese. In 1887, the Maldives became a protectorate of the British Empire,

which it retained until 1965, when it attained independence. The nation became a republic three years after that. There are various extremes in the Maldives. In terms of both physical size and population, it is Asia's smallest country. The island republic is the smallest in terms of physical size among Muslim-majority nations. The average elevation is the lowest of any nation in the world at four feet, eleven inches above sea level.

The main sources of income for Maldivians are fishing and tourism. Recently, there has been a rise in tourism. Travelers from all over the globe are drawn to the many islands and atolls. In 1972, the first resort for visitors opened. Numerous top-notch resort facilities have now started operating all around the archipelago. The country's primary source of prosperity is tourism. The network of islands' coral reefs are ideal for diving and other aquatic activities. Numerous sandy beaches and a tropical environment make for an alluring travel itinerary. If polar ice melts and sea levels rise as a result of climate change, a whole nation, like the Maldives, might be in risk of flooding. The country's president announced a plan in 2008 to buy property in other nations in case sea levels rise to a point where the Maldives are no longer livable due to concerns about the future of the islands. The Maldivians would have a place to go if they were to leave the islands thanks to the acquisition of land made possible by tourist revenue. The Maldives' government has made a concerted effort to persuade the world community to address the rise in greenhouse gas emissions and the potential sea level rise brought on by the climate change phenomenon known as global warming.

CONCLUSION

The border nations of South Asia, which include Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan, and the Maldives, have a unique place in the geopolitical structure of the area. These nations are relatively isolated and economically vulnerable, notwithstanding their distinctions. Their present-day position as peripheral nations are a result of their historical development, political climate, and contacts with significant regional powers. These states' geographic location and limited resources provide both possibilities and problems. These governments must engage in proactive diplomacy, economic diversification, and regional collaboration to overcome their periphery. They may be able to take advantage of their strategic locations by making efforts to improve connections, build infrastructure, and use their special resources. As these outlying governments' roles in the larger South Asian narrative change and the dynamics of the region are altered, this will continue to be an exciting field of research.

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CHAPTER 11

DELINEATING THE LIMITS OF EAST ASIA: AN OVERVIEW

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ABSTRACT:

The idea of East Asia's borders has been discussed in academic, political, and cultural contexts. It is difficult to define the physical, geopolitical, and cultural boundaries of this area because of its many distinct states and complicated historical past. The limits of East Asia are examined from a variety of angles in this essay, including both concrete and abstract considerations. This research intends to give a thorough knowledge of the fluid nature of East Asian frontiers and its consequences for regional cooperation and identity by studying historical, political, economic, and cultural variables. China is the biggest nation in East Asia, which is a vast continent. China's neighbors include Japan, North and South Korea, Mongolia, and Korea. Taiwan, an island off the coast of China, has a distinct government from the rest of the country since soon after World War II.

KEYWORDS:

Boundaries, China, East Asia, Geography.

INTRODUCTION

Hong Kong, a former British colony with one of Asia's greatest ports, is located on China's southern coast. In 1997, Hong Kong and its harbor were handed over to China under an autonomy agreement. The former Portuguese colony of Macau, which is located directly to the west of Hong Kong, has also been handed over to Chinese rule. The Tibetan autonomous area, known in Chinese as Xizang, is located in western China. Since 1949, soon after the People's Republic of China (PRC) was established as a state, Communist China has ruled Tibet. The Dalai Lama and others have unsuccessfully lobbied for Tibetan independence. Due to the mass influx of Chinese citizens into the Tibetan area, Tibet has lately grown increasingly integrated with the nation of China [1], [2]. The East Asia and its neighbors are shown in Figure 1.

Japan has emerged as East Asia's economic dragon. The level of life in Japan is quite high, and the nation has long been a financial and industrial powerhouse for the Pacific region. Future economic tigers like South Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and South Korea have all seen rapid development in their economies and are fierce rivals in the global market. The large labor pool of the Chinese people, which has propelled the Chinese economy to its position as a significant participant in the global economy, balances off the advancements of the economic tigers and Japan. North Korea, which has been absent from the area since World War II and is now isolated behind an authoritarian regime, has been left behind. Since economic commerce helps to transcend cultural differences by providing access to similar products and services, several nations who were adversaries during World War II are now trading partners (such as China and Japan). These nations still have cultural and political distinctions, nevertheless. Approximately one-fifth of all people live in East Asia. The realm has access to the world economy because of its position on the Pacific Rim. The proximity of Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan to China's mainland coast produces an industrial setting that has sparked the world's entrepreneurial spirit. High-tech economies in the Pacific Rim have been driven by manufacturing, which has lately benefited from the abundant labor supply in the Chinese heartland. The superpower of the United States and its North American Free

Trade Agreement (NAFTA) allies, nations that compete with and trade with the East Asian Community (EAC), are located across the Pacific from East Asia. The Russian territory to the north of East Asia, particularly its Pacific port of Vladivostok, nonetheless maintains a robust diplomatic relationship with the region's countries[3], [4].



Figure 1: East Asia and its neighbors

DISCUSSION

Geographical Location

Mountain ranges in the west, Mongolia and Russia in the north, and Southeast Asia in the south encircle East Asia. The Karakoram Ranges, Pamir Mountains, and Tian Shan Mountains cast a shadow over Central Asia, while the Himalayas border Tibet and Nepal. The Altay Mountains are near to Russia. Mt. Everest, one of the world's tallest peaks, is located in the Himalayan Mountains, one of the world's highest mountain ranges. The dry, arid conditions of type B climates, which predominate in western China, are produced by the rain shadow effect created by these high mountains. In the middle of China, a sizable inhospitable zone results from the arid conditions in western China. Many of the streams that join the larger rivers that travel eastward are nourished by the melting snow from the high peaks.

The many mountain ranges, which were formed by the movement of tectonic plates, are also the scene of severe earthquakes and tremors for human livelihood. The Himalayan Mountains are being pushed higher by the Indian tectonic plate as it continues to collide with the Eurasian plate to the north. The Tibetan Plateau is the world's biggest plateau area, with an average height of 15,000 feet. It has a type H climate and high altitudes. The only sites with settlement on the plateau are the river valleys, which are sparsely inhabited. The major city in the thinly inhabited area is Lhasa. The Tibetan Plateau, sometimes known as "the Roof of the World," is a place of extremes. The infrequent precipitation often takes the form of wind-and-hailstorm combinations. The majority of the terrain is stony and desolate.

Between China and Mongolia, the vast dry areas of western China reach into the Gobi Desert. The Mongolian steppe and northern China are dominated by colder type D climates. Taiwan, Japan, North and South Korea, and other islands and peninsulas may be found on the eastern

coast of the Asian continent. The type D climates of North Korea are analogous to the northern tier of the United States, namely North Dakota. Because Taiwan is farther south, its climate is more tropical, type A. The earthquake-prone, mountainous islands of Japan were created by the movement of tectonic plates. Due to the cooling effect of water, East Asia's coastline regions experience cooler temperatures than its core regions. Japan mostly has a type C climate, however the north has a type D climate that is cooler. Contrasting economic circumstances fit the heavily populated, rich river basins of central and southeast China. Excellent farmland is produced by rich alluvial soils and temperate temperatures, which provide an abundance of food to feed a population that is always expanding [5]–[7].

The majority of Chinese people reside in China Proper, an eastern area with type C temperatures, clean water, and fertile soils. The regions of type C climate that run south from Shanghai to Hong Kong have high population concentrations that match them. The majority of people have tended to choose type C climates all throughout the globe. Due to these climatic conditions, China's huge population has access to lush agricultural fields that generate an abundance of food. The climate is milder to the south, with hot, muggy summers and dry, warm winters. Because China Proper has a climate that is suitable for human living, the area has become a densely populated human population. The most heavily inhabited area in China is the North China Plain near the mouth of the Yellow River (Huang He River), which offers fertile farming. Inner Mongolia and the Gobi Desert, which stretches into the sovereign nation of Mongolia, are to the northwest of Beijing. All the way down to the southern part of Mongolia, the area is dominated by arid type B climates. The continental type D climates in the northern portion of Mongolia are cooler. There is a portion of type H highland climates at the upper altitudes of the highlands in western Mongolia. Mongolia is a landlocked nation in the northern hemisphere with a low amount of precipitation due to its climate and geographic position. There are times when there is more precipitation in the type D climatic regions that reach north from Beijing to Northeast China than there is in northern Mongolia. Excellent agricultural land and China's magnificent woods may be found in Northeast China. This region contains a significant portion of China's plentiful natural mineral resources. It is a recurring problem to balance the exploitation of minerals with the preservation of agricultural land and wood resources.

The enormous Mongolian steppe, which contains large flat grasslands that continue north into the highlands, lies north of the Great Wall and encompasses the autonomous territory of Inner Mongolia. Beijing and Tianjin are located in North China, as well as the Yellow River basin. Excellent agricultural grounds may be found along some of the Yellow River, including extensive loess expanses that have been terraced for farming. In this area, loess is a very fine silt or wind-blown soil that is yellow in hue. Despite persistent clearcutting for agricultural objectives, deciduous woods still remain in this area. In this area, hills support the Great Wall of China. The majority of western China has a category B climate and is desert. Large areas of Western China, such as the TaklaMakan Desert, are deserted and uninhabitable due to scorching summers and long, chilly winters that are made worse by the cold winds that blow down from the north. TaklaMakan means "You will go in but you will not go out" in the native Uyghur language. The towering mountains that border Central Asia to the far west obstruct commerce with the rest of the continent. The mountainous terrain of Northwestern China is home to glaciers, deserts, and basins.

Subtropical climate prevails in China Proper's center region. This vast area is home to the cities of Shanghai and Chongqing as well as the southern Yangtze River (Chang Jiang River). This region has great agricultural land because to alluvial processes. It has pleasant winters and warm, humid summers, with distinct monsoon wet seasons throughout the summer. The

tropical region of China, which comprises Hainan Island and the other tiny islands, is located in the far south. Here, annual temperatures are greater than in the subtropical area, and the summer monsoons may often bring extremely heavy rainfall. There are modest mountains and hills in this region.

China River Basins

The center section of China Proper's extensive agricultural lands is supplied with fresh water by two main river systems. The light-colored silt that enters the Yellow River (Huang He River) gave the river its name. It originates in the Tibetan mountains and empties into the Yellow Sea through the North China Plain. The river's banks include dams, canals, and irrigation projects that provide water for huge agricultural enterprises. Vegetables, fruit, and tobacco are often farmed on smaller plots along with regular crops of wheat, sorghum, maize, and soybeans. The North China Plain must produce enough food to feed its average population density of 1,000 people per square mile. Due to the strong demand from the area's substantial population, this plain often does not create a food surplus. The North China Plain is bordered by Beijing. Tianjin, the closest port, is still developing and growing, becoming into a hub of commercial and industrial activity that is dependent on the periphery for food and raw materials. One important industrial crop farmed here is cotton[8].

The Yangtze River which rises on the Tibetan Plateau, empties into the East China Sea via Sichuan Province, the Three Gorges area, and its lower basin. There is a significant amount of rice and wheat growing along the river. This river runs through major cities like Wuhan and Chongqing. Shanghai and Nanjing are located on the coast close to the delta. China's biggest city and a developing metropolis is Shanghai. The biggest dam in the world is the Yangtze River's Three Gorges Dam. A significant portion of central China's power is generated there. Oceangoing ships may cruise to Wuhan along the Yangtze, and by using the locks at the Three Gorges Dam, they can continue upriver all the way to Chongqing. The Yangtze River serves as an important and lucrative transit route for moving commodities between the periphery and the core as well as between the many active metropolitan areas. Sichuan, one of the five most populous provinces in China, depends on the Yangtze River system to meet its demands and link it to the rest of the country.

Manchuria, named after the Manchu ethnic group that had dominated the area in Chinese history, was the previous name for northeastern China. A conducive industrial environment for economic activities is produced by two river basins. Northeast China is traversed by the Songhua River Basin and the lower Liao River Basin. On these rivers lie industrial hubs known as Harbin and Shenyang. The Northeast China Plain is the name of this area. In close proximity to an industrial environment of smokestacks, factories, and warehouses are significant agricultural operations. Due to excessive air and water pollution, the region's significant mineral riches and iron ore resources have fueled industrial activity and created substantial environmental issues. This was China's primary steel producing zone in the 1970s, but since many of the country's industrial hubs are now being established in the southern parts of China Proper, the area is now being reduced to a rustbelt.

The Pearl River Basin, China's southernmost section, is a significant economic and agricultural region. Despite being smaller than the Yangtze River Basin, the estuary of this river, where it empties into the South China Sea, is home to several of the world's largest cities. The Xi River, Pearl River, and their tributaries are part of the system. The Yangtze River has the biggest volume of water flow, but these riversthe third-longest river system in Chinaprocess a huge quantity of water. The major cities in this region are Shenzhen, Macau, and Hong Kong, together with a fast-growing industrial hub. Macau and Hong Kong were

both once British colonies, as was already noted. These cities are now major centers for trade and business worldwide. Guangzhou, along with Shanghai, Beijing, Wuhan, and Tianjin, is one of the biggest cities in China. The cornerstone of the inhabitants' cultural background is their Cantonese ancestry and customs.

The Colonial Era and Chinese Dynasties

Around 2200 BCE is when the ancient Chinese dynasty first emerged. It stood amid the prosperous North China Plain. Chinese dynasties were structured as a political framework that allowed for the continual transmission of authority, ideas, and culture from one generation to the next. Chinese people were known as People of Han or Han Chinese during the Han Dynasty, which ruled from 206 to 220 CE. The Qing (Manchu) Dynasty, which lasted from 1644 to 1911, claimed to have authority over all of China, Mongolia, Southeast Asia, and Korea. China's dynastic era came to an end in 1911. It was just a matter of time until technology, bigger ships, and the European invasion reached East Asia after Europe invaded the Americas, Africa, and South Asia. During the Qing Dynasty, colonization from Europe first made its way to China. Long before the Roman and Greek empires reached their heights, China had become an industrialized nation. China's industrial cities grew as a result of the principles of clean drinking water, transportation, and technology. Prior to its introduction to Europe, printing, paper, and gunpowder were all utilized in China. The primary route between China and Europe was the Silk Road, which passed over the lofty and sometimes perilous mountain passes. Chinese colonial forces encountered fierce opposition. They were repelled for many years[9]–[11].

An edge over Chinese manufacture was given by the Industrial Revolution in Europe, which produced goods in large quantities at a low cost. In order to undermine Chinese culture, British invaders also introduced the addictive drug opium from their South Asian colonies to China. The British were able to cause societal issues in China by bringing in large quantities of opium. With victory in the first Opium Wars (1839–1842), Britain claimed control of the majority of central China. Other European nations also tried to establish themselves in China. The port of Macau was given to Portugal. Germany seized control of the prosperous North China Plain's coastline sector. A portion of southern China and Southeast Asia was cut off by France. Russia arrived from the north to claim China's northern regions. Japan, which was located directly over the ocean from China, seized control of Korea and the Formosan island (now known as Taiwan). As colonialism stepped in to take over the Chinese mainland, claims on China grew.

Despite having claimed portions of China, European nations often engaged in intra-European conflict. As a result, when the Europeans invaded, China was unable to repel them because it could not develop heavy military weaponry as quickly as the Europeans did. Four thousand years of thriving Chinese culture were swiftly lost due to foreign influence. The war did not take on recognized proportions until about 1900, when the Chinese people staged an uprising against foreigners (known as the Boxer uprising). Even though there were still European colonies in China, the 1911 dissolution of the Qing Dynasty marked the end of European colonialism's accomplishments.

China's Three-Way Split

After 1911, European colonization in China began to slow down, and World War I significantly diminished European dominance. On the other hand, the Japanese conquerors went on to develop. Japan didn't have far to go to restock its military and soldiers. Dr. Sun Yat-sen, a physician from China, advocated for the establishment of an independent Chinese Republic free from dynasty control, Japanese influence, and European colonial influence.

Communist and Nationalist political organizations also contributed to the establishment of the republic. Sun Yat-sen passed away in 1925. Chiang Kai-shek led the Nationalists to victory against the Communists and the establishment of a national government. Foreigners were forced to leave. Communists were expelled from politics.

Japan, nationalists, and communists fought each other in turn for control of China. The troops of Japan advanced down the eastern coast and seized control of a portion of Manchuria, in northeastern China. Communists were being pushed into the highlands by nationalists, who had beaten them for power. The two groups collaborating to combat the Japanese had the backing of the Chinese people. The Communists fled across rural China for 6,000 miles during the Long March in 1934, with Nationalist troops hot on their heels. The rural population aided the Communists in their endeavors. The defeat of Japan, a nation that was ruthlessly slaughtering large numbers of Chinese citizens throughout their aggressive war, was of utmost importance to the Chinese. After the United States defeated Japan in World War II in 1945, many things changed. The end of Japanese dominance over land in China, Taiwan, Korea, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific was brought about by Japan's admission of defeat. By 1948, the Communists were displacing the Nationalists because to their improved organization. Chiang Kai-shek collected his followers and any Chinese artifacts he could find, then escaped via boat to Formosa (now Taiwan), which had recently been liberated from Japanese rule in 1945.

The Republic of China (ROC) was officially recognized as Taiwan. The mainland government was taken over by the Communists. The People's Republic of China (PRC), with Beijing as its capital, was established in 1949 by communist leader Mao Zedong. After being utterly wrecked by US bombing and losing the war, Japan had to start the drawn-out process of reconstructing her nation, which would take years. After being fully freed from Japanese colonization and Chinese dynasties, Korea started to endure internal political strife. East Asia's political institutions in the second half of the twentieth century were radically different from those in existence at the start of the century.

A History of Modern China

The biggest Communist nation is China. The Himalayas and other high mountain ranges have kept the Chinese civilization apart from that of Europe and Central Asia for thousands of years. A journey through China would show a people with a deep, enduring love of the country, traditions as ancient as recorded history, and a spirit of trade and hard labor that supports them to this day. China is rich in history, adventure, and mystery. Although China theoretically has a lower overall area than the United States, depending on how land and sea areas are tallied, it is almost the same size on land. In contrast to the United States, which has an eastern and a western coast, China only has an eastern coast. You can determine where the densely populated areas of China are if you are familiar with the different kinds of climate and the connection between climate and population. Mao Zedong did not follow the same kind of communism as was implemented in the Soviet Union. The Chinese people were subjected to several Communist experiments, all of which had tragic outcomes. For instance, the Great Leap Forward was declared in 1958. Communes were established, peasant armies were tasked with cultivating the land, and residents were requested to contribute their pots and pans in order to generate scrap metal and boost the nation's industrial production. The objective was to boost output and efficiency. On the contrary, millions of Chinese perished from famine at this time.

Another catastrophe started in 1966 and lasted until Mao's death in 1976. In an effort to eradicate elitism and promote unwavering allegiance to the Communist Party, the Great

Proletarian Cultural Revolution wrecked damage on four thousand years of Chinese traditional culture. Armies of brainwashed students were sent into the towns and the countryside to gather information on anybody who disagreed with the party line. Universities were assaulted, schools were shuttered, and intellectuals were murdered. Anyone who is accused of subversion might be forced to sign a confession via torture. This barrage of anti-Democratic horror was followed by violence, chaos, and economic collapse. Although estimates vary, the majority of sources agree that the Mao Zedong period saw the deaths of roughly thirty million people as a result of purges, hunger, and warfare.

The so-called Bamboo Curtain severely limited all movement into and out of China during the early years of communism in that country. During the Chinese Civil War, the United States supported the nationalist cause, and Chiang Kai-shek was still supported by the US in Formosa (now Taiwan). The US embassy was located in Taiwan, not Beijing, since the US did not recognize Communist China. The key economic regions of the globe advanced with commercial technology and high-tech gadgets while China was going through its terrible trials with Communism and launching rockets to the moon. China fell behind in industrial development and turned into an agricultural nation. Nixon's 1972 trip to China marked the beginning of official ties between the two countries and was also seen as a Cold War blitz against the Soviet Union. When the Chinese Communist Party came to power, it implemented a "planned economy."

A planned economy, sometimes known as a command economy, contrasts sharply with a free market. In a planned economy, the government is in charge of all economic decisions, including which goods and products should be produced, how much of each should be produced, how products will be sold or distributed, and for what price (if any), as well as who should have jobs and what kinds of jobs they should have. Businesses are nationalized, or owned by the government rather than by any private organization, in a planned economy. In contrast, in a market economy, firms are privately held and the majority of choices are influenced by investor and customer behavior.

CONCLUSION

Geographic coordinates do not, by themselves, establish the borders of East Asia. Instead, they are influenced by the complicated linkages between historical legacies, geopolitical interests, economic relationships, and cultural influences. While physical characteristics like mountain ranges and beaches provide observable markers, it is typically the intangible aspects, like shared histories and cultural affinities, that are just as important as or more so than the actual ones. The borders of East Asia continue to change, challenging conventional ideas in a world marked by globalization and interconnection. It is essential to acknowledge this flexibility in order to promote regional collaboration and understanding. Adopting a comprehensive view of borders as East Asian countries manage the difficulties of the 21st century would help the region move toward a more peaceful and prosperous future.

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CHAPTER 12

IDENTIFYING THE BOUNDARIES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA: A REVIEW OF HISTORY, POLITICS, AND CULTURE

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ABSTRACT:

In Southeast Asia, the idea of borders is very important in terms of history, politics, and culture. The delineation of boundaries that have changed throughout time has molded this area, which is well-known for its different races, dialects, and history. This abstract examines the complex relationship between real territorial borders and fictitious cultural barriers in Southeast Asia. It explores how these borders were shaped by colonialism, contemporary nation-state dynamics, and the effects of globalization. The difficulties of maintaining these borders in a society that is becoming more linked are also mentioned in the abstract. This abstract helps to a clearer understanding of the intricate geopolitical environment of Southeast Asia by dissecting the region's borders. Southeast Asia's cultural frontiers are as important since ethnic diversity and indigenous identities sometimes cross political boundaries. This diversity of cultures offers both possibilities for international cooperation and potential causes of conflict. Maintaining borders that strike a careful balance between national interests and regional collaboration becomes increasingly difficult as the globe grows more linked.

KEYWORDS:

Asia, Boundaries, China, India, Southeast Asia.

INTRODUCTION

Southeast Asia is the area that is between China, India, Australia, and the Pacific Ocean. Southeast Asia is made up of a variety of forms and sizes due to its political borders. Natural characteristics, historic tribal differences, colonial claims, and political agreements all had a role in the formation of the political frontiers. Indonesia, the fourth-most populated nation in the world, is also a part of the realm. Peninsulas and islands may be found across Southeast Asia. The sole landlocked nation is Laos, a rural and isolated nation that shares borders with China, Vietnam, and Thailand. The coastline of Southeast Asia is made up of gulfs, bays, inlets, and beaches. Numerous cultural groups may find sanctuary on the hundreds of islands and other isolated locations, and locals, modern-day pirates, and revolutionaries can all find refuge there. Two geographical areas may be distinguished in Southeast Asia. The Indochina Peninsula or Indochina, a designation given to the area by France, is located south of the mainland section, which is linked to China and India. The nations of Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, and Myanmar (Burma) make up this continent's mainland. India and China have traditionally had an impact on this area. Nations that are surrounded by sea make up the islands and insular area to the south and east. Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia, East Timor, and the Philippines are among the nations in this area [1], [2].

Geographical Location

Southeast Asia's islands and mainland are home to a diverse range of natural and cultural settings. Except for the most northern part of Burma (Myanmar), which stretches north of the Tropic of Cancer, the whole kingdom is situated in the tropics. An exotic kind The area has a dominant climate, and rainfall is often plentiful. The area's tropical seas contribute to climate

regulation. Between the Pacific Ocean on the east and the Indian Ocean on the west lies Southeast Asia. The many oceans, bays, straits, and gulfs that round the numerous islands and peninsulas contribute to the complicated maritime borders of the realm. The South China Sea is a significant body of water that divides the mainland from the island chain. The tens of thousands of islands that comprise the different nations or are located inside their territorial seas form a network of passages and a distinct physical landscape[3], [4].

Mekong, Red, and Irrawaddy are the three longest rivers in the world; they originate in China's Himalayan Mountain ranges and flow across the continent. The Mekong River originates in China's high Himalayas, flows through Cambodia to Vietnam, where it forms a massive delta close to Ho Chi Minh City and helps define the political boundaries of Laos and Thailand. After leaving China, the Red River passes through Hanoi on its way to the Red River delta in the Gulf of Tonkin. The Irrawaddy River runs the whole length of Burma, giving water to the central region of the nation. The Chao Phraya in Thailand is another significant river on the continent. The Chao Phraya produces a beneficial core region with the most population in the nation because to its many tributaries. On both the mainland and the islands, there are several other rivers. The rivers move sediment and water from the interior to the coastlines, often forming vast deltas with fertile soils that are important agricultural regions. The lush river valleys and deltas are ideal for growing a variety of crops, including rice and food items. In order to sustain the realm's expanding population, agriculture must be abundant.

DISCUSSION

The many islands and the hilly topography of the different nations are the result of tectonic plate action. Peaks in high mountain ranges may soar to altitudes of more than 15,000 feet. In reality, there are glaciers, ice, and snow that are present year-round in the high elevation ranges of New Guinea, which are located near the equator. A portion of old rock that has been forced upward by tectonic pressures to create a mountainous land mass is what makes up the island of Borneo, which is located in the heart of the insular area. Erosion has slowly eroded Borneo's mountains over time. Along its northern boundary with China and India, the kingdom is surrounded by mountains and hills. This boundary is less accessible since it is internal. Similar processes may be seen in the interior of the insular region's islands, where isolation and remoteness have contributed to the development of the natural conditions that support a distinctive flora and fauna. The human cultural landscape may be varied in highland regions. The customs and cultural practices that give local people their identity and history have developed as a result of time and isolation. The area is susceptible to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions due to tectonic activity. In 1991, the Philippine volcano Mt. Pinatubo erupted, sending ash and smoke into the sky and having an influence on much of the earth. In 2004, an earthquake with a magnitude of 9.0 happened off the shore of Sumatra, an Indonesian island, and it wreaked havoc over the greater Indian Ocean area. It was estimated that up to 150 000 people died, mostly due to floods. From Thailand to India, a 35-foot-high wall of water from the tsunami wreaked havoc on several coastal communities.

Colonialism's effects

The effects of colonial and corporate globalization have not been avoided in Southeast Asia. Europeans entered Southeast Asia as they increased their imperial endeavors. European colonization had a significant impact on Southeast Asia. Thailand, also known as Siam during the colonial period, was the only part of the region that was not colonized by Europeans. Throughout the colonial era, it remained a sovereign country and served as a stopgap between French and British conquerors. Before World War II, the Japanese colonial

empire ruled much of Southeast Asia. Southeast Asia's nations and regions have gained notoriety as a result of their colonial past. In the past, Indonesia was referred to as the Dutch East Indies, which had an impact on how the Caribbean was referred to as the West Indies. The phrase "French Indochina" has been used historically to refer to the old French claims in Southeast Asia. The Federation of Malaya, Singapore, Sarawak, North Borneo, and Brunei all recognized the respective national currencies of Malaya and British Borneo, each of which was based on a dollar unit.

By the conclusion of World War II, the individual nations of the realm had gained independence from the European powers and from Japanese imperialism, giving them a new sense of identity. Many former colonies still maintain relations with their European equivalents on the cultural and economic fronts. The most recent colony to achieve independence was East Timor, a former Portuguese colony south of Indonesia. An island called Timor is located close to Australia. Indonesia asserts its claim to the western half. In 1975, Indonesia seized control of the whole island. The eastern region was ultimately given independence in 2002 as a consequence of separatist movements that included strife and bloodshed. Since then, East Timor has been attempting to become an independent nation and is now negotiating the inclusion of significant oil and gas deposits in its offshore boundaries [5]–[7].

Cultural Background

More over 600 million people reside in Southeast Asia, with more than half of them residing on the many islands of Indonesia and the Philippines. One of the world's most inhabited areas is the tiny Indonesian island of Java. On the island of Java, more than half of Indonesia's two hundred forty-five million residents reside.

One of the most densely inhabited parts of the island nation of the Philippines is the island of Luzon. More over 100 million people live in the Philippines, over 90 million in Vietnam, and around 67 million in Thailand.

Deltas, river valleys, and fertile plains are examples of local locations having a high capability for food production as well as significant population concentrations. Local variances between individuals eventually developed into distinct cultural or ethnic groupings, creating Southeast Asia's ethnic mosaic.

There are many distinct ethnic groupings, but some of the bigger ones stand out because they have recognized populations. The major ethnic groups on the mainland are Burmese, Thai, Khmer, and Vietnamese, which correspond to the actual nations from Burma to Vietnam. The island chain has a similar circumstance. On the several islands in the area, various different groups may coexist. For instance, there are hundreds of distinct tribes with their own languages and customs on the island of New Guinea. Indonesians, Malays, and Filipinos make up the majority of the many ethnic groups, coexisting alongside the nations of Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines. Numerous subgroups exist within each of these major groupings, and they all preserve their own local cultural heritages. Despite the globalization movement that enhanced the options for engagement and communication between people, the many islands of Indonesia and the Philippines provide the space for variety to flourish.

The world's biggest Muslim population resides in Indonesia. Almost every major faith is represented here. The majority of people in the Philippines are Christians, although there is a small Muslim group that includes insurgency rebels. Islam is the predominant religion in Malaysia. More than 60% of people in Laos and almost 95% of people in Thailand identify as

Buddhists. Bali, an Indonesian island, as well as several other places throughout the area, practice Hinduism. In rural and distant locations, you may find animism and indigenous faiths. Southeast Asia is undoubtedly a diverse ethnically mixed region, with each ethnic group having its own history, culture, and preferred religion.

Overseas Chinese

Over 30 million overseas Chinese, or ethnic Chinese who reside outside of China, reside in Southeast Asia. The latter Chinese dynasties and the colonial period saw the largest outflow of Chinese to the realm. By using persons of Chinese ancestry to rule over the native populace in the realm, European colonial powers facilitated this migratory trend. For overseas Chinese, life has often been challenging. Chinese people were subjected to severe discrimination when the country was under Japanese control during World War II. With the conclusion of World War II, Japanese colonialism and occupation became less pronounced. Because of their historic colonial position and their links to the economy, the minority of overseas Chinese has maintained an economic edge. Chinatowns started to appear in several of Southeast Asia's largest cities. After World War II, the local ethnic majority often kept up their prejudice against the Chinese, which was motivated by religious or economical inequalities. However, overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia have played a significant role in advancing international commercial agreements that have made the Pacific Rim a significant participant in the global economy[8]–[10].

Vietnam

The elongated state of Vietnam is somewhat bigger than Italy and nearly three times the size of the US state of Kentucky. According to estimates, there were around 90 million people living there in 2010. People under the age of twenty-one make up 60% of the population. This shows that during the conclusion of the Vietnam War, the population was just around half what it is now. Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), located in the south, and Hanoi, the nation's capital, are the two major metropolitan centers in Vietnam. Vietnam's central region is constrained and has greater elevation. Every core region is situated near a significant river delta. In the north, the Red River delta lies east of Hanoi, while in the south, the massive Mekong River delta is near to Saigon. These river deltas release silt from upstream and offer great soil for cultivating numerous harvests of rice and other grains every year. Vietnam has a lengthy coastline and a tropical Type A climate. Protein from fishing helps to balance dietary demands. More than 55% of people are employed in agriculture. As a result of population expansion and the tendency toward urbanization, family size has decreased significantly. The two major urban core cities have grown quickly as a result of the rural-to-urban transition. Vietnam's main city, Saigon, has a port that can handle oceangoing ships. The capital, Hanoi, is not a coastal city and is situated inland from Haiphong, the closest port on the Gulf of Tonkin coast.

Geographical Politics

Comprehending the shifts in political power that Vietnam has undergone is essential to comprehending the nation. Vietnam was ruled by many Chinese dynasties at various points in time. When France conquered Vietnam, it established Christianity as the dominant religion and the French language as the common language. Both developments encountered opposition, but the religious discrimination against Buddhism by the French invaders exacerbated the conflict. In 1858, the French took control of the world. It was superseded by the Japanese in 1940, and this lasted until the conclusion of World War II. After Japan was defeated in 1945, the French wanted to take back control of Vietnam. When the French made an aggressive advance into the nation, they encountered fierce opposition and were ultimately

routed in 1954 when they lost the battle of Dien Bien Phu. The Vietnamese started formally expressing their desire for independence in the middle of the 1950s. The dynamics mirrored those in Korea. Vietnam had to set up a government after they became an independent nation in 1954. They were divided. The northern region, which supported the Communist doctrine, united behind Hanoi. The southern area, which became centralized around Saigon, embraced capitalism and democratic changes.

The United States fought against Communism everywhere it appeared throughout the Cold War. One such instance was Vietnam. Soon after France was defeated, South Vietnam began receiving support in its fight against the Communists in the north. US consultants began strengthening South Vietnam's military might in 1960. President Lyndon Johnson had to decide whether to leave Vietnam after the killing of John F. Kennedy or to order the US military to completely combat the Communists in North Vietnam. President Johnson made the decision to intensify the conflict in Vietnam because he did not want Vietnam and its neighbors to "go Communist" due to the "adomino effect," which states that if one nation adopts Communism, its neighboring would follow. More than 500,000 US forces had already arrived in Vietnam by 1965. The outcome was documented in history. The Vietnam War split the US populace in the same way that Vietnam was divided by political and economic ideologies.

On college campuses, demonstrations were frequent, and those who supported the war often encountered those who opposed it. After a cease-fire was reached at a peace conference in Paris in 1973, the US administration, led by President Richard Nixon, ultimately chose to withdraw all US forces from Vietnam. In the Vietnam War, more than 57 000 US servicemen lost their lives. The North Vietnamese Communists invaded South Vietnam two years later, in 1975, and seized power there as well. Communist rule brought to the unification of Vietnam. More than two million South Vietnamese nationals fled as refugees to Hong Kong, the US, or wherever they could. The United States welcomed thousands, which led to racial tensions in local areas. Vietnam was subject to a trade embargo and boycott by the United States. It took until 1996 for the US to restore diplomatic ties with Vietnam. The nation's infrastructure and economy were severely damaged by the Vietnam War. Damage was done to important distribution networks, bridges, and roads. Vietnam could only focus on producing food and rice, two things it does well.

Current Vietnam

Vietnam has been recuperating and gradually integrating with the outside world over the last three decades. The majority of its population, which has more than doubled, was born during the Vietnam War. Their major objective is to look for chances and benefits so they may support themselves and their family. Vietnam has always been an agricultural culture. However, the two major core cities are now becoming aware of the outside world and being discovered by it. Economic tigers like Taiwan are setting up light manufacturing enterprises in Saigon in search of cheap labor and financial gains. People from rural regions are moving to the metropolis in search of work. There are more than 8.5 million people living in Saigon, and a SEZ is close by. A movement from rural to urban is beginning. Saigon was renamed Ho Chi Minh City in honor of the triumphant Communist leader after 1975. Many locals as well as those who reside in the US still refer to it as Saigon [11], [12].

Any nation that goes through fast economic or urbanization transition struggles mightily. Resource and property ownership disputes, power struggles between different ethnic groups, and severe environmental harm are all typical causes of conflict. These problems are all very present in Vietnam. Both the issues and the economic progress have been restrained by the

inflexible Communist administration. As Vietnam strikes a balance between the requirements of a competitive global economy and the strong adhesive forces of local culture, it may eventually resemble much of Southeast Asia. The demand for resources and job possibilities will increase as the population grows. Despite its relative poverty, Vietnam has been able to export rice and other agricultural goods. The Communist government has recently enacted a number of changes aimed at establishing a market economy, which has boosted growth in the economy and global commerce.

Vietnam is experiencing a significant rural-to-urban movement as a result of globalization. While the metropolitan centers have been stimulated by contemporary technology and outside commercial interest, the rural countryside is still deeply rooted in its agricultural past centered on raising food crops like rice. Vietnam has a huge potential for development. Urban areas in the nation are moving from stage 2 of the index of economic development into stage 3, which has the highest rates of urbanization. The main cities of Vietnam are linked to the rapidly expanding global economy, which has created employment and opportunities that are greatly sought after by the expanding population. There is a sea of motorcycles and bicycles clogging the downtown roadways. There are more and more cars on the road. In search of a labor pool with low wages, Saigon has been a popular location for the textile export sector and other businesses. A once-isolated nation is now linked to the rest of the world thanks to cell phones and the Internet.

The Mekong River basin and the rough mountainous terrain are fundamental to Laos' geography. Laos has no coastline. Vietnam protects Laos from Cambodia to the south and the South China Sea to the east. There isn't a port city connecting it to the outside world. There are 9,242 feet of mountains here. There is a dry season and a wet season in the Type A climate. A dry season follows the rainy season, which typically lasts from May through November. Fresh water, irrigation, and transportation are all provided by the Mekong River as it passes through the country. On the Mekong River sits Vientiane, the capital and biggest city of the nation. The area of Laos is comparable to that of Utah in the United States. The Kingdom of Siam, which flourished in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, finally absorbed the Lao Kingdom, which had come into being in the 1500s. During the colonial period, France pushed its way in and established a French Indochina. In 1949, Laos gained its independence from France. Laos is a rural nation where 80% of the people are employed in agriculture. In this nation, globalization has not yet taken hold and infrastructural development is still in its infancy. The transportation infrastructure is relatively rudimentary, and electricity is not always readily accessible. There are not many paved roads and no railways. Human consumption-grade water is not always readily accessible. Agriculture is the main sector of the economy, with considerable foreign investments in mining and natural resources. Laotians make about two-thirds of the population. The second greatest proportion of adherents are those who practice animist rituals and spirit worship. Only a tiny portion of people are Muslims and Christians. Laos makes up the majority of the population and are the main ethnic group. The Hmong and mountain tribal tribes are other ethnicities that may be found in different distant areas of the nation. The various indigenous people's isolation and rural traditions have begun to draw tourists. The Chinese government's decision to let its nationals to travel from China into Laos outside of their boundaries has contributed to the recent rise in tourism. Both the historic town of Luang Prabang and the southern location of Wat Phou (Vat Phu), an ancient Hindu temple complex, are included as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Laos is a developing nation. Compared to other emerging nations, it offers less prospects for work to its population. The Cold War's one-party Communist political system has been decentralizing power and promoting entrepreneurial endeavors. The mining industry, the generation of hydroelectricity, and large building projects are all seeing an

increase in foreign investment. The World Bank and other organizations have funded initiatives to develop the country's infrastructure and provide its citizens opportunity. China and the Laotian government have been working together to develop the nation's rail system. These initiatives have aided in lowering poverty and improving the nation's economic and physical health.

A Prominent Past of Cambodia

The area of Cambodia is comparable to that of the US state of Missouri. A population estimate of 14.5 million people was made for 2008. The Angkor Empire was founded by the Khmers and peaked during the 10 and thirteenth century. Before the onset of colonialism, the Angkor Empire began a protracted period of collapse. In the second half of the seventeenth century, France seized control of the area. Prior to World War II, Japan occupied the area, but when the conflict came to a close, they turned that power over. After the Japanese army was routed, France reclaimed control of Cambodia. In 1953, France gave Cambodia its definitive declaration of independence. Cambodia's recent past must be understood in order to comprehend Cambodia.

This nation has seen some of the most jarring societal changes in recent memory. Under Pol Pot's leadership, the Khmer Rouge upended society and left behind a legacy that the nation will uphold as it continues to integrate into the global community. In an attempt to obstruct North Vietnamese military operations and combat the Khmer Rouge, US troops bombed and briefly invaded Cambodia between 1969 and 1973 when the US was engaged in the Vietnam War. The conflict forced millions of Cambodians to flee, and many of them settled in Phnom Penh. Unknown is the number of people who died as a result of US bombing campaigns in Cambodia. Thus, the US conflict in Vietnam had spread to Laos and Cambodia, increasing the chances for the Khmer Rouge dictatorship to come to power. Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, was eventually taken by Pol Pot's communist Khmer Rouge troops in 1975. All cities and towns were evacuated by the Khmer Rouge, who also ordered the population to relocate to the countryside. Democratic Kampuchea was chosen as the new name for the nation. Pol Pot's extreme experiment was influenced by the failure of the Great Leap Forward and the Great Cultural Revolution in China. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) was supporting Vietnam, therefore the Khmer Rouge turned to China for assistance and weapons [13], [14].

Based on the ideas of the eleventh century, Pol Pot was developing an agricultural system for a brand-new nation. To work in agriculture, people from metropolitan areas were forcefully marched out into the countryside. Anyone who objected or even suggested dissidence was put to death. Any and all references to Western culture, technology, Books, religious relics, or medicinal practices were destroyed. In an effort to create a rural, agricultural utopian community, thousands of people were deliberately slaughtered. The phrase "Killing Fields," which refers to areas where large groups of individuals were slain after being forced to dig their own graves, originated from the thousands upon thousands who were mercilessly wiped off. The mass murders had echoes of the atrocities committed by Hitler, Stalin, and Mao. The government of Pol Pot also attacked ethnic minorities. Chinese and Muslims both experienced severe purges. Doctors, attorneys, and teachers were among the professionals and educated persons who were executed. Some sources claim that since eyeglasses are a mark of intellectualism, just wearing them is punishable by death. More than two million people were murdered or passed away as a consequence of Pol Pot's policies in a nation of eight million in 1970. No one will ever know the total. Thousands of people fled to neighboring nations as refugees.

CONCLUSION

Southeast Asia's borders depict a complicated interaction of societal, political, and cultural elements. The region's colonial past has permanently altered its boundaries, affecting how countries cooperate and interact. These borders are still being shaped by contemporary nation-state processes, which often represent both unity and division among the many people. With the blurring of international borders due to technical breakthroughs and economic convergence, globalization increasingly challenges conventional ideas of boundaries. Understanding Southeast Asia's borders involves navigating a complex web of political, cultural, and historical threads as well as geography. Policymakers, academics, and global citizens must take into account the diverse nature of these borders and the changing variables that affect them in order to properly traverse the region's complexity. The actual nature of Southeast Asia's borders can only be understood via such a comprehensive approach, opening the door for wise decision-making and positive participation in a world that is always changing.

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CHAPTER 13

A COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING THE LIMITS OF NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA

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ABSTRACT:

Due to their distinct positions in the Southern Hemisphere, New Zealand and Australia's borders have long been of interest and importance. This essay analyses the borders between these two countries, taking into account both their historical background and current relevance. The study covers territorial claims, marine borders, and the legal systems that oversee these divides. The chapter also explores the geopolitical, environmental, and economic variables that affect how these borders are managed. This chapter illuminates the intricacies surrounding the boundaries of New Zealand and Australia by a thorough investigation of historical records, international agreements, and contemporary geopolitical factors. These borders impact both countries' international relations as well as their economic and resource management methods. The continuous administration of these borders must take future legal conflicts, indigenous rights, and environmental issues into careful account. Maintaining efficient communication and collaboration between New Zealand and Australia is still crucial for the stability and prosperity of the Southern Hemisphere as regional dynamics continue to change.

KEYWORDS:

Australia, Boundaries, Geography, New Zealand.

INTRODUCTION

There are plants and animals that can only be found in Australia and New Zealand. Australia is unique since it is an island, a nation, and the smallest continent in the world. These three claims cannot simultaneously be made by any other land mass. Australia is made up of a sizable mainland and Tasmania, an island to the south. The Tasman Sea divides Australia's southeast from the main land mass of New Zealand, which is made up of two large islands. There are several oceans around Australia. Its western and southern shores are encircled by the Indian Ocean. The Timor Sea and the Arafura Sea divide Indonesia from Papua New Guinea in the north. Cape York, which stretches north along Australia's eastern coast nearly to Papua New Guinea, is distinguished by the Gulf of Carpentaria. More than 1,600 miles of the Great Barrier Reef are located off the northeastern coast of the continent. The South Pacific is separated from the Great Barrier Reef by the Coral Sea. The Great Australian Bight and the island of Tasmania are on Australia's southern coast. A broad bay is known as a bight. Antarctica is located south of Australia and New Zealand. The physical landscapes of the two nations are different. While New Zealand has high mountains and ample rainfall, Australia is essentially flat with low height highlands and a large, arid interior. The Australia and New Zealand is show in Figure 1. Australia's central region lies along the Tropic of Capricorn. Australia and New Zealand are divided by the Tasman Sea[1], [2].

Animals and creatures that are unique to New Zealand and Australia have evolved as a result of their historical isolation from the rest of the globe. Marsupials, or creatures that rear their young in the pouch of their mother, include kangaroos, wallabies, koalas, and bandicoots. These organisms are thought to have evolved independently when the continents split apart more than two hundred million years ago. Also peculiar to this area are several plant species. This region's biodiversity is distinct from Asia's. Many biogeographers have explained this by visualizing imaginary lines close to the north of Australia to represent the boundary between the Australrealm and the Asian realm. Two such examples are Wallace's Line and Weber's Line. Both instances make an effort to draw the proper boundary between the two sides' divergent rates of species growth. Sea levels were lower and Southeast Asia's many islands were linked to the continent by land during the cold ages. Australia and Papua New Guinea shared a border. According to Wallace and Weber, there is no land bridge that connects the Asian and Australian sides that would allow animals to pass over. The creatures in the south developed separately from those in the north as a result of this isolation. For instance, marsupials are present in Australia and not on the Asian side of these borders[3], [4].



Figure 1: Australia and New Zealand

DISCUSSION

Both Australia and New Zealand had populations prior to the time of European colonisation. Over forty thousand years ago, Aboriginal people are thought to have crossed Southeast Asia from the Asian mainland to Australia. They established themselves in Australia and adapted to the terrain there. The Aborigines carved out a living in Australia for tens of thousands of years before the arrival of the Europeans and refined their cultural practices. There are now just approximately 450 000 Aboriginal people in Australia. The Polynesian Maori people first settled in New Zealand in the eleventh century. They are a Polynesian ethnic group. Prior to the arrival of the Europeans, they also built their culture and customs in the area over a long period of time. The European invaders encountered both the Maori in New Zealand and the Aborigines in Australia. They had a lot to lose when the Europeans arrived, in their eyes.

New illnesses claimed the lives of many people, and Europeans took control of their means of subsistence. Numerous Maori conflicts against British invaders were started, but in the end, the stronger military force prevailed. The Maori now make up fewer than 10% of New Zealand's total population.

The Dutch first observed Australia in 1606. There are no written records, however Portuguese explorers may have found Australia earlier. Australia's northern and western coasts were referred to as "New Holland" in the early 1700s. No established colonies existed. In 1770, James Cook, a British navy commander in charge of the good ship Endeavor, charted Australia's eastern coast. He arrived to Botany Bay, which is to the south of the present-day city of Sydney, and annexed the area to Britain. The territory is known as New South Wales. The shoreline was charted, which led to continuous interest in the area. In the meanwhile, England's jail system was severely overcrowded. The loss of Britain's American colonies made its issue worse. Interest in the idea of transporting inmates to Australia to relieve prison congestion grew after Cook's return to England. Eleven ships carrying 750 prisoners left Great Britain for Botany Bay in 1787. Australia developed prison colonies. The whole Australian continent had fallen under British rule by the end of the seventeenth century. The 1850s gold discovery sparked the next wave of immigration at the same time as the flow of convicts from England to Australia was slowing down. In 1868, the practice of sending convicts to Australia came to an end. The Aboriginal population has drastically decreased since the entrance of the Europeans. In Tasmania, native populations were entirely wiped out.

Australia's many states and territories became the Commonwealth of Australia, a single nation, in 1901. Canberra, a new federal capital, has been suggested. Canberra was prepared for governmental action by 1927. The commonwealth administration continued to respect the uniqueness of each state. Even though it mostly serves ceremonial purposes, the British monarch is regarded as the head of state. There have been recent attempts in Australia to break away from the British Crown, but they have not been successful. Australia's government was chosen democratically. In 1769, British naval commander James Cook charted New Zealand's coastline. With the advent of colonialism, Great Britain seized control of New Zealand and included it to its province of New South Wales. New Zealand separated from other royal colonies in the 1840s. A local parliament and a representative government were established in the colony. As the first nation in the world to extend the right to vote to all women, New Zealand made headlines in 1893. The nation, which was once a part of the British Empire, became a commonwealth nation in 1947 and has been running on its own ever since [5]–[7].

Geographical Location

Australia's island continent is popular with tourists from throughout the world, and this popularity has increased recently. Australia's top economic activity right now is tourism. Australia is a vast nation with abundant resources but few inhabitants in comparison to its size. Its geographical area is only somewhat less than that of the continental United States. The centre of this nation is directly bounded by the Tropic of Capricorn. In addition to marsupials and a wide variety of venomous snakes and insects, Australia is home to numerous unusual plant and animal species. The introduction of new species with the beginning of European colonization led to the unfortunate loss of certain native species but also offered Australia a broad range of creatures and natural circumstances.

Australia is an island that has low relief and rather low lying. Of all the continents, it is the flattest. Although not very high in height, the several highland ranges are noticeable. From

Cape York in the north to Melbourne in the south, the Great Dividing Range is a mountain range. This low-lying range of highlands has an average height of around 4,000 feet and its southernmost peaks rise to little over 7,000 feet. The Darling-Murray River system, which originates in the Great Dividing Range's highlands and runs inward through New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, and South Australia, is the biggest river system in Australia. The vast outback is located in the country's immense interior. The majority of the interior is covered by the outback, which extends west from the Great Dividing Range. This area has less rainfall than the coast, and its landscape is made up of semiarid plateaus, deserts, and harsh grasslands. Despite being sparsely inhabited, the outback is home to many aboriginal tribes. Due to their seclusion, many school-age children in the outback have historically gotten their education via radio or television broadcasts. The outback has various agricultural and mining operations. Known as the midst of nothing or the epicenter of everything, Alice Springs is situated in the heart of the continent.

The majority of the continent is made up of the interior deserts of Australia. The Gibson Desert, Great Victoria Desert, and Great Sandy Desert are the three largest deserts in Western Australia. The Simpson Desert is situated on the boundary between South Australia, Queensland, and the Northern Territory. These deserts are not entirely made of sand; they also include diverse types of spinifex, a small plant that thrives on sandy soil. Very little rain falls in the Great Artesian Basin, which is located towards the western end of the Great Dividing Range. If not for the subterranean water supplies that sustain major agricultural activities, it would be categorized as a desert. The interior of Australia is home to large livestock operations with sizable herds of sheep and cattle. Domesticated animals, including wild camels, may graze on the grassy plateaus and scrublands. The Great Barrier Reef, the world's biggest barrier reef, stretches 1,600 miles off Australia's northeastern coast. Millions of visitors visit there every year because of the variety of fish and marine life that live there. Scuba divers and water lovers from all over the globe come to the reef. A major tourist destination, the reef boosts the Australian economy. The Great Barrier Reef has been named a World Heritage Site by the UN. On the Gold Coast, which derives its name from its stunning sand beaches, sits Brisbane. A major tourist market for the nation is drawn to the beaches.

The two biggest monoliths in the world are a pair of significant and interesting massive physical structures in Australia. The rock known as Mt. Augustus is located in Mt. Augustus National Park in western Australia, more than 500 kilometers northeast of Perth. It is regarded as the world's biggest single rock. 2,352 feet above the barren terrain, Mt. Augustus rises. The length of the one building is roughly five kilometres. The largest Australian monolith, Uluru (Ayers Rock), is more than double the size of Mount Augustus. A well-known tourist destination, Uluru is situated in the Northern Territory approximately 200 kilometres southwest of Alice Springs. The 2.2-mile-long Uluru rises 1,142 feet above the Australian desert. Both rocks are of great cultural significance to Australia's indigenous people. They are both regarded as holy locations and include ancient petroglyphs. Through marketing to tourists, Uluru has gained increased recognition[8].

Weather Zones

Australia's central and western regions have a small population. The Northern Territory and the arid regions have substantial deserted areas. The interior of Australia is made up of around 40% desert, with Type B climates predominating there. High temperatures may result from the huge land mass heating up throughout the summer. After sunset, low humidity causes heat to escape into the sky, resulting in a significant temperature difference between day and night. There are more tropical Type A climates along the northern shore. The northern regions near Darwin and Cape York have less temperature change since they are

closer to the equator and have the sea to buffer temperatures. Darwin has typical summer temperatures of 90 °F and winter temperatures of 86 °F. From February through March, the spring monsoons provide more precipitation. A more temperate Type C climate may be found in Tasmania, Victoria, and the central southeast. Within this region are the major cities, including Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide. It is hardly unexpected that the main population centers and Type C climates are correlated. The cities are not that far south of the tropics, since the Tropic of Capricorn crosses the continent. Average summer temperatures in January and February stay above 70 °F, while average winter temperatures in June and July seldom drop below 50 °F. Many Australians spend Christmas at the beach since the seasons there are the opposite of those in the Northern Hemisphere.

Population, urbanization, and the Relationship between the Core and Periphery in Space

Politically, Australia is organized into six states and two territories. They are the Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory, Queensland, New South Wales, Western Australia, Tasmania, and South Australia. Australia's surrounding tiny islands make up the Australian protectorates. Large human populations may thrive in Australia's core regions. Simply look for the mild Type C climates to identify Australia's major population centers. There are two main areas in Australia. The city of Perth serves as the focal point of a tiny core area in the west. The vast core area in the east along the coast is where the majority of Australians reside. The majority of the population is concentrated in this area, which stretches from Brisbane to Adelaide. Only approximately 22 million people called Australia their home as of 2010 overall. Mexico City has a larger population than the whole country of Australia. More over 90% of its population is of European descent, with the majority hailing from the British Isles. The predominant tongue is English. The most popular religion is Christianity. The impact of European colonization and immigration may be seen in the population's composition [9]–[11].

The original inhabitants of Australia, known as the Aboriginal people, make up just approximately 2 percent of the present population. As waves of immigrants reacted to national policies promoting immigration, Australia's population saw frequent growth surges. About 24 percent of the present population was born outside of Australia; the majority are from the United Kingdom, and a sizable portion are from New Zealand. This was particularly true following World War II. The Australian population has also benefited from immigration from Asian nations, particularly from China, Vietnam, and the Philippines. And finally, a significant component of Australia's immigrant population is also made up of citizens of Italy and India. Given that a significant percentage of Australia is desert, the population is not distributed equally throughout the country's topography. The urban regions are where the population is mostly concentrated. The majority of the population lives in the cities, which make up the majority of the population.

Sydney, the country's biggest metropolis, is sometimes referred to as Australia's New York. Sydney is located in the center of the state of New South Wales, which is the primary core region. The Australian Capital Territory, where Canberra, the nation's capital, is located, lies to the south of Sydney. Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, and Melbourne are some further significant Australian cities. The largest city in the Northern Territory is Darwin, whereas Hobart is the biggest city on the island of Tasmania. With the exception of Canberra, the future capital city, all of Australia's major cities are situated along the coast. This urban dispersion pattern is a result of European colonial expansion. Due to the concentration of its people in these two economic hubs, Australia displays a clear core-periphery geographical structure. While the peripheral region provides all the food, raw resources, and products

required in the core, the core regions hold the power, riches, and influence. Since the period of the Aboriginal people, Australia has never had a majority rural population. In Australia, there hasn't been much of a population movement from rural to urban. This resembles the urban growth trend in Japan.

For the great majority of people, English is their first language. The percentage of immigrants and their descendants who speak two languages fluently English and the language of their origin or national heritage has increased as a result of recently adopted legislation and shifting views toward diversity. The survival of native tongues has not been great. In the few hundred years after the arrival of the Europeans, the number of indigenous languages spoken by Australian Aborigines has decreased from up to 300 to roughly 70. The majority of indigenous languages face extinction.

Immigration and Culture

Australia had a set of rules and regulations known as the White Australia policy up until 1973, which had the purpose of restricting non-white immigration. Other programs aimed to increase immigration from the United Kingdom, while the White Australia policies restricted immigration from specific regions. British people were given financial aid to move to Australia. More than a million British residents took advantage of the opportunity between 1830 and 1940. According to most recent census statistics, 20% of people self-identify as Anglican the United Kingdom's official religion, while roughly 25% of people self-identify as Roman Catholic. About 15% of people self-identify as having no religion, while another 20% self-identify as Protestant other than Anglican. Approximately 7.5% of people say they regularly attend church. Despite the fact that the British were responsible for colonizing contemporary Australia, Australian law forbids the establishment of a national religion and upholds religious freedom.

Perhaps as a result of a climate that encourages year-round outdoor exercise, sports play a significant role in Australian culture. A quarter of the population plays on a team that plays organized sports. Rugby and cricket are also quite popular, as is the case in the majority of European nations. Football (soccer) is also very popular. Australian Rules football, often known as Aussie Rules Football or simply "footy," is the most watched spectator sport in Australia. This distinctively Australian sport has codified rules that date back to 1858 and is a combination of football and rugby. Television, movies, and all kinds of live performances are further types of entertainment. Despite the fact that Australia has a number of its own television networks, there are worries that American influences are becoming to dominate popular culture. The major cities in Australia have substantial cultural programs. Sydney is developing becoming a hub for opera, dance, music, and theatrical productions of the highest caliber. Internationally recognized and well-funded education system. Between the ages of six and fifteen, attendance in school is required, and the adult literacy rate has remained constant at roughly 99 percent. The majority of pupils attend secular, publicly sponsored schools. There are private schools that charge tuition and are mainly administered by churches, primarily the Catholic Church [12].

Economies of the World

The majority of Australia, particularly the vast, dry interior region known as the outback, offers significant agricultural potential as well as good resource extraction opportunities. Tens of millions of domesticated animals, mostly sheep and cattle, are supported by the vast grasslands, contributing up to one-fifth of the world's wool output. Large agricultural operations include many thousands of acres. Commercial grain businesses thrive in the western portion of New South Wales' Great Dividing Range. Because it is warmer and gets

more rain, Queensland's coastal area is ideal for growing sugarcane and related crops. Western Australia and central Queensland both have several sheep and cattle ranches. The production of grapes and fruits is outstanding in a number of southern Australian locations. In order to compete with the markets in the US and Europe, Australian wine production has increased. Only the dry, arid areas in the middle of the continent are unsuitable for farming. Australia amassed huge riches through exporting food items to the rest of the globe in the early 20th century. Although this is still true, the profit margin on food products has decreased. To increase its riches, the nation has had to go abroad.

CONCLUSION

The border between Australia and New Zealand is the result of complex interactions between legal, economic, geopolitical, and historical reasons. International law, historical agreements, discussions, and territorial claims have all contributed to the development of marine borders and territorial claims. These two close neighbours have a complicated relationship that involves diplomatic, economic, and cultural exchanges. Geographically speaking, just the Tasman Sea separates New Zealand from Australia. At its narrowest, the Tasman Sea is around 2,200 kilometres wide, which has impacted historical and cultural relations between the two nations. Each nation has distinct territorial claims in its separate areas. The North Island, South Island, and other smaller islands are included in New Zealand, although Australia's landmass is much bigger and comprises various states and territories. This enables people to investigate and use the natural riches that are present in those zones. Due to the establishment of EEZs by both Australia and New Zealand, the region's environmental issues and certain maritime resources are now managed jointly. Due to their shared history as British colonies, New Zealand and Australia have historical links. As a consequence, there have been cultural exchanges and the emergence of common traditions, which may be seen in things like sports, language, and interpersonal relationships. Australia and New Zealand are both sovereign, independent states with their own governments, legal systems, and duties to the international community. Despite their obvious similarities, they each nonetheless have their own unique identities. In addition to physical limits, New Zealand and Australia's relationship is defined by a number of legal agreements as well as a common history and culture. These two nations preserve their sovereignty and separate identities despite their close proximity and shared characteristics, all the while cooperating in numerous ways for their mutual advantage.

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