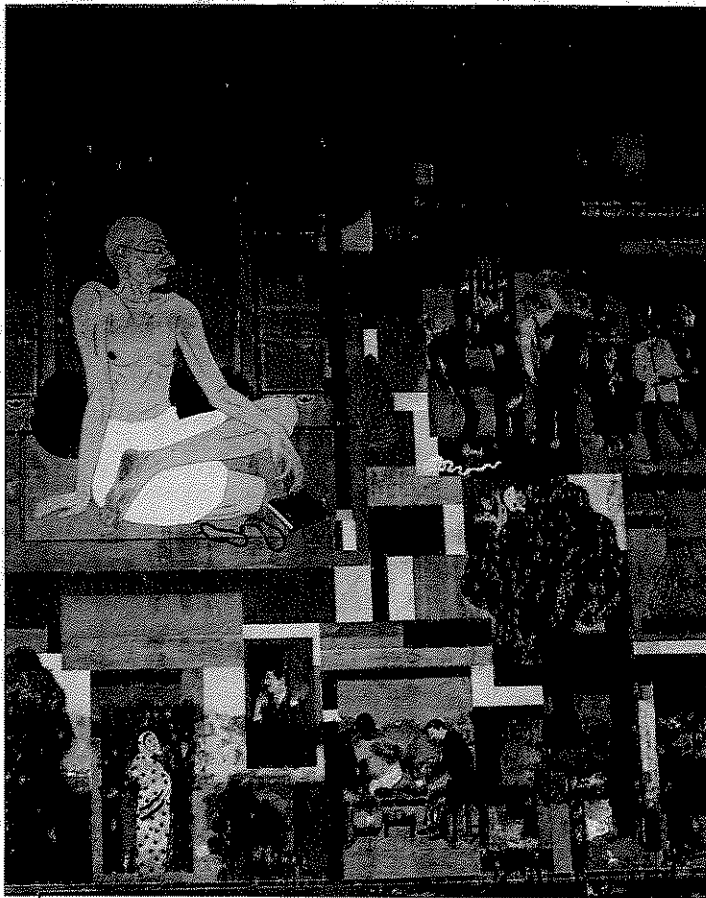


Chapter 9

SOUTH ASIA IN TRANSITION



Gandhi's Teachings This mural depicts significant events in the life of Mohandas Gandhi, one of the most important Indian leaders of modern times. Gandhi, at left, is shown in meditation. During India's struggle for independence, he spread the message of nonviolent action. **Citizenship** How can a struggle for independence help strengthen citizenship among a nation's people?

CHAPTER OUTLINE

- 1 Freedom—And Partition
- 2 Political Challenges
- 3 Economic Development
- 4 Changing Patterns of Life
- 5 Other Nations of South Asia

Neatly dressed in a dark suit and turban, a young Indian lawyer named Mohandas Gandhi boarded the train at Durban, in South Africa. As he sat in the first-class compartment a train official approached him.

"Come along," the official said, "you must go to the rear compartment." At that time, in the 1890s, South Africa had laws that required "coloured" travelers to sit apart from whites.

"But I have a first-class ticket!"

"That doesn't matter. . . . I shall have to call a police constable to push you out."

"Yes, you may. I refuse to get out voluntarily."

The police forced Gandhi from the train. As he sat in the cold station, he reflected on what had happened. Now, he saw the injustices suffered by Indians living in South Africa. For 20 years,

he worked without success to change laws that discriminated against Indians.

During the struggle, Gandhi developed ideas about nonviolent action as a way for people with little political power to end injustice. When he returned to India in 1914, he used this approach in the struggle for independence from Britain.

CHAPTER PERSPECTIVE

After a long struggle, two independent nations emerged in South Asia in 1947—India and Pakistan. Like developing nations elsewhere, these nations faced choices about how to achieve modernization.

As you read, look for these chapter themes:

- ▶ Gandhi urged Indians to use non-violence and civil disobedience to win independence from Britain.
- ▶ Ethnic and cultural diversity have posed challenges for India and other South Asian nations.
- ▶ South Asian nations have pursued modernization with mixed results.
- ▶ Technology and other changes have affected the people of South Asia, but traditional patterns of village life remain strong.

Literature Connections

In this chapter you will encounter passages from the following works.

Autobiography, Mohandas Gandhi
“We Have Arrived in Amritsar,”
Bhisham Sahni

For other suggestions, see Connections With Literature, pages 804–808.

1

FREEDOM—AND PARTITION

FIND OUT

How did Gandhi help India win independence from Britain?

How did World War II affect the struggle for independence?

What cultural differences led to the partition of India?

Vocabulary satyagraha, civil disobedience

“The British want us to put the struggle on the plane of machine guns. . . . Our only assurance of beating them is to keep it . . . where we have the weapons and they have not.”

To Mohandas Gandhi, India’s struggle for freedom had to be won by peaceful means. What “weapons” could this soft-spoken Hindu use to defeat the British? Gandhi campaigned vigorously to convince Indians to achieve independence through nonviolent means.

Growing Unrest

During and after World War I, Indian nationalists increased their demands for freedom. In 1919, Britain responded with harsh new laws limiting freedom of the press and other rights in India. For weeks, nationalists protested. After five British officials were killed, General Reginald Dyer banned all public gatherings.

The nationalists determined to defy Dyer’s order. On April 13, 1919, more than 10,000 Indians gathered in a public area in Amritsar, a city in northwestern India. General Dyer ordered his troops to open fire. Men, women, and children were trampled as they

tried to escape. When the shooting stopped, 379 Indians lay dead and more than 1,100 were wounded.

The Amritsar Massacre was a turning point in India's struggle for freedom. It deepened distrust of the British and led to increased violence. It also stirred many Indians to call for complete separation from Britain.

Mohandas Gandhi

Mohandas Gandhi returned to India from South Africa in 1914. Within a few years, he emerged as a key figure in the Indian struggle for independence. Gandhi united many groups within the nationalist movement. He took the struggle beyond the Congress party, which was largely a middle-class organization. He inspired the common people of India to work for change. In addition, he won the backing of the Indians who had benefited most from British rule.

Gandhi's principles. Gandhi came from a middle-class Hindu family and went to England to study law. In 1891, he returned to India but had little success as a lawyer. As you have read, Gandhi then moved to South Africa to practice law. There, he developed his ideas about the use of nonviolent resistance to end injustice. Gandhi called this method *satyagraha* (SUHT ya gruh ha), or "truth force."

Gandhi's ideas were rooted in Hindu beliefs and in Christian traditions. From Hinduism, Gandhi absorbed ideas about nonviolence and respect for all life. (See page 179.) While studying in England, he came to admire the Christian teaching of love, even for one's enemies. The writings of American philosopher Henry David Thoreau influenced Gandhi as well. Thoreau had practiced *civil disobedience*, the refusal to obey unjust laws.

To Gandhi, the goal of *satyagraha* was to "convert the wrongdoer." He hoped to make the world aware of British injustice by accepting punishment without striking back. He also hoped to awaken in the British a sense of their own wrongdoing.

Gandhi's appeal. Gandhi's ideas were appealing to Hindus of all classes. He won support by stressing India's rich heritage. He gave up western ways and encouraged traditional

Indian industries, such as spinning cotton. He lived simply, dressing in the white cotton garments worn by India's poor.

Like many devout Hindus, Gandhi was a vegetarian. He often fasted, or went without food. He emphasized Hindu virtues such as duty, morality, and self-discipline. Gandhi's followers called him Mahatma, or "Great Soul."

Like the Buddha and other reformers, Gandhi rejected some features of the caste system. He demanded better treatment for untouchables, whom he called Harijan, or "Children of God." Gandhi also reached out to Muslims, including them in his campaign to unite all Indians.

Campaign of civil disobedience. During the early 1920s, Gandhi traveled around India, urging nonviolent resistance to British rule. He supported strikes and protests. Along with other leaders, he called on Indians to boycott, or stop buying, British-made goods. A future Indian prime minister, Indira Gandhi (who was not related to Mohandas Gandhi) recalled that, as a child, she gave up her British-made doll. She took "my friend, my child" to the roof of her home and burned it, then burst into tears.

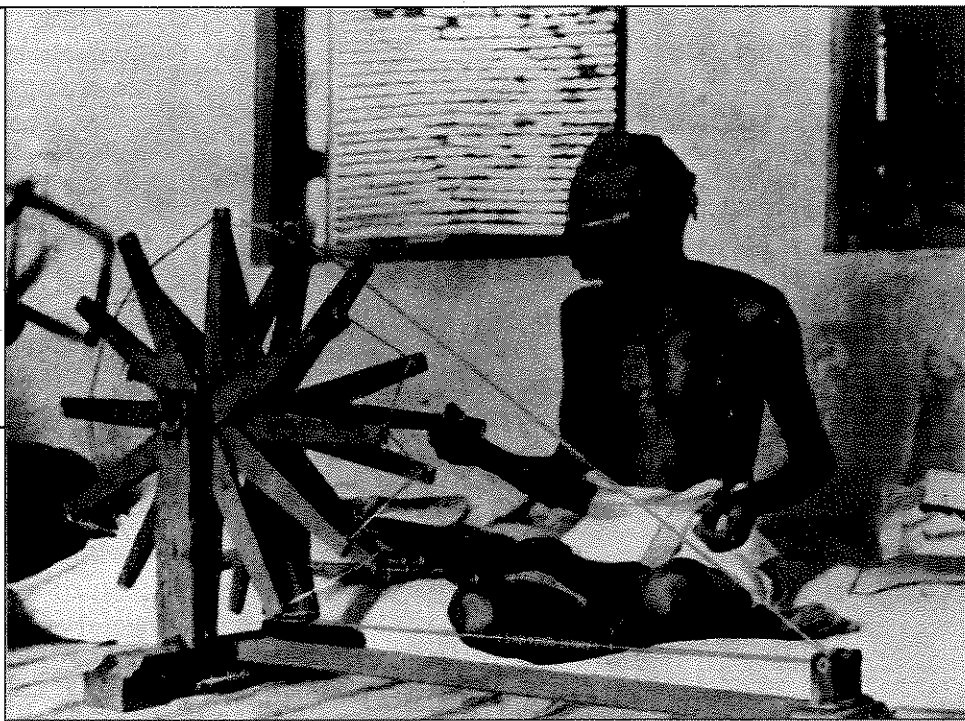
The Salt March. In 1930, Gandhi used *satyagraha* to protest the tax on salt. British laws forbade Indians to make salt. Indians could only buy salt heavily taxed by the government. In protest, Gandhi led followers on a 200-mile march from his home to the coast. Thousands of people joined the march along the way. At the coast, they broke the law by making salt from sea water.

The salt protest spread across India. The British arrested Gandhi and an estimated 50,000 other Indians. Although the government kept its salt tax, the campaign increased world support for Indian nationalists. Throughout the 1930s, the British responded to nonviolent Indian protest with force. In Britain, people began to debate whether their government should hold on to India.

Moving Toward Independence

When World War II began in 1939, most Indians had no desire to fight in what they saw as Britain's struggle. The Indian National

Gandhi at His Spinning Wheel
Gandhi inspired the people of India to return to traditional ways such as spinning thread to make cloth. Gandhi himself spent time each day spinning and meditating. The spinning wheel soon became a symbol of India's struggle for freedom from British rule. **Change**
Why do you think Gandhi's call to return to traditional ways appealed to Indians?



Congress refused to support the war unless Britain promised immediate independence. When the British refused, Gandhi and other Congress members organized a "Quit India" movement. They urged Indians to follow a policy of non-cooperation with the British. They also continued their campaign of civil disobedience. The British responded by arresting more than 20,000 Congress members.

By 1945, war-weakened Britain realized that it could no longer keep India. Nationalist forces were simply too strong. Also, popular opinion in Britain opposed keeping overseas colonies.

Hindu-Muslim conflict. As independence approached, a tragic conflict took shape between Hindus and Muslims. In the early days of the nationalist movement, Hindus and Muslims had cooperated. During the 1920s and 1930s, however, divisions grew between the largely Hindu Congress party and the Muslim League. The British encouraged the conflict, hoping to weaken the nationalists.

The Muslims, led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah, demanded a separate Muslim nation. As you have read, in the past, deep differences in religious beliefs had led to clashes between

Hindus and Muslims. As a result, many Muslims feared that their rights would not be respected in a country dominated by Hindus.

Gandhi disagreed. He hoped that Hindus and Muslims would work together in an independent India. Many Hindus distrusted Muslims, however. They looked on Muslims as foreign conquerors. Economic and political differences between the two groups further increased tension.

The Subcontinent Divided

In 1946, widespread rioting broke out between Hindus and Muslims. Britain realized that if something were not done to resolve the problem, civil war would result. In 1947, the British parliament passed the Indian Independence Act. The act ended British rule in India. It also provided for the partition, or division, of the Indian subcontinent into two separate and independent nations. One nation was Hindu-dominated India. The other nation was Pakistan, with a Muslim majority. Jawaharlal Nehru (juh WAH huhr lahl NAY roo) became prime minister of India, while Jinnah became governor general of Pakistan.

Partition led to an explosion of violence. Although India and Pakistan each promised religious toleration, distrust and fear were deeply rooted. Violence broke out between Muslims and Hindus. More than 500,000 people died in the fighting. In his short story "We Have Arrived in Amritsar," Indian writer Bhisam Sahni described a train ride during that time of violence:

“The whole city was aflame. . . . A deserted railway platform faced us when the train stopped at the next

station. . . . A water carrier . . . came over to the train . . . and began serving the passengers with water.

‘Many people killed. Massacre, massacre,’ he said. It seemed as though in the midst of all that death he alone had come out to perform a good deed. ”

To escape death, millions of Muslims fled from India to Pakistan. At the same time, millions of Hindus left Pakistan for India. An estimated 15 million people took part in this mass migration.

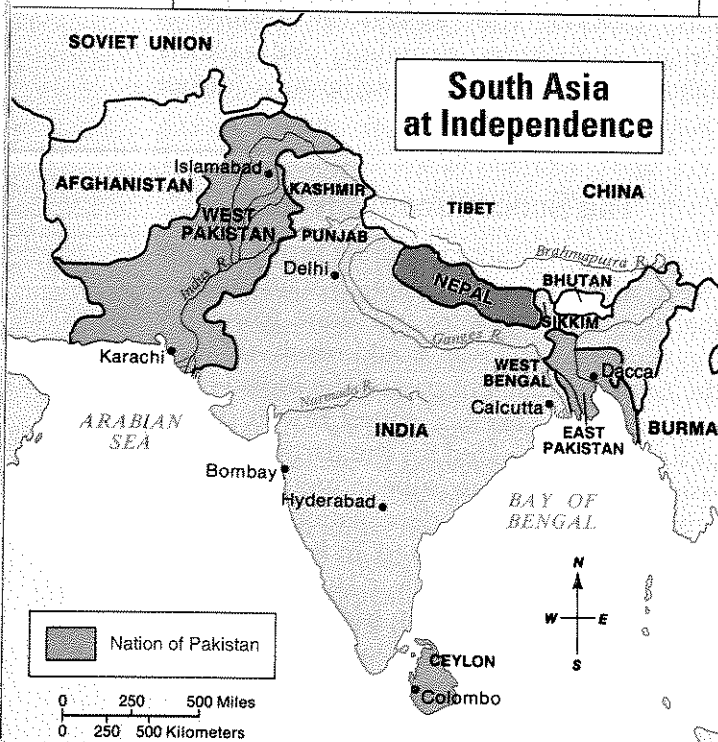
Sickened by the violence, Gandhi refused to celebrate India’s independence on August 15, 1947. During the months that followed, he held prayer meetings across India. At these meetings, he recited verses from the *Bhagavad-Gita*, the Koran, and the Bible. (See Connections With Literature, page 805, the *Bhagavad-Gita*.)

In January 1948, Gandhi himself fell victim to the violence. A Hindu extremist, who believed that the Mahatma had betrayed his own people, shot Gandhi. “The light has gone out of our lives,” mourned Nehru. “There is darkness everywhere.”

MAP STUDY

The map of South Asia was redrawn after World War II ended. The former British-ruled lands in this region then became free and independent nations.

- 1. Region** Identify the two countries of South Asia that gained their independence in 1947.
- 2. Place** (a) Why was the new nation of Pakistan created in two separate areas of South Asia? (b) Identify these two areas.
- 3. Making Global Connections** Many African nations, too, gained their freedom after World War II. What forces were at work that promoted independence in both regions?



SECTION 1 REVIEW

- 1. Locate:** Pakistan.
- 2. Identify:** (a) Amritsar Massacre, (b) Mohandas Gandhi, (c) Jawaharlal Nehru.
- 3. Define:** (a) satyagraha, (b) civil disobedience.
- (a) How was the Salt March an example of civil disobedience? (b) What other actions against British rule did Gandhi support?
- Why did Muhammad Ali Jinnah want a separate nation for Muslims?
- Why were the British willing to leave India after World War II?
- 7. Evaluating Information** Why do you think Gandhi was able to win the support of so many Indians?
- 8. Writing Across Cultures** Write a paragraph describing how civil rights protesters or other activists in the United States in the 1960s used methods similar to those of Mohandas Gandhi.

2

POLITICAL CHALLENGES

FIND OUT

How is the government of India organized?

What forces have unified Indians and what forces have divided them?

What leaders have shaped India since independence?

Vocabulary parliamentary democracy, coalition, secular

“We, the people of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a sovereign, democratic republic and to secure to all its citizens: justice . . . liberty . . . equality . . . do hereby adopt, enact and give to ourselves this constitution.”

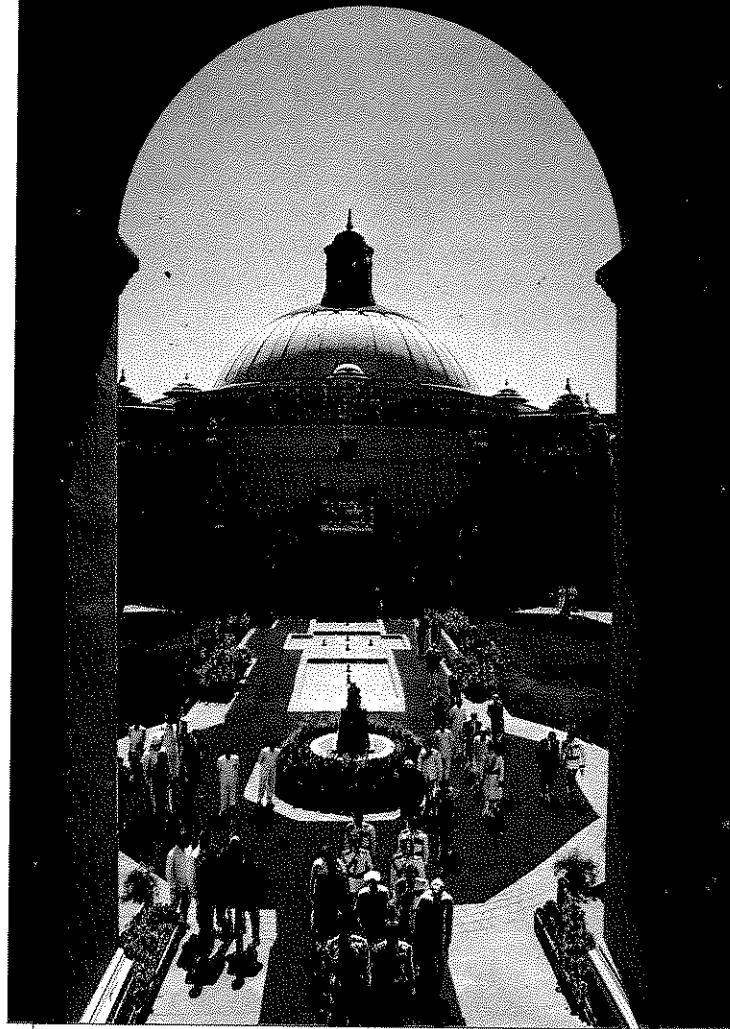
These lines from the Indian constitution sum up the goals of India's government. In the decades since independence, India—the world's largest democracy—has tried to fulfill its promises.

India's Government

In 1949, Indian leaders gathered to write a constitution. Like the constitution of the United States, the Indian constitution created a federal system. It consists of a central government and the governments of 25 states and 7 territories.

The constitution divides power between the federal and state governments. India's central government, however, has more power than the United States federal government. The president of India appoints the state governors. In an emergency, the president also has the power to dissolve the government of a state.

Parliament. Under the constitution, India is a parliamentary democracy. This system is



The Parliament Building The parliament of India meets in this building in New Delhi. Indians strongly support their democracy, and often 80 to 90 percent of all eligible voters take part in an election. Unlike many other nations that gained independence after World War II, India began as a democracy and remains a democracy. **Political System** Why do you think India is called “the world's largest democracy”?

based on the British form of government. A president is head of state but has little power. The real power lies in the hands of the political party that wins the most seats in parliament. The leader of that party becomes the prime minister.

The Indian parliament has two houses. The upper house is called the Rajya Sabha, or Council of State. Its members are chosen by

the state legislatures. The more powerful lower house is called the Lok Sabha, or House of the People. Voters elect members to the Lok Sabha directly.

Political parties. India has more than a dozen national political parties. Many more parties exist at the state level. Parties represent the interests of different caste, language, or religious groups.

The Indian constitution gives every citizen over the age of 18 the right to vote. Because many voters cannot read and write, parties use symbols on the ballots. A tree, ox, or cornstalk might stand for a particular party.

For years, the Congress party dominated India's government. Indians voted for it as the party that had led them to independence. Over time, however, other political parties grew stronger, especially the Bharata Janata party (BJP). Its leaders stressed Hindu traditions.

In the 1990s, the BJP even led a coalition government. If no party wins a majority in elections, a coalition government is formed. In a **coalition**, several parties join to rule. A coalition often has difficulty governing because the parties disagree on many issues.

By 1999, the BJP faced new challenges from the Congress party. It was also hurt by the actions of Hindu extremists who launched brutal attacks on India's Christian minority.

Dividing and Unifying Forces

As in other developing nations, many forces have threatened to break India apart. One problem is India's large population, which has more than doubled since independence. Although the government has tried to meet the needs of its 988 million people, poverty and illiteracy are still widespread. These conditions contribute to unrest.

Caste. The caste system poses problems as India seeks to modernize. The government has sought to weaken its effects and open doors to economic opportunity. Yet, efforts to help lower castes and the poor

often meet strong opposition from people higher in caste or in economic status.

The group that suffered most under the caste system were the untouchables, who were forced to live almost completely outside society. The Indian constitution declared untouchability illegal. It also outlawed discrimination against untouchables and set aside government jobs for people from this group. Despite such laws, however, untouchables are still not fully accepted by other Indians. (See the feature at right.)

In 1990, the government tried to increase the number of government jobs reserved for lower-caste people. Youths in higher castes protested because they would no longer be assured of the best government jobs. Along with fear of unemployment, protesters were motivated by prejudice against lower castes.

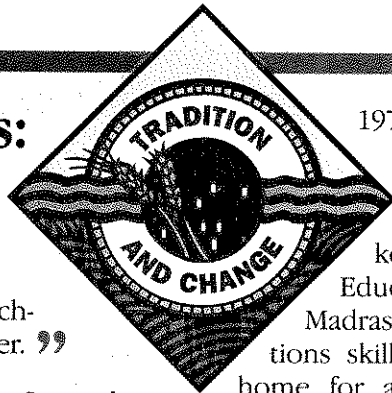
Cultural diversity. Cultural diversity is another dividing force. Some ethnic and language groups have demanded their own states. Separatist violence has often resulted. For example, after independence, the Naga people in the northeast battled government forces. They demanded and finally won recognition as a separate state within India.

Sikh separatism. Another group that protested their treatment by the government were the Sikhs. As you have read, Sikhism is a religion that began in the early 1500s by blending elements of Islam and Hinduism. It teaches belief in one god and rejects the caste system. Sikhs developed a strong military tradition to defend their religion. Today, Sikhs make up about 2 percent of India's population.

In a country dominated by Hindus, Sikhs feel they do not receive a large enough share of government resources. Sikh separatists want to break away and form a separate country. In the northwestern state of Punjab, where Sikhs form a majority, protests became increasingly violent. In 1984, Sikh extremists in Amritsar occupied the Golden Temple, their holiest shrine, and refused to leave. The government ordered an attack on the temple, and many Sikhs were killed.

Hindu-Muslim clashes. Conflicts between Hindus and Muslims also continue to plague

The Untouchables: Turning From the Past



“The water hole of the untouchables is dry—we beg for water.”

These words aroused no pity. Instead, upper-caste villagers reacted angrily:

“There is no water for you. This drought is your fault. The gods are angry at you for your past sins of selfishness, untruthfulness, and greed. Leave our well at once. Your presence will pollute what water we have.”

For thousands of years, Indian society has subjected the untouchables to a life of denial and shame. Forced to live in separate areas outside of towns, untouchables held such jobs as street sweeping and leather working. They were barred from most schools and forbidden to enter Hindu temples.

Independence brought many changes to India. The Indian constitution made untouchability illegal. Under a quota system, the government set aside seats for untouchables in the parliament and state assemblies. Universities admitted some untouchables and some government jobs became open to them.

Although some untouchables have benefited from the quotas, discrimination remains. In rural areas, untouchables have trouble buying land. They are also frequent victims of violent crimes motivated by bias.

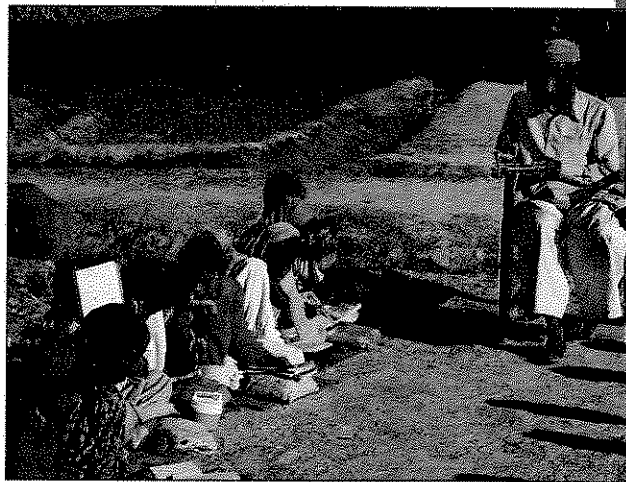
Untouchables have fought the caste system by becoming politically active. In the

1970s, they formed a political party to win better treatment.

Untouchable leader Henry Thiagaraj sees education as the key to change. He has set up the Education Facilitation Center in Madras. It teaches job and communications skills to untouchables, operates a home for abandoned children, and runs group camps to promote self-esteem. Mostly, Thiagaraj tries to help untouchables repair their wounded spirits. He says:

“We like to include people of all faiths in our work while expressing our deep commitment and love for our fellow untouchables who have been denied human fellowship and dignity.”

1. How have untouchables tried to improve their lives?
2. **Analyzing Information** Why do you think discrimination against untouchables remains widespread?



India. Although many Muslims fled to Pakistan at the time of independence, more than 100 million Muslims still live in India.

Hindus and Muslims clashed over a Muslim mosque in the city of Ayodhya (uh YOHD

yuh). Hindus claimed that the site was the birthplace of the god Rama. They charged that in the past Muslim invaders tore down the temple that once stood there. The leader of the Bharata Janata party called on Hindus



A Family of Prime Ministers Nehru's daughter, Indira Gandhi, became prime minister of India in 1966. After she was assassinated, her son, Rajiv Gandhi, became leader of India's government. When Rajiv Gandhi, too, was killed during an election campaign in 1991, much of India mourned his death. **Political System** How can a family dynasty like the Gandhis arise in a democracy?

to destroy the mosque and build a Hindu temple in its place.

In 1992, Hindus attacked the mosque. Many shouted, "I will put a stone in that very place, even if I get a bullet in the chest." Hundreds of Hindus and Muslims were killed at Ayodhya. Political parties like the BJP have used the conflict to win popular support.

Unifying forces. Despite many threats to unity, India has survived. Millions of Indians share a common faith. Hindu traditions create important ties for the majority of Indians.

Modern communications and strong leaders have also helped to unite the country. Faced with demands from groups that want to break away, the government has tried to negotiate compromises. Most Indians are also committed to democratic traditions.

India's Leaders

Jawaharlal Nehru led India for 17 years after independence. Nehru wanted to make India a modern industrial nation. He had a vision of a casteless, secular India. A secular country is one that has no official religion.

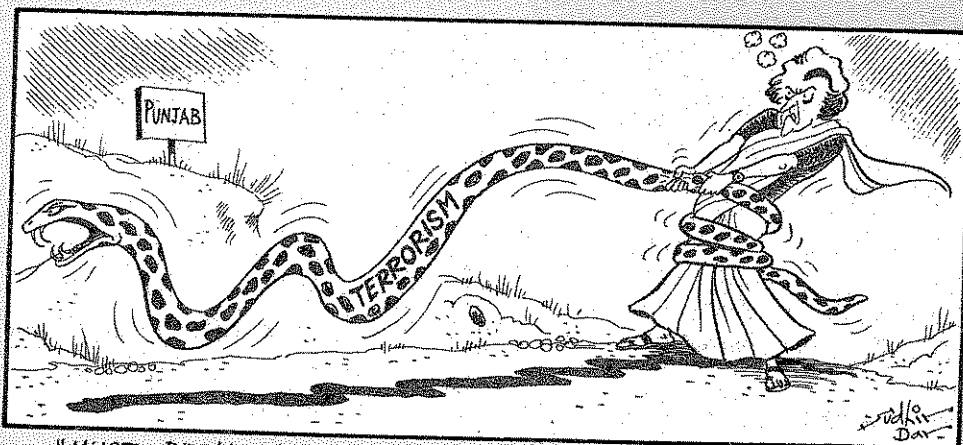
Nehru carried India through many crises. He calmed outbreaks of regional violence in the north. His government helped resettle millions of Hindu refugees from Pakistan. Nehru also set up programs for schools and economic development.

Nehru's successors. Nehru died in 1964, and in 1966, his daughter, Indira Gandhi, became prime minister. Although she continued policies aimed at modernization, economic problems and charges of corruption weakened her government. In 1975, Gandhi declared a state of emergency. She jailed political opponents and limited freedom of the press.

In time, Gandhi restored democratic rule, but unrest among ethnic and religious groups continued. In 1984, the prime minister ordered government troops to storm the Golden Temple, which was being held by a militant group of armed Sikhs, as you have read earlier in this chapter. Later that year, two of Gandhi's Sikh bodyguards shot and killed her. Anti-Sikh rioting shook the country after her death.

Rajiv Gandhi, Indira's son, was elected to replace his mother. Violence, however, also took his life. In 1991, he was murdered while campaigning for reelection. The assassins were linked to Tamil guerrillas from neighboring Sri Lanka. You will read more about the Tamils in Sri Lanka later in this chapter.

Looking ahead. Gandhi's death seemed to mark the end of a political dynasty. Rajiv's wife, Sonia, was an Italian and a Christian. She refused pleas to enter politics.



"MUST BREAK ITS BACK BEFORE IT BREAKS MINE!"

Struggles Within India Violence between the Sikhs and the government in the Punjab has troubled India's political life. In this cartoon, an angry Indira Gandhi is shown struggling against political terrorism. Gandhi lost this struggle, and after her death, moderate Sikhs themselves became victims of attacks. **Diversity** Why are many Sikhs dissatisfied with the Indian government?

By the late 1990s, though, Sonia Gandhi began to take a leading role in the Congress party. People wondered if a new Gandhi was about to emerge in India.

SECTION 2 REVIEW

- 1. Identify:** (a) Bharata Janata party, (b) Sikh, (c) Indira Gandhi, (d) Rajiv Gandhi.
- 2. Define:** (a) parliamentary democracy, (b) coalition, (c) secular.
- 3.** Describe the federal organization of the Indian government.
- 4.** How has religion created both divisions and bonds among Indians?
- 5.** What goals did Nehru and his successors have for India?
- 6. Drawing Conclusions** Why do you think the BJP gained support in the 1990s?
- 7. Writing Across Cultures** Imagine that you are one of the delegates who framed the Indian constitution. Write a letter to an American friend comparing your government with the government of the United States.

3

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FIND OUT

What economic goals did Nehru set for India?

What progress has Indian industry made?

How has India tried to increase farm output?

Vocabulary tenant farmer, land reform

Operation Flood has lived up to its name. The flood does not refer to monsoon rains or overflowing rivers. Instead, it refers to a successful program to produce milk. Twenty years ago, India needed to import milk

powder and other dairy goods. Today, it is the third-largest milk producer in the world.

Increasing food production is vital to India's economy. In the years since independence, the government has taken a major role in developing agriculture and industry.

Economic Goals

In 1947, India's economy was poor and undeveloped. Although India exported raw materials, it had to import machinery and other finished goods from industrial countries. India's new leaders were determined to free their country from economic dependence.

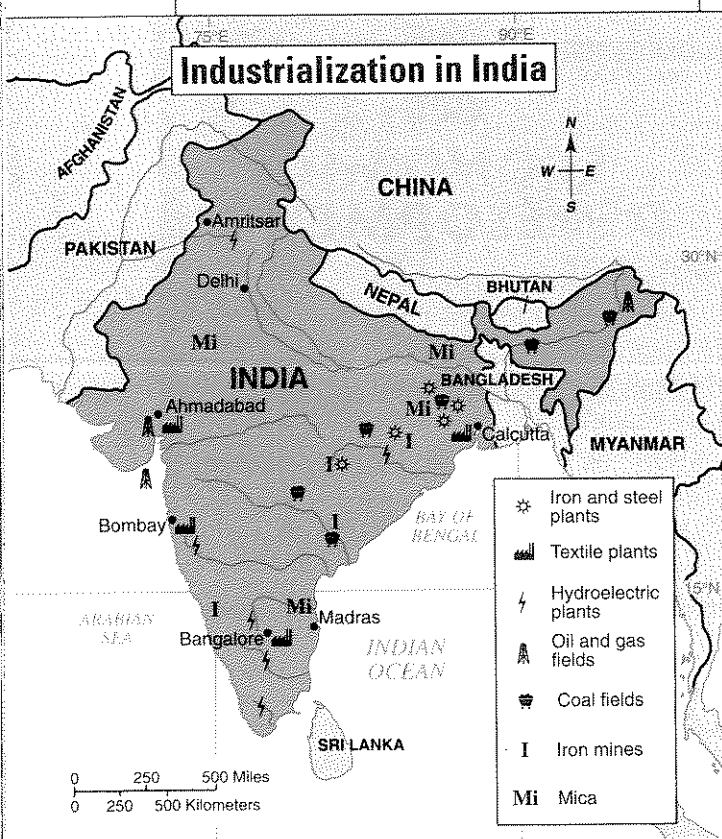
Nehru wanted to make the nation self-sufficient. India must produce what it needs, he said, and stop importing goods. To achieve his goals, Nehru adopted many socialist principles. His government carefully regulated the economy and issued a series of five-year plans to set economic goals. Nehru also limited foreign investment to prevent foreigners from controlling Indian businesses.

Like many developing nations, India set up a mixed economy. The government took control of some industries such as steel, mining, transportation, and energy. At the same time, it allowed private ownership of smaller businesses. These businesses produced consumer goods such as bicycles, sewing machines, and hand tools.

MAP STUDY

One of the Indian government's chief goals has been to develop modern industry and end dependence on foreign imports. India has important natural resources and a skilled labor force that have helped it become more industrialized.

- 1. Location** (a) What industries are located near Ahmadabad? (b) Where are most iron and steel plants located?
- 2. Interaction** According to the map, what natural resources contribute to the industrialization of India?
- 3. Solving Problems** How did the Indian government try to strengthen the nation's economy?



Industrial Growth

To lessen dependence on imports, India needed factories to produce basic materials such as steel and plastics, as well as finished goods such as tractors and trucks. The government encouraged Indians to save money that could then be invested in industry. It also used income from cash crops and taxes to build industry.

As you read in Chapter 7, India has iron, coal, and other mineral resources. It used these resources to build steel factories and huge hydroelectric plants. Nehru called these plants "India's new temples."

During the early years of independence, industry made impressive gains. The output of iron ore tripled. Coal and steel production rose, and India doubled its energy output. India also set up new industries in engineering, chemicals, and textile manufacturing. By the 1960s, India ranked as the world's seventh most industrialized nation.

In the 1970s, industrial growth slowed. Because India has few oil resources, it must import oil. As a result, the worldwide rise in oil prices hurt the Indian economy. In addition, many government-run businesses were inefficient. With foreign investment limited, India also had trouble building new industries.

In the 1980s, Rajiv Gandhi called for economic reforms. He wanted to reduce government regulation and encourage private enterprise. India entered into joint projects with foreign companies. With help from Japan, India is now making and exporting cars. In the 1990s, the government took more active steps to encourage investment in industry by foreigners and by Indians living abroad. Indians welcomed the reforms, but political unrest still disrupted the economy.

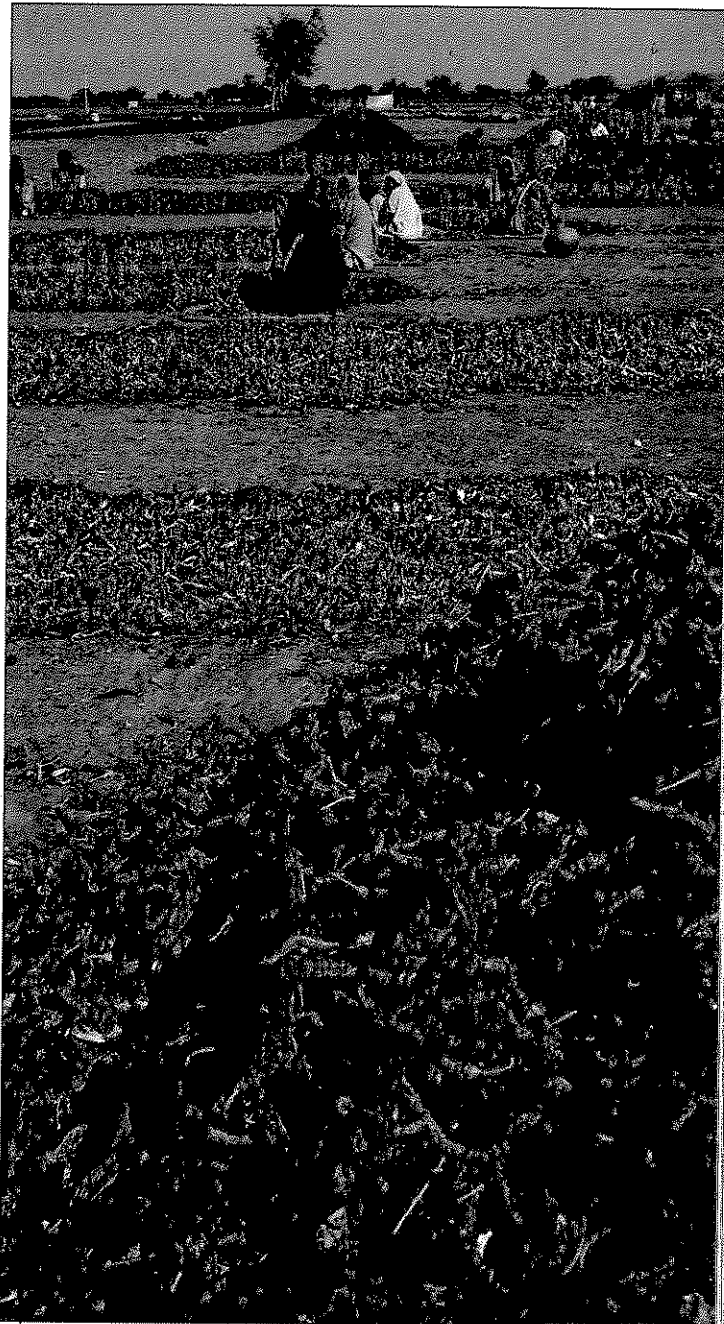
Progress in Agriculture

Today, as in the past, farming is the heart of the Indian economy. About three quarters of India's people live in rural areas. Most are subsistence farmers, struggling to feed their families. At independence, India could not feed its population. Poor soil and inefficient farming methods kept farm output low. At the same time, droughts and other disasters often led to famine.

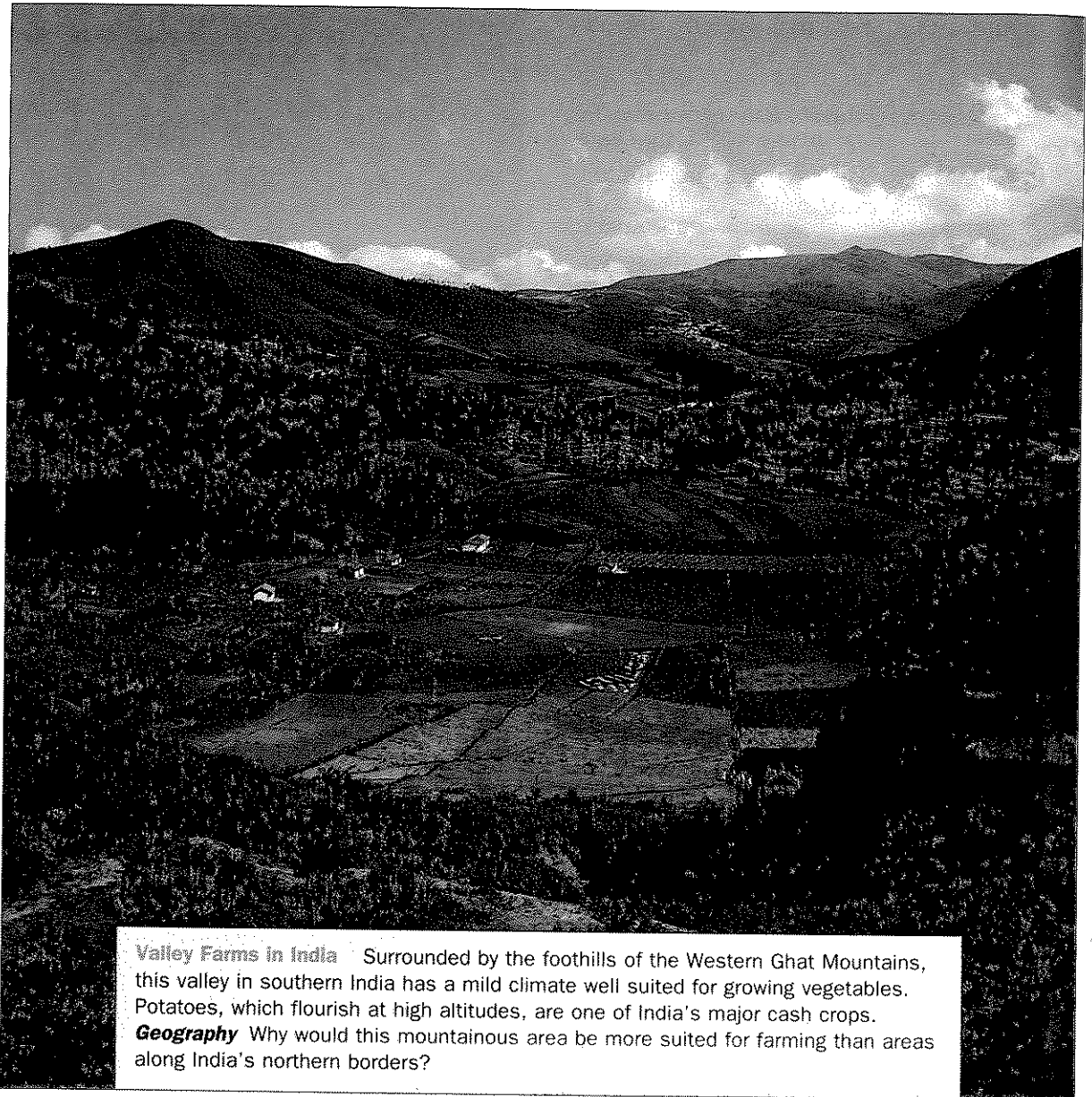
Indian leaders knew that farm output must increase in order for the nation's economy to grow. Farmers need to sell their produce in order to buy manufactured goods. To improve farming, the government invested heavily in agriculture.

Irrigation. The government set up new irrigation systems. As you read in Chapter 7, monsoons do not always arrive on time. In many areas, there is almost no rain for six to eight months of the year. By building dams and digging canals and wells, the government tries to ensure a steady water supply throughout the year.

The new programs have had a major effect. They have eased flooding caused by the monsoons. They have also allowed farmers to plant a second, dry-season crop. Much arable



Sorting Peppers This colorful harvest of red chili peppers covers a field in northwestern India. Some of this crop is consumed in India, where people use many spices in their cooking. However, a large portion of the crop is exported. These women sorting peppers earn about 12 cents a day. **Interdependence** Why does a largely agricultural nation like India export peppers and other cash crops?



Valley Farms in India Surrounded by the foothills of the Western Ghat Mountains, this valley in southern India has a mild climate well suited for growing vegetables. Potatoes, which flourish at high altitudes, are one of India's major cash crops.

Geography Why would this mountainous area be more suited for farming than areas along India's northern borders?

land, however, still does not receive enough water. In the early 1990s, progress slowed because of a general decline in India's economy. Large projects such as dams are costly. Also, environmentalists have protested some plans to build dams.

Land reform. Another problem the government tackled was land distribution. While a few landowners had large farms, millions of Indians had only tiny plots or owned no land at all. Landless peasants worked as tenant farmers, people who rent land from

large landowners and pay the owner a portion of their crops.

The government began a program of **land reform**, or redistributing land. State governments passed laws to limit the size of farms. They sold surplus land from large landowners to tenant farmers. Other laws kept landowners from collecting more than one fourth of a tenant's crop as rent.

Land reform had limited success. Because large landowners had political power, they blocked efforts to enforce the laws. Also, few

tenant farmers had the money to buy surplus land.

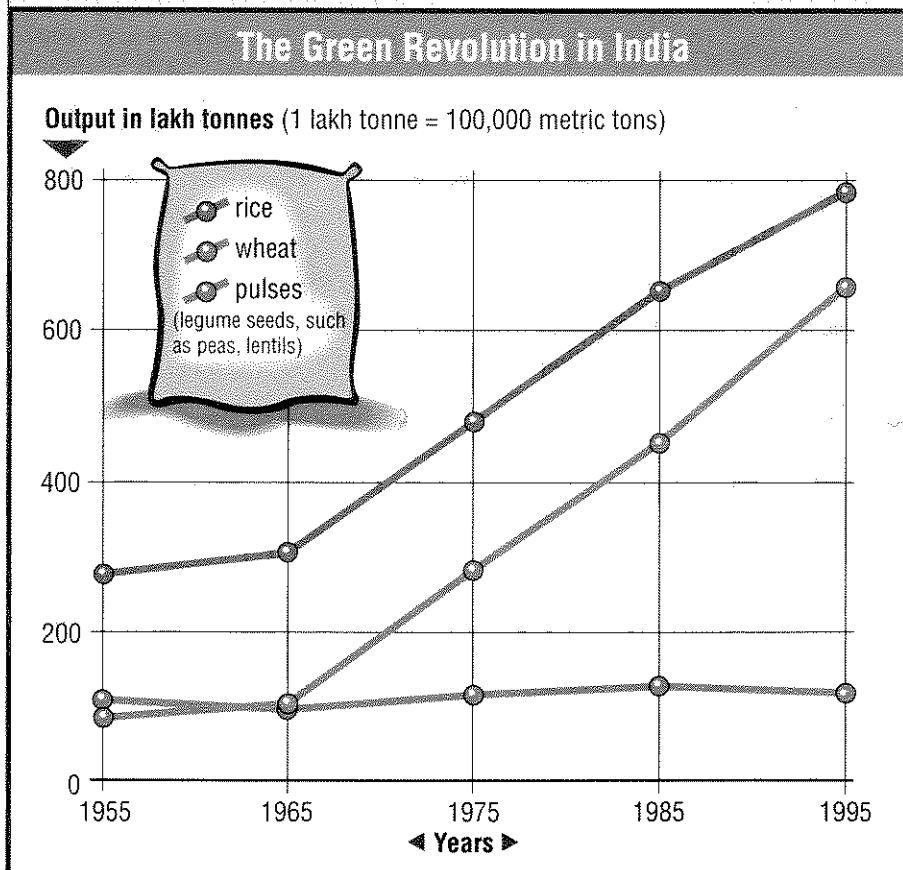
Green Revolution. New technology helped improve India's farm output. Scientists from many countries developed new types of wheat and rice seeds that resulted in much larger harvests. These "miracle" crops were part of a technological advance in agriculture known as the Green Revolution.

The Green Revolution has been only partly successful, however. It has helped farmers who grow wheat and rice, but few others. The new seeds need fertilizers and irrigation, which many farmers cannot afford. In many areas of India, people continue to survive on meager harvests. Still, by the 1990s India not only produced enough food for its population, it exported some grain.

SECTION 3 REVIEW

- 1. Identify:** Green Revolution.
- 2. Define:** (a) tenant farmer, (b) land reform.
3. What was the chief goal of Nehru's economic planning?
4. How did natural resources help India to industrialize?
5. (a) Describe three programs aimed at helping farmers. (b) Why has each had limited success?
6. **Analyzing Ideas** What do you think Nehru meant when he called factories and power plants "India's new temples"?
7. **Writing Across Cultures** Write a letter to an Indian official explaining why you think the Indian government should encourage Americans to invest in India.

Graph Skills In India, as in other Third World nations, many farmers are using new varieties of seeds to increase the size of the harvests they produce.
▶ According to this line graph, how would you describe the main effects of the Green Revolution in India?



Sources: *India 1990 Handbook*; *Economic Survey of India, 1997*

4

CHANGING PATTERNS OF LIFE

FIND OUT

How has technology changed village life?

To what extent has the caste system changed?

What social changes are taking place in India?

Vocabulary cottage industry, infant mortality

Since winning independence, villagers in India have witnessed remarkable changes. Prafulla Mohanti commented:

“My village is changing. A straight road was built in the mid-1960s to carry iron ore from the mines to the port of Paradip, forty miles away. . . . Nylon, stainless steel, plastic, fizzy drinks have reached the village. Electricity has come too . . . there is a cinema and video hall.”

As Mohanti's words show, technology is opening up new worlds to India's 500 million villagers. Even so, traditions remain strong.

Village Life

In some ways, many Indian villages have changed little. Only about half have electricity, and few have running water. Clothing is still traditional, and women wearing colorful saris walk along dirt paths carrying water jugs on their heads.

Villages have also kept their traditional economies. Farmers still plant crops by hand and guide ox-drawn plows through their

fields. People produce handmade goods such as clothing, ivory carvings, and brass jugs in cottage industries, or small businesses run from the home.

Technology and change. Still, life is changing rapidly. As you have read, the Green Revolution has improved harvests in some areas. A growing number of villages have electricity, clinics, schools, and telephones. Some villagers buy factory-made goods, and a few can afford tractors.

Roads, buses, movies, and television have put village people in touch with a wider world. Today, radar dishes are sprouting up across India. At night, groups of villagers gather around a single television set to watch the news. Recently, tens of millions of Indians thrilled to a dramatic reenactment of the *Ramayana*, the great religious epic of Hinduism.

As travel becomes easier, more people move from small villages to towns and cities. As elsewhere around the world, they hope to make a better living in urban areas. You will read more about India's rapidly growing cities in the next chapter.

Improved health care. The government has taken steps to improve health care. It encourages villagers to dig deep wells that provide cleaner water. In addition, health clinics bring better medical care to rural areas. The result has been a decline in infant mortality, the rate at which babies die. Because of traditional attitudes in the villages, however, boys often continue to receive better food and care than girls. In the cities, sons and daughters are generally treated equally.

Modernization and the Caste System

As you have read, India's government has tried to weaken the caste system. Yet laws have had little effect on deeply rooted attitudes and traditions. People still tend to associate with members of their own caste. In villages, different castes still live in separate neighborhoods.

Caste also affects occupations. Higher-caste Indians can afford to educate their chil-

dren. Through family connections, their children can get good jobs. As a result, higher-caste Indians dominate professions such as law, engineering, and medicine. (See Connections With Literature, page 805, "The Artist.")

Some changes have occurred, however. For example, people from different castes mix more freely. Former untouchables might be allowed to draw water from the village well and worship at the village temple. Their children attend public schools, although they often have to sit in a separate part of the classroom.

Urbanization also weakens caste distinctions. City-dwellers do not always know the backgrounds of their neighbors. As a result, lower-caste Indians are freer to move up in society. In offices and factories, caste

rules are harder to maintain. Many educated, westernized Indians reject caste differences. Some even accept marriages between people of different castes.

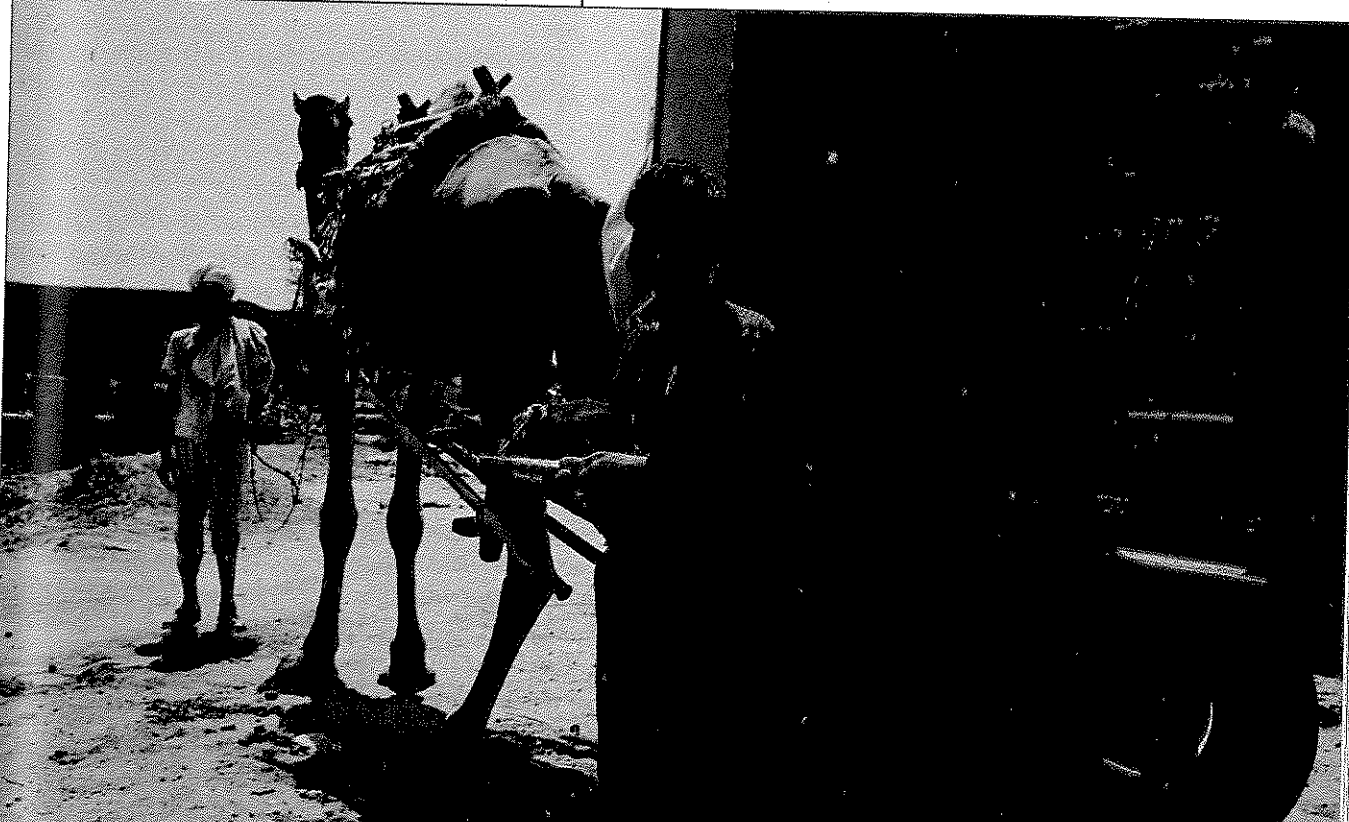
Improving Education

When India became independent, only about 10 percent of the people could read and write. Fewer than half of all children attended school. Aware that an educated population is necessary to a modern industrial nation, India's leaders worked to improve education. In each state, governments built schools and hired teachers. Today, 80 percent of elementary-age children get some schooling, and 52 percent of Indians can read and write.

Schooling is free and required for all children up to 14 years of age. In practice, however, social attitudes affect who gets an education. More boys attend school than girls. As a result, more men than women are literate. At the same time, many poor families need their children to work in the fields. Literacy, therefore, is much lower among untouchables and lower castes.

Camel Cart Library Villages in many parts of India lack books and libraries. This traveling library offers magazines and books to villagers living in the desert area near Jaipur in northern India. People pay three rupees (about 12 cents) for the books they borrow each month.

Environment How has this library adapted its services to meet villagers' needs?



Higher-caste students are the most likely to continue their education. Yet many students who get college degrees cannot find jobs. Those who come from higher castes refuse to work in jobs requiring manual labor. These restless youths pose a problem for the government. As you have read, they have protested government efforts to open more jobs to the lowest castes. In the Punjab, joblessness among young Sikhs also has fueled separatist violence.

Family Life

Marriage customs are changing in India. Most people today marry at a later age than in the past. Parents still arrange about 95 percent of all marriages, however. Among upper-class city-dwellers, the young couple will often meet before the wedding. They may even reject their parents' choice. If they accept the arrangement, the couple may meet once or twice under the supervision of an adult. (See the Skill Lesson on page 239 for a description of a modern courtship, from R. K. Narayan's novel *The World of Nagaraj*.)

Family structures are also changing. Although most Indians still consider the joint, patriarchal family the ideal, more city-dwellers are living in nuclear families. Educated young couples set up their own homes rather than move in with the husband's family.

The role of women. Women are still subordinate to men, but they have gained some legal rights since independence. They have the right to vote, to own property, and to get a divorce. Widows can also remarry.

A few women have achieved high positions in government. Women hold about 10 percent of the seats in the parliament. Vijaya Pandit, Nehru's sister, was the first woman president of the UN General Assembly. His daughter, Indira Gandhi, served as India's prime minister.

In the villages, most women still accept traditional ideas that require them to be modest and silent. A few women, however, have become village leaders. One of these is a Brahman widow named Saroj.

Up Close

The "Village Indira"

"Of course, I am the cleverest woman in the village," Saroj notes. At age 60, she occupies an unusual place in her village in northern India. She takes an active role in political and economic affairs.

Saroj's early life followed traditional patterns. Married at the age of nine, she faced hard times. She gave birth to 14 children. "My first children did not live long," she recalled. "Later on seven more were born. And they are alive up to now. So again I became happy."

Although she and her husband were Brahmans, they were poor. However, they worked hard and prospered. At night, Saroj secretly helped her husband build a new brick home. As a Brahman woman, she was not supposed to work outside the home. "Brahman women can do any work inside the house," she explained, "whether the work of the spinning wheel or weaving."

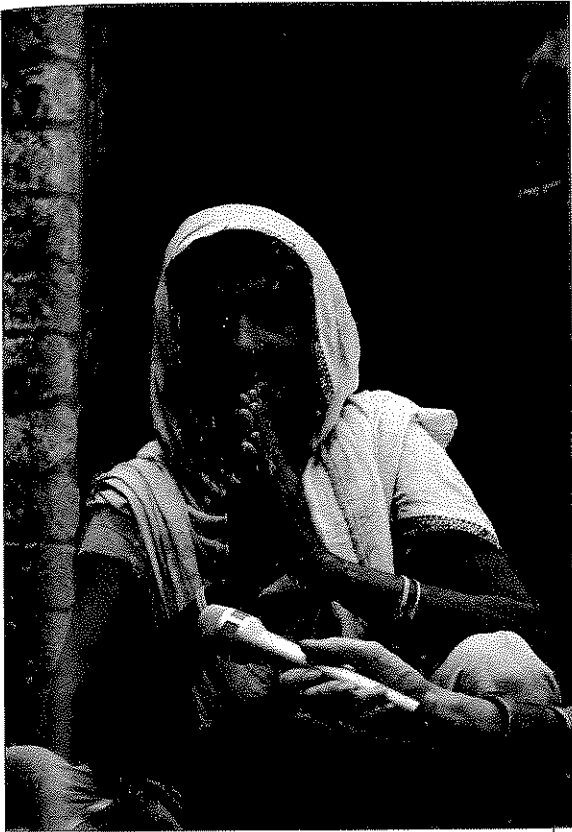
When her husband died, Saroj still had to educate her two youngest children. "My older son began to live out of the joint family," she explained. He did not want to have to pay for the weddings of his younger brother and sister.

Traditional views. As a Brahman, Saroj accepts Hindu beliefs about her family's superiority. "If Brahmans act properly according to their fate . . . if they do good work, they are devata [gods]," she declares.

Saroj also holds traditional views on the status of women. She plainly states, "The woman is inferior. . . . She can never leave the customs." Saroj links the tradition of purdah to family honor:

“Women who used to live inside the house, in purdah, nowadays those very women are wandering outside on the road and in the fields to collect fuel or cut grass. . . . Does honor lie in these activities?”

Modern actions. Despite her traditional views; Saroj's actions reflect modern goals.



A Woman Villager Speaks Out Saroj makes use of modern communications in this interview with a reporter. Her role in politics and village affairs sets her apart from most Indian women. However, her simple clothing and her hands held in a traditional Hindu greeting show that in many ways Saroj is like them. **Culture** Why does a woman like Saroj win respect among her people?

She made sure that her four daughters completed school. When the government set up programs to educate rural women, Saroj was chosen to head the group in her village. She joined the Congress party and organized villagers to attend political rallies in Delhi. There she met leaders such as Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi.

Other villagers called her the “village Indira.” The name suggested that she had no modesty and no honor. Saroj shook off the criticism. “People call me Indira. . . . It doesn’t affect me. No defect comes to me if they call me Indira.” ■

SECTION 4 REVIEW

- 1. Define:** (a) cottage industry, (b) infant mortality.
- Describe three changes that are affecting village life in India.
- (a) Why has India emphasized education? (b) How has education created problems for the government?
- How is modernization affecting Indian families?
- 5. Applying Information** (a) How do traditional views place limits on Indian women? (b) Why might an older, widowed Brahman like Saroj have more freedom than other women in an Indian village?
- 6. Writing Across Cultures** Write a paragraph comparing the efforts to improve opportunities for lower castes in India with efforts to provide equal opportunities for people in the United States.

5

OTHER NATIONS OF SOUTH ASIA

FIND OUT

- How were Pakistan and Bangladesh created?
- What economic progress has Pakistan made?
- Why does geography pose problems for Bangladesh?
- How has ethnic diversity affected Sri Lanka?

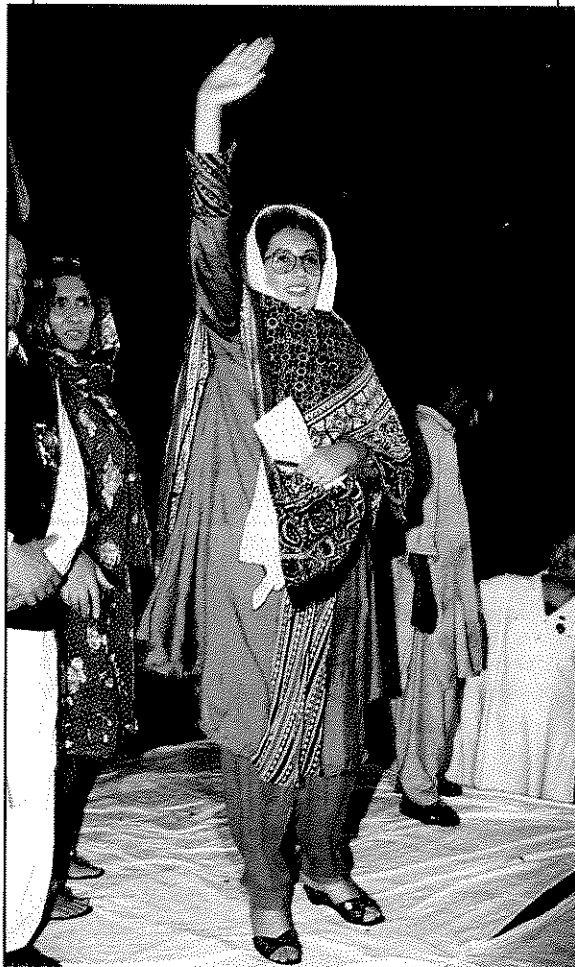
On independence day in 1947, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan, addressed the people:

“If we want to make this great state of Pakistan happy and prosperous, we should wholly and solely concen-

trate on the well-being of the people, and especially of the masses and the poor. ”

Like other developing nations, Pakistan has had a mixed record in achieving its goals of modernization. Pakistan is one of eight nations of South Asia. In this section you will read about Pakistan. You will also read about

Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto became the first woman to head a modern Muslim state when she was elected prime minister in 1988. Although the military forced her from office two years later, Bhutto was elected again in 1993. Her father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, had also been prime minister.
Political System In what ways was Benazir Bhutto's career like Indira Gandhi's?



several other South Asian nations, including Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bhutan.

Pakistan Since Independence

At independence, British India was divided into India and Pakistan. In 1947, Pakistan was made up of two regions: West Pakistan and East Pakistan. The two areas were separated by 1,000 miles (1,610 km) of Indian territory. (See the map on page 204.)

Conflict and division. West Pakistan and East Pakistan had large Muslim populations. Otherwise, they had little in common. They had different geography, languages, and cultural traditions. West Pakistan bordered the Middle East and was subject to droughts. East Pakistan bordered Southeast Asia, and its low-lying delta plain suffered from frequent floods.

West Pakistan dominated the government. It used government funds and foreign aid to promote industry in the west. Pakistanis in the east, who received much less funding, resented the inequality. In 1970, a cyclone caused enormous damage to East Pakistan. When the government was slow to send aid, the people of East Pakistan were furious.

That year, East Pakistanis won a majority of seats in parliament, but the government refused to accept the election results. A civil war broke out. With the help of Indian troops, East Pakistan won. In 1971, it became the independent nation of Bangladesh. (See page 219.)

Economic development. After the civil war, Pakistan pushed ahead with plans to modernize. Because most Pakistanis live in rural areas, the government devoted much of the nation's resources to developing agriculture. It invested heavily in irrigation and enforced land reform programs. Aided by the Green Revolution, these efforts increased Pakistan's farm output.

The government tried to reduce its dependence on foreign aid by developing local industries. It built chemical, auto, and steel factories. As farmers increased cotton

production, Pakistan also developed a booming textile industry.

Forces for change. Although it has enjoyed some successes, Pakistan today faces many economic and political challenges. Like other developing nations, its population and cities are growing rapidly. Illiteracy is high, and many people live in poverty.

Pakistan has experienced long periods of military rule. Even when elections are held, the government has sometimes blocked candidates from running for office.

Like other Muslim countries, Pakistan has felt the effects of Islamic fundamentalism. The leaders of this movement have called for strict obedience to the Koran as a way of improving people's lives. In response to the movement, Pakistan amended its constitution in 1991. The amendment made the Koran the supreme law of the land. Muslims disagree strongly about how to implement Koranic law, however. As a result, the amendment remains largely unused. (You will read more about Islamic fundamentalism in Chapter 27.)

Bangladesh

As you read in Chapter 7, Bangladesh is a densely populated country. More than 120 million people live in an area about the size of Wisconsin. The land is fertile and has abundant water, but it is also subject to terrible flooding.

Natural disasters and a huge population have limited progress in Bangladesh. The people farm every bit of land. They grow food crops such as rice and wheat, as well as cash crops such as jute and tea. The Green Revolution has helped to increase output. Despite larger harvests, however, the population keeps growing at a faster rate than the food supply. As a result, millions of people are hungry each day.

The government faces many obstacles in its struggle to improve conditions. World prices for cash crops have declined. As a result, Bangladesh has little money for development. It has tried to diversify its economy,

setting up small industries. It has also called on neighboring India to build flood control projects that would reduce the yearly monsoon flooding.

To add to its problems, Bangladesh has few roads or bridges. Most travel is by boat along its many waterways. Without massive aid, Bangladesh cannot improve its communications and transportation systems.

Conflict in Sri Lanka

Like other South Asian nations, the island nation of Ceylon won independence from Britain after World War II. In 1972, Ceylon changed its name to Sri Lanka.

Since independence, Sri Lanka has developed its economy based on exporting crops such as tea, rubber, and coconuts. It has also built local industries. A literacy rate of more than 75 percent offered hope for a bright future.

Ethnic tensions. Ethnic and religious divisions brought serious problems, however. About 70 percent of Sri Lankans speak Sinhalese and practice Buddhism. Their ancestors migrated to the island long ago from northern India. Another 18 percent of the people came from southern India more recently. They speak Tamil and practice Hinduism.

Tamil-Sinhalese tensions grew in the 1970s. The Tamil minority claimed that the Sinhalese majority discriminated against them. Tamils demanded equal rights to education, jobs, and land ownership. When the government failed to make changes, angry Tamils called for a separate, independent state. Then they launched a guerrilla war that disrupted the entire country.

Indian involvement. In the early years of the conflict, India supported the Tamil separatists. Later, however, Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi changed course. He sent Indian troops to help Sri Lanka fight the Tamil minority.

The Indian troops were eventually withdrawn, but Tamil extremists felt betrayed by India. They responded by assassinating Gandhi in 1991. Since then, new outbreaks



In the Mountains of Nepal This Nepalese woman, wearing American-style sneakers, carries a heavy load as she trudges along a mountain pass. Her people, the Sherpas, are skilled mountaineers. Many of them make a living by guiding climbers through the challenging terrain of their country. **Diversity** How does the clothing of this Sherpa show a blending of two cultures?

of violence have clouded hopes for peace in Sri Lanka. Despite efforts at a negotiated settlement, the fighting continues. Tens of thousands have died since the civil war began.

Small Nations of the Subcontinent

Two other nations occupy the northeastern corner of the subcontinent. Bhutan and Nepal are landlocked countries in the Himalayas. Bhutan is a monarchy and most of its people are Buddhist.

Most people in Nepal are Hindu. Until recently, they were ruled by a king who held almost absolute power. Under pressure for reform, he permitted elections in 1991, moving Nepal toward democracy.

Most people in both Nepal and Bhutan are farmers. The mountainous geography of these nations, however, limits where people can farm. In Nepal, the growing population is causing serious deforestation. People clear land for farming and burn wood for fuel. Without tree roots to hold the soil in place, erosion occurs. Farmers then must move on to clear new land.

SECTION 5 REVIEW

- 1. Locate:** (a) Bangladesh, (b) Sri Lanka, (c) Bhutan, (d) Nepal.
- Why did Bangladesh break away from Pakistan?
- How did Pakistan develop its economy after independence?
- What effect has geography had on life in Bangladesh?
- How have Tamil-Sinhalese tensions led to violence in Sri Lanka?
- 6. Understanding Causes and Effects** How did the partition of British India create problems that led to unrest in Pakistan?
- 7. Writing Across Cultures** Imagine that you are a Peace Corps volunteer in one of the nations you read about in this section. List three ways in which you might help people in your new home.

CHAPTER 9 REVIEW

Understanding Vocabulary

Match each term at left with the correct definition at right.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. civil disobedience | a. redistribution of land |
| 2. boycott | b. refusal to obey unjust laws |
| 3. coalition | c. small business run from the home |
| 4. land reform | d. joining of several parties |
| 5. cottage industry | e. to stop buying |

Reviewing the Main Ideas

1. How did the Amritsar Massacre affect the movement for Indian independence?
2. Describe three ideas behind Gandhi's method of satyagraha.
3. Why does India sometimes have a coalition government?
4. How is India's economy "mixed"?
5. What factors have weakened the caste system in India?
6. (a) What challenges do farmers in Bangladesh face? (b) In Nepal?

Reviewing Chapter Themes

1. Nationalism was a major force in the struggle of India and Pakistan for independence. Explain the role of nationalism and one other factor in the independence movements.
2. Ethnic and cultural diversity have led to conflict in many parts of South Asia. Describe the causes and effects of two of the following: (a) conflict between Hindus and Muslims at the time of independence, (b) Sikh separatism in India, (c) Tamil-Sinhalese tensions in Sri Lanka.
3. Modernization involves building a stable government and producing a high level of goods and services. Describe how two nations of South Asia have tried to modernize.
4. Despite many changes, traditional forces remain strong in Indian life. Describe how both tradition and change have affected two of the following: (a) the caste system, (b) family life, (c) the status of women.

Thinking Critically

1. **Applying Information** In a 1937 speech, Indian author Rabindranath Tagore wrote that Gandhi "has never, for the sake of immediate results, advised or approved any departure from the standard of universal morality." How does this statement apply to Gandhi's methods for protesting British rule?
2. **Making Global Connections** (a) Why do you think Indians used the British system of government as a model in 1950? (b) How did Americans in 1789 use British traditions in designing their government?
3. **Comparing** Nehru wanted India to become a secular nation. How does this attitude toward religion differ from the attitude of Pakistan's leaders?

Applying Your Skills

1. **Using Your Vocabulary** Use the glossary on pages 794–803 to review the meanings of the following terms: *republic*, *privatization*, *socialism*. Use each term in a separate sentence about India.
2. **Analyzing a Quotation** Indira Gandhi once said, "It is absolutely necessary that agricultural productivity is improved to a point where . . . we have a reasonable margin of safety. We simply cannot afford another gamble with the rains." (a) What did Gandhi mean by a "reasonable margin of safety"? (b) How could low agricultural productivity hurt India's drive to modernize?