**Post-Independence**

**Problems caused by partition**

* Social/Religious problems
* The two areas where partition was most complex was Punjab in the west and Bengal in the east. Both had mixed populations so it was decided to split them both between the two states. This was further complicated by the late announcement of borders after Independence. Millions of Hindus and Muslims found themselves on the wrong side of the border and tried desperately to get to safety. 15 million people abandoned their homes and belongings. Matters were complicated further by the Sikh population scattered throughout the province in Punjab. Their call for an independent state had been ignored. They feared the split would leave them powerless and divided between two states. The movement of Sikhs and Hindus eastward out of west Punjab and Muslims moving westward led to the outbreak of communal violence. Up to a million people were killed in this mass migration. East Punjab ended with a population of 60% Hindu and 35% Sikh and west Punjab was almost entirely Muslim. This was a form of ethnic cleansing seem in more recent times.
* The same process occurred in Bengal with Hindu refugees fleeing from East Pakistan to West Bengal but it was more of a gradual process with less violence.
* Economic Problems
* By the end of 1947 the new governments were able to contain the violence and restore order and control. Despite the migration over 40 million Muslims remained in India and several million Hindu in Pakistan. The resettlement of refugees placed a huge financial burden for the new states on top of the economic consequences of abrupt partition on communication, infrastructure, agriculture, irrigation and trade.

**Problems faced after Independence: India**

* The new state of India was led by Nehru until his death in 1964. During this time India emerged as a stable democracy.  This was a remarkable achievement given the size of the country, the complex population, legacies of colonialism and the difficulties it faced.
* India’s first constitution came into effect on 26th January 1950. It was a secular constitution – a complete separation of religion and state with a secular school system. The constitution recognized equality and freedom of religion for all individuals and any citizens could hold public office.
* The Congress party won an overwhelming majority in the first elections in 1952 – gaining 75% of the seats in parliament. The party had great prestige as the leader of the nationalist movement and its links to Gandhi. They would dominate politics for the next 12 years as opposition was weak and fragmented. It faced a number of problems in the first decade of the new state.

Political: Extremism

* One of the most serious problems was political extremism and Hindu nationalism. In January 1948 (6 months after independence) Gandhi was assassinated by Hindu extremists. The RSS was a right-wing Hindu nationalist group, opposed to the creation of a secular state. The RSS promoted a hatred of Gandhi accusing him of being a traitor for his willingness to negotiate with Muslims. His death shocked the nation and thankfully for the new government strengthened the hand of secularists and helped to calm communal tensions within the new Indian state.

Political: Sikh Separatism

* Sikhs made up a distinctive religious group – about 10 million with their own culture, identity and language – Punjabi. Many resented the partition and their call for an independent state was ignored. After partition millions left west Punjab and went to India. By 1951 the formed 1/3 of the population of Indian Punjab and help prominent positions in politics, business and the army.
* The main Sikh party was the Akali Dal – they wanted more control for Sikhs in Punjab. Some still called for an independent state called Khalistan.
* In 1955 Akali dal held mass demonstrations and the Indian gov ordered the army to invade the golden temple in Amritsar – the Sikhs most holy place, which the gov though was the center of the protests.
* In 1965 the Indian government finally agreed to create a smaller Punjab state with a Sikh majority after the Sikh leader Fateh Singh threatened to fast to death unless the government recognized Sikh demands.
* Punjab was split into a new state called Haryana which was mainly Hindu and a smaller Punjab where Sikhs formed the majority. The position of the Sikhs remained un resolved and led to problems for future Indian governments. In the 1980’s a violent campaign for the creation of a separate Sikh state led to the assassination of the Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi. – she was Nehru’s daughter and prime minister twice (1966 – 77 and 19080 – 1984) she was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards after she ordered troops to storm the golden temple at Amritsar to arrest the leader of the Sikh extremist movement. Thousands were killed in the process and the aftermath in an outbreak of communal violence.

**Political: Hindu Nationalism – Communalism**

* BJS was a Hindu Nationalist party that campaigned against the secular state. Most of its leaders were also members of RSS the extremist Hindu group. BJS promoted Hindu culture and had a slogan ‘one country, one culture, one nation’. They treat Muslims with suspicion and questioned their loyalty to India. In the 1952 elections they only received 3% of the vote showing a lack of support. Gandhi’s death probably diverted support away from these Hindu nationalist groups diminishing their political influence.
* The BJS was later replaced by the BJP which gained influence in the 1980’s promoting a Hindu state. The BJP were anti-Muslim and communal violence broke out. In 1992 Hindu extremists destroyed a mosque and ld to an outbreak of communal violence where 3000 were killed. In the 1998 election the Congress suffered their worst defeat and BJP emerged as the largest party and ruled India with a coalition. In 2004 Congress won again but in 2014 the BJP emerged as the leading party once again.

Problems of consolidation

* At the time of independence there were roughly 550 princely states that occupied 40% of British India. They had to decide which state to join. All but 3 voluntarily decided to join one state or the other in exchange for retention of some of their privilege and wealth. 2 states (Hyderabad and Junagadh) were Muslim princes ruling over large Hindu populations. They were involuntarily annexed to India – pleasing their populations.
* The third was Kashmir – a large state. Strategically placed in the north west it bordered both India and Pakistan. It was ruled by a Hindu Prince over a largely Muslim population. India and Pakistan fought a war over Kashmir between 1947 and 1949 until the UN ordered a ceasefire and divided Kashmir between the two states. The outcome pleased neither side nor the population.
* The consolidation of India was completed when the French handed over Pondicherry and other small French enclaves in 1954. Portugal were reluctant to hand over Goa until in 1961 the Indian Army invaded and took the state.
* The dispute over Kashmir remained unsolved.

Economic Challenges

* The main economic problems facing India was poverty, unemployment, landlessness and unequal distribution of resources. The government aimed to solve these problems with a series of five-year plans to promote economic growth. However, these measures were off-set by large population growth. Efforts at land reform and rural development schemes had limited success in reducing inequality or poverty amongst the millions of landless villagers.
* The five-year plans were more successful in industry and helped to promote growth. Much of the investment came from abroad but Nehru was careful to avoid too much foreign investment in order to prevent neo-colonialism (A new form of economic colonialism) through high tariff barriers and government control of key industries.
* The focus of economic development in the 1960’s moved from industry to agriculture in an attempt to make India self-sufficient in food production. This was the ‘green revolution’ which used high yielding seed varieties, irrigation schemes and chemical fertilizers to increase agricultural output by huge amounts. However it intensified regional inequalities and some areas were not suitable for the new methods. Wealthier farmers, large farms, those with capital and entrepreneurial farmers benefited most.
* Government controls over the economy were relaxed in the 1980s as India sought to become part of the world capitalist system. Despite initial problems India has seen huge growth since the 1990’s and is fast becoming one of the key players in the world economy.

Social Challenges

* Education: India had a literacy rate on 16%, education was a key challenge. Efforts to increase the number of students in school had some success but aim of compulsory education for all was not achieved. However a number of universities, technology centers and high research establishments were set up with a focus on science and technology to support economic growth and modernization. Literacy rates rose to 61%.
* Women: despite opposition from Hindu traditionalists women were given equal rights with men in inheritance and ownership of property as well as greater rights in marriage. Legally rights improved but in reality in some rural regions there were challenges. More girls attended school but literacy rates for women still lag behind that of men.
* Caste System: the position of the caste system and particularly the ‘untouchables’ was a challenge. The 1950 constitution abolished class and made the practice of untouchability was forbidden. They were now free to use shops, schools and facilities with others and money was put aside to help with land purchase, housing, health care and education. The new laws did not abolish social disadvantage and in rural areas the sate system remained and some acts of brutal violence occurred. This was sometimes due to jealousy over preferential treatment by the gov.
* Population/Life expectancy: in 1950 India had a population of 350 million. Many died from epidemics of smallpox, cholera and malaria. The gov allocated funds to improve medical care and to train more doctors and nurses. But this resulted in an increase in population putting more pressure on resources. The gov offered incentives for smaller families and sterilization projects that caused must resistance. Between 1947 and 2010 the average life expectancy in India more than doubled to 66. However, at the same time the population doubled to nearly 1.2 billion people.

Cultural Challenges

* Language: Biggest challenge in India was language. There were hundreds of languages spoken in India. English was the language used in administration and government and by the upper classes. Hindu was the most commonly spoken language. The constitution recognized 14 languages with English and Hindu as the languages of the state. However, it allowed the Indian government to change languages boundaries. This led to disputes and pressure to change boundaries and introduce different languages.
* The constitution made provisions to phase out English as an official language and for Hindu to replace it entirely by 1965. Tamil speakers opposed this change and several burned themselves to death in protest. So English remained the official language used to communicate between states. This created further divisions between the educated 5% who could speak it and the rest of the population.

**Problems faced after Independence: Pakistan**

* Pakistan did not make the transition to independence as smoothly as India.

Economic and Social Challenges

* Economic inequality: After partition most of the industrial centres, large cities, railways and hydroelectric plants were in India. Only Lahore lay in Pakistan and the majority of the populations were poor farmers.
* Refugees: Refugees made up a larger part of the population in Pakistan than India and most incoming Muslims were unskilled workers as opposed to the Hindus who left who were skilled – key workers. This left a shortage of expertise to man the new administration.
* Regional Differences: although the majority of the population shared a common religion there were many regional difference and those areas bordering Afghanistan were used to a greater degree of autonomy.

Disputes over assets

* There were many disputes over assets. India retained most of the infrastructure of British India but Pakistan had to build up their government from scratch. There was suspicion and resentment over asset division as well as financial reserves and government property. Pakistan felt that India was deliberately being unfair and they were forced to accept what they felt was an unfair deal. Pakistan covered 23% of the land but they received 17.5% of financial assets. India was reluctant to hand over them over and only did so after a fast by Gandhi put public pressure on them.
* Army: The Indian army had been the basis of British control over India and there were disagreements over its division. An agreement was made that Pakistan would receive a third of troops and equipment but most of the military stores were in India and transfer was set with problems. When war broke out with India over Kashmir Pakistan rallied its vulnerability and began to divert crucial funds to grow their military. This was at the cost of other projects and mad them reliant on foreign aid.
* Land: there was also resentment over the land division, feeling that India had gained some strategic Muslim territories. This explains their view of the Kashmir issue and their reluctance to let it go.

A Divided state

* Pakistan was divided from the start – East and West Pakistan. Separated by 930 miles of Indian territory. More than half the Muslim population lived in the East – an economically underdeveloped area with high population density, prone to natural disaster such as flooding.
* The East and West had little in common except their religion. The Bengali speaking people of the East had their own culture and history and resented the economic and political dominance of the Urdu speaking people of the west. The east felt like little more than a colony providing taxes and resources for the west.  A Bengali Party – the Awami League wanted greater autonomy but the west retained control by arresting leaders and crushing protest.
* In 1971 West Pakistan troops crushed an uprising as a result over 10 million refugees flooded into India to avoid the fighting. This prompted the Indian gov to intervene and they sent troops across into East Pakistan. The Pakistani troops surrendered and the people of East Pakistan declared their independence as the state of Bangladesh.

Political Challenges

* Pakistan did not enjoy the continuity of leadership like India. Jinnah died in 1947 and his successor Ali Khan was assassinated in 1951. His death was partly a religious backlash to secular policies and his perceived failure to negotiate with Nehru over Kashmir.
* India was also able to use the expertise in government developed by Congress over the course of the nationalist movement. The Muslim League heartlands were now in India and refugees had to flee to Pakistan and once they arrived, they had to compete for positions and land.
* There were also problems over creating a constitution. The first draft was rejected by East Pakistan for living too much power to central gov and by leaders who felt it did not follow the principles of Islam. A constitution was finally approved in 1956 but it did not provide a stable foundation for democracy. It was abandoned two years later when military leader Ayub Khan took control. This was the first of several spells of military rule. Pakistan’s weak economy, dispute over Kashmir and fears for the security of their borders put the military on a strong footing. From the 1950’s onwards there were long spells of military rule with interludes of weak civilian government.
* The influence of outside events such as the Cold War strengthened the military position. The US formed strong relations with Pakistan due to their strategic position to the USSR. It supplied them with military and financial aid. This was used to strengthen the military to protect themselves from perceived Indian aggression and to recover Kashmir.
* They were also affected by the war on terror in 2001. US led invasion of Afghanistan had a negative affect militarily, economically and politically on Pakistan. It unsettled the state and Islamic extremists sprung up in the Northern areas.

Kashmir

* When the UN divided Kashmir in 1949 peacekeeping forces remained to ensure the division was adhered to. The situation proved to be more politically divisive in Pakistan than in India. Many Pakistanis believed it all belonged to them. Pakistan did not have the military might to recover it and this was a source of embarrassment to successive governments.
* Since 1949 India and Pakistan have fought two more wars over Kashmir. As both states became nuclear powers in the 1990’s the situation over Kashmir became of grave concern to the International community. Since 1987 a Muslim separatist group have waged a campaign in the India part of Kashmir to try to force the Indians to leave. Pakistan has provided funding to the Kashmiri militants, a source of ongoing tension with India.