

Human Rights

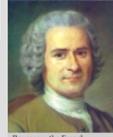
1

Introduction: Every chapter has an introduction which states what students are going to study in the chapter.

Human rights are very important for a modern society. In many countries, governments cannot make any law that violates these rights. In this chapter you will learn why and how human rights have become so important.



Tomb of Cyrus the Great in Pasargadae, Iran



Rousseau, the French philosopher of the 17th century who wrote, "Men were born free, but they are in chains everywhere."

Why is it wrong if someone takes your pencil or your book without your permission? Because it is your right to keep what you own. Why is it wrong to hurt someone? It is wrong because everyone has the right to be happy and healthy. Those rights which must be granted to all human beings are called human rights. They are very important for a modern society. In many modern countries, governments cannot make any laws that deny such rights to the people of that country.

History of human rights

The concept of human rights is as old as human beings themselves. However, in ancient times, anyone who had power enough could do whatever he or she wanted to other people. Kings, queens, nobles, soldiers and generals were usually the most powerful people in most societies in those days, while other people did not have many rights. Kings and queens claimed to be either gods or the children of gods.

Cyrus the Great, who ruled Persia from 559 BC to 530 BC, believed in granting religious freedom to the people of the countries he conquered. Some commentators of the Quran consider him to be the mysterious Zulqarnain; who is mentioned in Chapter 18 (Surah Kahf) of the Quran.

Socrates, a wise man of ancient Greece, taught people to ask questions. The rulers of his city became angry and asked him to stop teaching. He refused because he believed it was his right to say what he believed to be correct. He was sentenced to death in 399 BC. Today we know that freedom of expression, or the right to say what one believes to be correct, is very important.

The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) taught us to respect other people's rights. In a last sermon before his demise, he told his followers that all human beings were equal and no Arab is superior to a non-Arab, nor is a non-Arab superior to an Arab. Hazrat Umar Farooq, the second caliph, once heard that a governor was treating common people like slaves. He warned the governor by writing, "Since when have you enslaved the people? They were free when their mothers gave birth to them."

This sentence was picked up in Europe many centuries later when the concept of human rights started developing there. Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712 AD - 1778 AD), a famous French philosopher, started one of his books in 1762 AD with the line



Emmeline Pankhurst who demanded women's right to vote was arrested by the police in Britain.



Quaid-e-Azam and his sister, Fatimah Jinnah were both supporters of human rights.

"Men were born free but they are in chains everywhere." In 1776 AD, the people of North America demanded independence from Great Britain, declaring, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Thirteen years later, the people of France also revolted against their king. Until the beginning of the 20th Century, women could not cast votes in elections. Many of them demanded the right to vote. In Britain they were led by Emmeline Pankhurst whose motto was "Deeds, not words." At first, these women were arrested but finally governments had to accept their demands. Britain granted this right to women in 1918 AD, and the United States in 1920 AD.

Pakistan was also created because Muslims of South Asia demanded that it be their right to be regarded as an independent nation. Quaid-e-Azam, Muhammad Ali Jinnah placed a lot of importance on human rights. "You are free to go to your temples," he said, "you are free to go to your mosques in this independent state of Pakistan." His sister, Fatimah Jinnah was also a supporter of human rights and led the people in their struggle for democracy against President Ayub Khan.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The United Nations (UN) is an international organization that was formed in 1946 AD to promote peace between nations of the world. Its members realized that this would not be possible if people did not have basic rights in their own countries.

"Children of Adam are limbs to each other, having been created of one essence." The Persian poet Saadi of Shiraz had said long ago and this statement was inscribed on the entrance to the Hall of Nations in the headquarters of UN in New York in 1948 AD, the member countries of the UN agreed upon a list of about thirty human rights called the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It was an important document because so many people from around the world agreed that human rights were important and Pakistan played a crucial role in getting it approved by other Muslim countries. Among the rights listed in the declaration are:

1. The rights to life, liberty and security of a person;
2. The rights to freedom from arbitrary arrest; to a fair trial; to be presumed innocent until proven guilty; to freedom of movement and the privacy of one's home and correspondence;
3. The rights to freedom of movement and residence; to asylum, nationality, and ownership of property;
4. The rights to freedom of thought, conscience, religion, opinion and expression; to association, peaceful assembly,

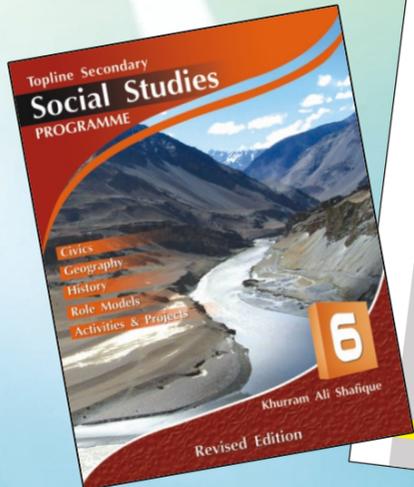
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Pictures:

Good use of pictures has been made. They have been carefully selected for their content and appeal and properly captioned.

Textboxes:

Textboxes are a special feature of this series which breakdown the information into better organised format for students.

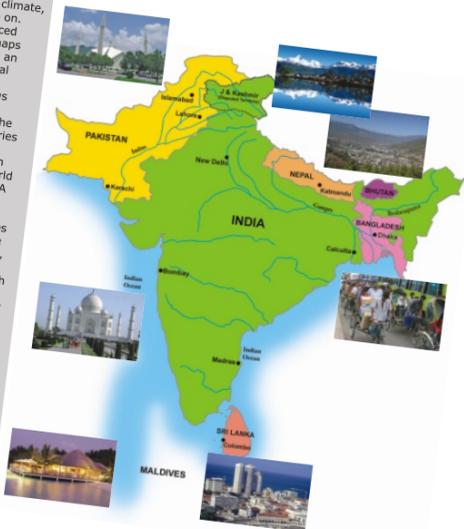


6

Khurram Ali Shafique
Revised Edition

The Political Map of South Asia

There are different kinds of maps in an atlas: political, physical, climate, vegetation, and so on. You will be introduced to some of these maps in this book. This is an example of a political map. A political map shows the countries of a region by depicting the international boundaries (it is called "political" because the formation of countries in the world is a political activity). A political map does not need to show physical features, but sometimes they are included in the map. Here, for instance, you can also see the important rivers of South Asia - they are included in this map because they help to recognize the different areas of this region.

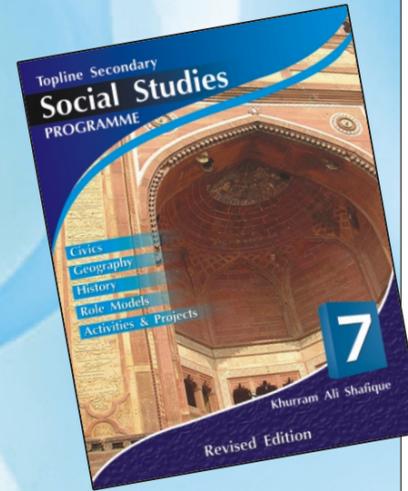


This is a political map of South Asia, showing the international boundaries and major cities. Some important rivers are also shown with blue lines.

18

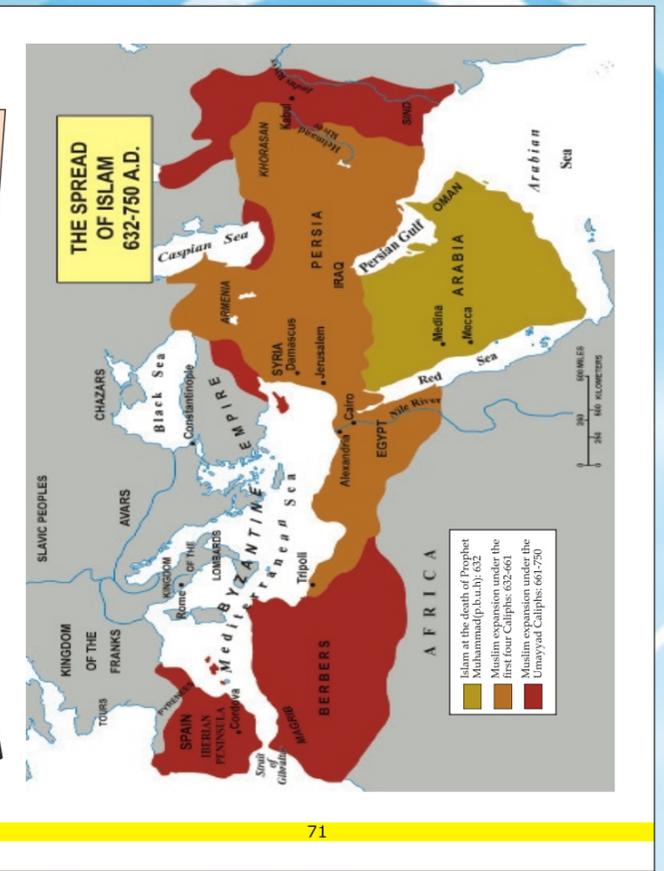
Maps:

Full coloured and updated maps have been used throughout the series to enable students understand the topic more comprehensively.



7

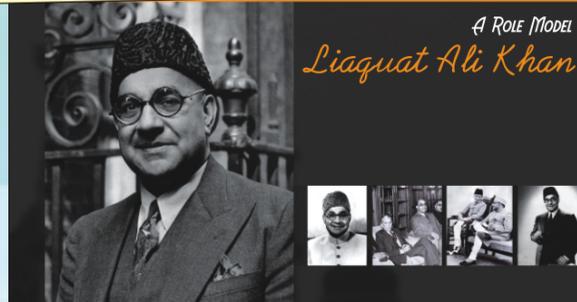
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71

Role Models:

Another added feature of Social Studies series is Role Models. Purpose is to bring in light the works and achievements of some of the great people of Pakistan.



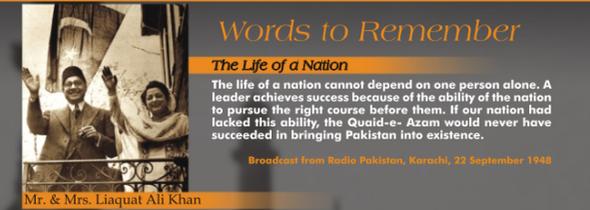
The first Prime Minister of Pakistan

It was October 16, 1951. People had gathered in the Company Bagh in Rawalpindi to listen to their beloved prime minister. He walked up to the microphone and said, "Biradrang-i-Millat..." (My brothers of the nation...). Just then, everyone heard two pistol shots. A heartless assassin sitting in the front had fired bullets. The prime minister reeled, and his political secretary Nawab Siddique Ali Khan rushed forward to hold him. Lying in his lap, the prime minister recited the Kalma: *La ilaha il Allah, Muhammad ur rasool of Allah*. Then he repeated it again. Then, opening his big eyes, he looked at his secretary and said in a very loving tone: "Mujhe goli lag gayi hai" (I have been shot). The secretary tried to cheer him up by saying, in Urdu, "Sir, what are you saying?" The prime minister said, "Khuda Pakistan ki hifazat karay." (May God protect Pakistan). Then he closed his eyes, never to open them again.

The grey shervani of the prime minister was removed only to reveal that under his new shervani, he had been wearing a worn out kurta. There were patches in his vest

and socks. His bank account contained a very small amount. He had no property - he did not even own a single house. He always said that there were too many homeless refugees in his country, and he would not take a house until all of them had settled first. This was the first prime minister of Pakistan, Liaquat Ali Khan. With his simple life, deep wisdom and strong faith, he had proven that the glorious examples set by the early caliphs of Islam could be followed even in these modern times. Liaquat Ali Khan is remembered today as Quaid-e-Millat and Shaheed-e-Millat. It has been said that Allama Iqbal developed the idea of Pakistan; Quaid-e-Azam was the founder of Pakistan while Liaquat Ali Khan was its architect and builder. We can carry on the task of building Pakistan by following the words and actions of Liaquat Ali Khan.

58



Mr. & Mrs. Liaquat Ali Khan

Our Only Weakness

I feel that only one thing can harm Pakistan and that is the spirit of provincialism. One must not think in terms of being a Sindh, or a Pathan, or a Baloch, or a Punjabi, or a Bengali. If the spirit of provincialism prevails, and if we think in provincial terms, then Pakistan will be a weak state.

Address to HMPs "Qasim," Karachi, 15 April 1948



Family Portrait: With sons, Ashraf (standing) and Akbar

The Ideal of the Muslim World

In Pakistan, we are trying to build up a state and a society based on the Islamic principles of equality, brotherhood, and social justice - a state which should be progressive and a society which should be dynamic and not static. Such a society can only come into existence if the lot of the common man improves and he takes a full share in the life of his community. He can become a useful member of the society only when he is free from want and fear... I believe that, basically all Muslim countries desire to do the same.

Broadcast from Cairo Radio Station, Egypt, 5 November 1948

60