

NCERT SOLUTIONS

CLASS - 12th



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Class : 12th

Subject : Political science

Chapter : 5

Chapter Name : Contemporary South Asia

Q1 Identify the country

- a. The struggle among pro-monarchy, pro-democracy groups and extremists created an atmosphere of political instability.
- b. A landlocked country with the multi-party competition.
- c. The first country to liberalize its economy in the South Asian Region.
- d. In the conflict between the military and pro-democracy groups, the military has prevailed over democracy.
- e. Centrally located and shares borders with most of the South Asian countries.
- f. Earlier the island had the sultan as the head of the state. Now it's a republic.
- g. Small savings and credit cooperatives in rural areas have helped in reducing poverty.
- h. A landlocked country with a monarchy.

Answer.

- (a) Nepal
- (b) Bhutan
- (c) Sri Lanka
- (d) Pakistan
- (e) India
- (f) Maldives
- (g) Bangladesh
- (h) Bhutan

Page : 79 , Block Name : Exercises

Q2 Which among the following statements about South Asia is wrong?

- (a) All the countries in South Asia are democratic.
- (b) Bangladesh and India have signed an agreement on river-water sharing.
- (c) SAFTA was signed at the 12th SAARC summit in Islamabad.
- (d) The US and China play an influential role in South Asian politics.

Answer. (a) All the countries in South-Asia are democratic.

Page : 80 , Block Name : Exercises

Q3 What are some of the commonalities and differences between Bangladesh and Pakistan in their democratic experiences?

Answer. The major commonalities between Bangladesh and Pakistan are that both of them have the majority of Muslims and both the countries have seen a definite clash between the military and pro-democracy proponents of the society. The definite connection with India after the partition and war of 1971 is also imperative similarity between the two.

The major differences between Pakistan and Bangladesh are:

- (a) The disruptive activities in Pakistan , were fueled by the Western democracies while as it is completely the native or indigenous forces in Bangladesh that disrupt the formation of democratic structures.
- (b) Pakistan has not been in good terms with India, while as Bangladesh has close proximity with India.
- (c) Pakistan is affiliated with the USA for the eradiction of terrorism in the area while as it has no interference in Bangladesh.
- (d) China has affilial relations with Pakistan while as its relations are different in terms of Bangladesh mainly because of security reasons.
- (e) As a hard power also, Pakistan is more powerful than Bangladesh as it is equipped in terms of nuclear weapons.

Page : 80 , Block Name : Exercises

Q4 List three challenges to democracy in Nepal.

Answer. The three challenges to the democracy in Nepal are:

- (a) The pro-monarch section of the society which wants a conservative monarchy in Nepal.
- (b) The violent aggressive groups like Maoists , who want to overthrow the monarch tendencies in Nepal.
- (c) The SPA and the above two groups are in constant clash which leads to conflict and no consensus on bilateral lines.

Page : 80 , Block Name : Exercises

Q5 Name the principal players in the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka. How do you assess the prospects of the resolution of this conflict? prospects of the resolution of this conflict?

Answer. The principal players in the etnic conflict in Sri Lanka are majorly the the two contesting communities which are - Sinhala community and Tamil Community.

The Sinhala community are the majority section of the society and are based upon the notion of extreme non-accommodation as they don't want to divide or delegate the power with the minorities. The Tamil community are the minority in the country and are deprived of based political, economic and social rights.

The resolution of the conflict was placed by Scandinavian Nations like Norway and Sweden, which was led by the death of the leader of LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam). The major steps towards resolution should include the establishment of efficient power-sharing system in the country, based upon the ideas of democracy and tolerance.

Page : 80 , Block Name : Exercises

Q6 Mention some of the recent agreements between India and Pakistan. Can we be sure that the two countries are well on their way to a friendly relationship?

Answer. The four wars are fought between India and Pakistan over the issues of Kashmir and Bangladesh. The Tashkent declaration of 1966 and Shimla accord of 1972, were the major agreements to be signed after the retaliation by both the countries.

Recently, many agreements were signed to increase the affilial relations between the two countries as:

- (a) Confidence Building measures have been signed between both the countries to minimise the tensions in terms of security.
- (b) The diplomatic relations which include cricket diplomacy and dargah diplomacy have increased the proximity between the two countries on cultural lines.
- (c) The extensive trade and transport agreements that are an imperative step towards the political and economic cooperation between the two countries.

The resolution of the conflict and the establishing of friendly relations with the border country, will require the mutual recognition of preferences and needs by both the countries. The resolution of the Kashmir conflict and the growing intimacy between China and Pakistan are also big traditional threats to the security of India.

Page : 80 , Block Name : Exercises

Q7 Mention two areas each of cooperation and disagreement between India and Bangladesh.

Answer. The two areas of cooperation between India and Bangladesh are :

- (a) The mutual agreement on eradiction of terrorism from South-Asia.
- (b) The cooperation in terms of politics and economy which includes bilateral agreements for the maximum economic development of the countries.

The two areas of disagreement between the countries are :

- (a) The conflict over the sharing of Brahmaputra river.

(b) The influx of refugees from the Bangladesh affecting the demographics and development of the respective country.

Page : 80 , Block Name : Exercises

Q8 How are the external powers influencing bilateral relations in South Asia? Take an example to illustrate your point. Example to illustrate your point.

Answer. The external powers affect the domestic issues of the Indian Subcontinent due to the impact of Globalisation. The increase in the relations between the European countries has impacted the third world due to the constant dependence on each other. For eg. America's policy has affected the economic market of China which is known as 'trade war' and later on, it also affects the auto and food sectors of all the countries involved in trade. The constant mobility of native people to foreign countries also affects the decision making and demographics of both the respective countries. The tensions between the US and China affects the security apparatus of all the South- Asian Countries.

Page : 80 , Block Name : Exercises

Q9 Write a short note on the role and the limitations of SAARC as a forum for facilitating economic cooperation among the South Asian Countries.

Answer. SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) , aims at the economic development of the countries by enhancing the trade relations between the countries. It also aims at lowering the tariff rates by 20% and the external powers have huge influence upon the SAARC countries. It also includes SAFTA(South Asian Free Trade Agreement) , which aims at the economic growth of all the countries by lowering the tariff rates. Major limitations of the agreement is the constant hegemonization by super-powers like US and China which affect the decision making capacity of the respective countries. Some member-countries are also suspicious of growing domination of India upon the parameters of cooperation.

Page : 80 , Block Name : Exercises

Q10 India's neighbours often think that the Indian government tries to dominate and interfere in the domestic affairs of the smaller countries of the region. Is this a correct impression?

Answer. Yes, it is a correct impression. India is at the centre of South-Asia and it tries to dominate the region for the national interests mainly including territorial sovereignty and national integrity. The political influence of India over the area clearly shows its role in the formation of foreign policy of other countries. The geographical area of India and it being armed with nuclear weapons has also led to the formation of this impression as India is considered as a major threat to security. The domination over political, cultural and economic parameters further legitimises the respective notion.

Page : 80 , Block Name : Exercises

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