

# Share/Care 3

## Lent

new nation. With the millions came famine, epidemics and the nightmare of resettling masses of people while trying to build new civil structures. Through the 1950s, Pakistan's resettlement problems continued as drought brought more famine, and monsoon rains drowned thousands and wiped out entire villages.

Originally, Pakistan comprised two territories—East and West Pakistan—both with Islamic majorities but more than a thousand miles apart. Poorer and more densely populated East Pakistan chafed against absentee rule from the West, and, in 1971, India invaded East Pakistan and routed West Pakistani forces there. West Pakistan surrendered and East Pakistan became the independent Bangladesh Republic.

### PAKISTAN TODAY

Pakistan's nation-building struggles continue. Facing desertification of virtually all of its territory and struggling to build industry with little capital, the country has turned to a new form of migration to sustain itself. Today, more than two million Pakistani citizens work abroad, legally and illegally, and send home their earnings. At home, although Islam unites the nation, varying ethnic backgrounds divide it. Besides many Moslem immigrants from elsewhere in India, five large ethnic groups are native to the area. In the seventies, the Baluchi—an ancient nomadic people—clashed with the army over government attempts to regulate their territory. In addition to Urdu, named national language because its mix of Hindustani, Arab and Persian allows many to understand it, five major languages are spoken in a country about the size of Texas.

In the 1980s, Pakistan accepted as refugees over three and a half million Afghans fleeing civil war and Soviet invasion. Islam, born of a desert where a single year's drought can destroy all one possesses, mandates generosity to the stranger. Following the precept, some Pakistanis divided everything they had with refugees. In some areas, Afghans outnumber the native population, and Pakistan's scarce hospitals are full of wounded Afghan

### PAKISTAN AND THE UNITED STATES

	<i>Pakistan</i>	<i>U.S.</i>
Life Expectancy (M)	52 years	72 years
Life Expectancy (F)	50 years	79 years
Infant Mortality	121/1,000	10/1,000
Hospital Beds	1/2,316 persons	1/185 persons
Doctors	1/3,590 persons	1/593 persons
Literacy Rate	26 percent	99 percent
Religions		
Islam	97 percent	
Christianity		97 percent
Per Capita Income	\$339	\$14,461
Population	104,600,000	243,800,000
Major Diseases	Malaria, Typhoid, Tuberculosis, Malnutrition, Diphtheria, Measles	Heart Disease, Cancer, Diabetes



children. Pakistan's late President Zia-ul-Haq put the law of hospitality first, refusing to force any Afghan repatriation, but angered many in his own land with military alliances and harsh laws. New Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, first woman to lead an Islamic country, promises land reform and more democracy at home, but draws criticism for being unsympathetic to the refugees' plight. Both situations illustrate the problems facing any leader who seeks to establish stability in a country beset with poverty and spillover from nearby wars, particularly a country whose very form of government—in this instance, an Islamic Republic—promises that rulers will adhere to a code of morality.

The name "Pakistan" connotes a "land of purity," founded on religious ideals. The struggle to realize those ideals continues in a country some have thought more aptly named "mujahiri-stan" (moo-ja-hear-i-stan)—"land of refugees and strangers."