Earth science-geography

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Course

GEOGRAPHICAL ASSETS OF AFRICA SOUTH OF SAHARA

**Physical geographical assets:**

1. **Diverse biomes:** The area is home to a variety of ecosystems, ranging from the lush rain forest of central Africa to the Sahara desert north, which supports a wide range of flora and fauna
2. **Great Rift Valley**: The Great Rift Valley is a well-known geological feature that is well known to cover East Africa and has breathtaking scenery, volcanic activity, and deep lakes.
3. **The Congo** Basin: It is home to the second-largest rainforest in the world; it is home to a wide variety of plant and animal species.
4. **Savannas:** Huge savannas make up a large amount of the area, and it is home to giraffes, elephants, lions and other African animals.
5. **. Major Rivers:** The geography of the has many rivers like the Nile, Niger, and Congo, which provide freshwater for agriculture, transit, and the maintenance of a variety of ecosystems along their banks.
6. **Rich natural resources** include minerals like gold, diamonds, and oil that also support economic growth.

**Human geographical assets**

1. Cultural richness: The place is full of different cultures. It has many people from various backgrounds, languages and traditions, which make the social setting exciting and varied. The amazing diversity of cultures and people in Africa south of the Sahara makes this area even more interesting.

2. Urban centres: Growing cities are places for buying and selling, learning, as well shared culture. This helps them grow in places like Lagos, Nairobi and Johannesburg.

3. Agricultural potential: Good soils in the Nile River area and high hills of Ethiopia let people grow plants. Coffee and cocoa are important for local money areas.

4. Historical heritage: Africa's southern part had old cultures like the Great Empire of Zimbabwe and the Kingdom of Kush. These areas have old places that attract visitors and help to increase historical pride.

5. Language Diversity: The areas have lots of languages, like Yoruba in Nigeria and Swahili in East Africa. This shows strong cultures with deep history growing over time. To West African Yoruba

6. Entrepreneurial spirit: As more and more creative people start helping with money economy growth, there is a big feeling of wanting to create businesses.

7. Human capital: The region has many young and growing people. This area uses its people's power for new ideas, own businesses, and train workers. This will help with social progression as well as make the economy better.

**Limitation that Africa south of the Sahara faces**

1. **Infrastructure Deficits**: A lack of energy, transportation, and telecommunication infrastructure has limited the region's economic growth and connectivity.
2. **Political instability:** Bad politics and problems with governance in some countries threaten stability and obstruct development activities.
3. **Health challenges**: The region faces health problems like the prevalence of diseases like malaria and HIV/AIDS, which have an impact on overall well-being.
4. **Educational Disparities, and** lack of personnel limit access to high-quality education, limit the development of human capital, and impede progress in a number of sectors.
5. **Poverty and inequality:** There are high rates of poverty and economic inequality, and many people lack access to opportunities for upward mobility as well as necessities.
6. **Environmental pressure:** Agriculture and sustainability are threatened by environmental issues such as deforestation, soil degradation, and climate change.
7. **Economic value**: Because it depends on a small number of important businesses, such as agriculture and the export of raw materials, it is value changes in the price of commodities and fluctuations in the worldwide market.
8. **Conflict and refugees:** Civil wars and armistices have broken out in a number of countries, resulting in mass migration and refugee crises as well as impeding national growth.

GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES IN SOUTH ASIA

**Physical assets**

1. **Himalaya mountain range:** This towering range serves as a natural northern border, providing breathtaking landscapes and influencing weather patterns.
2. **Ganges – Brahmaputra Delta:** The World’s largest delta, formed by the convergence of two major rivers, supports fertile soils and a dense population.
3. **The Desert:** Located in northwest India and southern Pakistan, it is the world’s ninth-largest subtropical Desert, featuring unique ecosystems adapted to arid conditions.
4. **Deccan plateau:** A vast elevated region in southern India, characterized by diverse landscapes and rich mineral resources.
5. **Indian Ocean coastline:** Extensive coastlines offer access to marine resources and contribute to trade and cultural exchanges.
6. **Tropical climate:** The region experiences diverse climates, from the arid Thar Desert to the tropical rainforest in parts of Sri Lanka and the Western Ghats.

**Human assets**

1. **Cultural diversity:** South Asia Is home to a Kaleidoscope of cultures, languages, and traditions, fostering a rich tapestry of diversity.
2. **Historical heritage:** Ancient civilizations like the Indus Valley and the Maurya and Gupta empires have left a lasting impact on the region’s cultural and architectural heritage.
3. **Population density:** While presenting challenges, the high population density also fuels economic activity and cultural vibrancy.
4. **Agricultural practices**: Traditional and modern farming methods are employed in the fertile plains, sustaining large populations and contributing to global food production.
5. **Urban centres:** Rapid urbanization has led to the development of dynamic cities such as Mumbai, Delhi, and Dakar, acting as economic and cultural hubs.
6. **Educational institution:** South Asia hosts renowned educational institutions, contributing to a pool of skilled professionals and fostering innovation.

**Problems and limitations that South Asia faces**

**Lower Inter-Regional Trade**

South Asia's inter-regional trade is the lowest globally, constituting only 5% of the total trade. The current economic integration is just one-third of its potential, with an annual estimated gap of 23 billion dollars.

**External influence in south Asia**

Smaller neighbouring countries are quite predictable in seeking to balance India's influence through closer relations with external powers; in the past, this was the US. At the moment, it is China.

Recent Chinese actions and policies in South Asia as well as its maritime neighbours, including Indian Ocean Island nations, have made it necessary for Indians to take their neighbours seriously.

**Terrestrial issues**

Terrestrial issues in South Asia remain a challenge to the peace sta, stability, and prosperity of the region.

Of all interstate disputes, those over territory tend to be more likely to lead to armed conflict.

**Inefficient management of global supply**

South Asia's international trade integration is lower than the global average, and it needs to be integrated into global value chains compared to East Asia.

The countries have abysmally low exports due to the low productivity of many countries in this region.

**Political tensions**

Historical conflicts, border disputes, and ongoing political tension between countries in the region make it difficult to foster cooperation and regional integration.

**Economic desperation**

Significant economic disparities between countries in the region make it difficult to establish a level playing field for trade and investments.

**Different levels of economic development**

South Asia is home to some of the world’s most economically advanced countries as well as some of the least developed. This makes it difficult to establish a common economic agenda.

**Security concerns**

The region is plagued by various security concerns, including terrorism, extremism and separatist movements, which can make regional cooperation and integration difficult.

**Small size market**

Most of the countries in the region are small in terms of population, area, and GDP. This makes it difficult for businesses to operate and for regional trade to thrive.

**Lack of trust**

Lack of trust between countries in the region is a major obstacle to regional cooperation and integration.

GEOGRAPHICAL ASSETS OF EAST ASIA

**Physical assets**

1. **Mountain system:** The Himalayas Mountains extend for about 2500 kilometres (1550 miles), separating the Indian subcontinent from the rest of Asia. The Indian subcontinent, once connected to Africa, collided with the Eurasian continent, and Africa collided with the Eurasian continent about 50 million to 55 million years ago. We are forming the Himalayas. The Indian subcontinent is still crashing northward into Asia, and the Himalayas are growing about 5 centimetres (2 inches) every year.
2. **Plateaus:** Asia is home to many plateaus, areas of relatively level high ground. The Iranian plateau covers more than 3.6 million square kilometres (1.4 million square), encompassing most of Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan. The plateau is not uniformly flat but contains some high mountain and low river basins. The highest mountain peak is Damavand, at 5610 meters (18410 feet). The plateau also has two largest deserts, the Dasht-e Kavir and Dasht-e Lut.
3. **Freshwater:** Lake Baikal, located in southern Russia, is the deepest lake in the world, reaching a depth of 1620 meters (5315 feet). The lake contains % of the world's unfrozen freshwater, making it the largest reservoir on earth. It is also the World'sWorld's oldest lake, at 25 million years old.

The Yangtze is the longest river in Asia and the third longest in the world (behind the Amazon of South America and the Nile of Africa), reaching 6300kilometers

1. **Saltwater:** The Persian Gulf has an area of more than 234,00 square kilometres. It borders Iran, Oman, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Iraq. The Gulf is subjected to high rates of evaporation, making it shallow and extremely salty. The seabed beneath the Persian Gulf contains an estimated 50% of the world's oil reserves. The countries that border the Gulf have engaged in a number of disputes over this rich resource.
2. **Terrestrial flora and fauna:** Botanists nickname China the "Mother of Gardens." It has more flowering plant species than North and South America combined. Because China has such a diverse landscape, from the arid Gobi desert to the tropical rainforest of Yunnan province, many flowers can adapt to climates all over the world.
3. **Aquatic flora and fauna:** The freshwater and marine habitats of Asia offer incredible biodiversity.

Lake Baikal's age and isolation make it a unique biological site. Aquatic life has been able to evolve relatively undisturbed for millions of years, producing a wide variety of flora and fauna.

The lake is known as the “Galapagos of Russia” because of its importance to the study of evolutionary science. it has 1,340 species of animals and 570 species of plants.

1. **Plains, steppes, and Deserts:**  The west Siberian Plain, located in central Russia, is considered one of the world's largest areas containing flatlands. It extends from north to south about 2,400kilometers (1,200 miles) and from west to east about 1,900 kilometres, with more than 50 per cent of its areas at less than 100meters above sea level; the plain contains some of the world's swamp and flood food.

**Problems and Limitations East Asia Faces**

**Rapid urbanization:**

Today, 50 per cent of the Asian population lives in cities. Urbanization has critical implications for development since cities are the locus of most social change, most of the demand for more transparent and accountable government, the demand for more transparent and accountable governance, and the bulk of economic output. The burdens on urban governance are immersed; overstretched infrastructure and services constrain economic growth and increase communal conflicts.

**Evolution of democratic governance:**

Beginning in the mid-1980s, electoral democracy and general acceptance of universally recognized human rights have separated many nations of the region, but in much of the region, semi-democratic regimes have taken strong roots; despite a great deal of democratic activity, established elites remain fully entrenched, governance is corrupt and over-politicized, and development outcomes are suboptimal at best, in other places, citizens are taking dramatic steps towards the transition to a more democratic state but it is not easy.

**Gender revolution**

Considering the status of women across most of the region just a few decades ago, remarkable progress has been made towards gender equality. For example, gender parties in elementary education have now been reached in most Asian countries, and in most countries, women are much more integrated into the formal economy than in the past. Despite these gains, substantial informal barriers remain.

They largely reflect the strong influence of traditional culture and religion, which can be impressive. Violence against women continues to be a major challenge everywhere in Asia.

**Violent conflict**

Violent conflict has been an enduring challenge in Asia. At the state-to-state level, despite sharp tensions over a diversity of issues in recent decades, open military confrontations have been rare and limited. In contrast, subnational and communal violence, often driven by inequalities, is widespread and persistent. Sectarian conflicts, in particular, are on the rise, and conflicts over water are becoming more intense, particularly where shortages are acute. Meanwhile, the growing influence of radical Islamist groups and the potential expansion of the Islamic state in Asia could lead to significant expansion of unrest and violence.

The new set of post-2015 sustainable development goals includes, for the first time, a target that specifically sets out to promote peaceful and inclusive societies.

**Environmental challenges**

Climate change, combined with rapid population growth and urbanization, is placing intense pressure on Asia's most precious resources. At the same time, extreme weather has led to unprecedented monsoon rains and deadly floods that have, in some cases, interrupted the entire global supply chain for certain industries located in flood-prone regions. How governments, civil society, and citizens work together to address these issues will shape Asia's development trajectory.

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