

The Baloch

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Baloch people

Baloch چولې

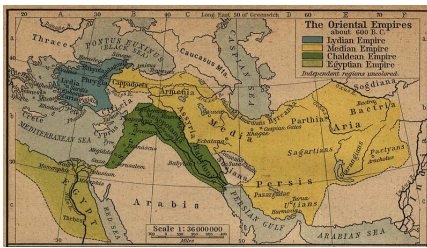
Total population	
approximately 9 million	
Regions with significant populations	
 Pakistan	6.2 million (2008)
 Iran	1.484 million (2009) [1] [2]
 Afghanistan	567,920 (2009) [3]
 Oman	425,000 (2009) [4] [5]
 United Arab Emirates	100,000 [6]
 Kuwait	20,000 (1993)
 Qatar	13,000 (2007)
 Saudi Arabia	12,000 (2007)
 Somalia	8,200 (2007)
 Bahrain	25,000 (2009)
Languages	
Primarily Balochi and Brahvi	
Related ethnic groups	
other Iranian peoples (Kurds • Pashtuns)	

The **Baloch** or **Baluch** (چولې) are an ethnic group that belong to the larger Iranian peoples. Baluch people mainly inhabit the Baluchestan region and Sistan va Baluchestan in the southeast corner of the Iranian plateau in Western Asia.

The Baloch people mainly speak Balochi, which is a branch of the Iranian languages, and more specifically of the North-western Iranian languages, that is highly influenced by that of Mesopotamia and shares similarities with Kurdish and other languages of the region. It also contains archaic features reminiscent of Old Persian and Avestan.^[7] They inhabit mountainous terrains and deserts, and maintain a very distinct cultural identity.

About 60 percent of the Baloch live in Balochistan, a western province in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.^[8] Around 25 percent inhabit the eastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan Province in the Islamic Republic of Iran; a significant number of Baloch people also live in Sindh and South Punjab in Pakistan. Many of the rest live in Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait and in some parts of Africa. Small communities of Baluch people also live in Europe (particularly Sweden) and in Perth, Australia, where they arrived in the 19th century.

Origins and history



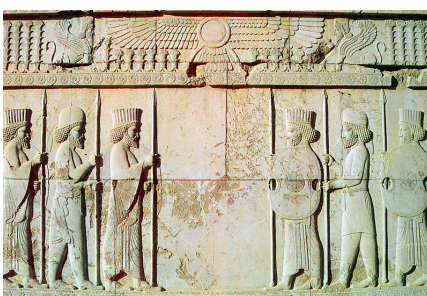
The Median Empire, Lydian Empire, and Neo-Babylonian Empire, prior to Cyrus the Great's conquests.



Superimposed on modern borders, the Achaemenid Empire under Cyrus's rule extended approximately from Turkey, Israel, Georgia and Arabia in the west to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Indus River and Oman in the east. Persia became the largest empire the world had ever seen.

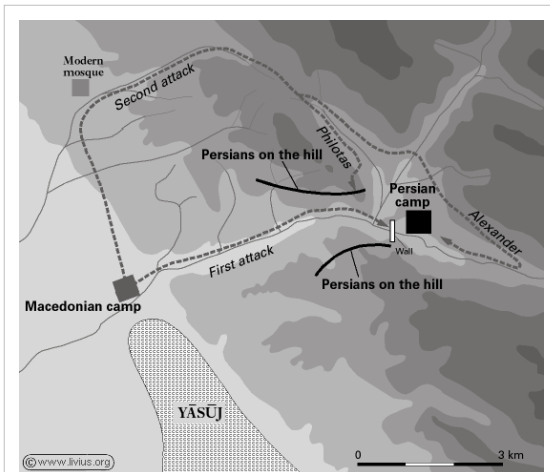


The Achaemenid empire at its greatest extent, including the satrap of ancient Maka



Persian and Median soldiers at Persepolis

The Baluch people of today are descendants of ancient Median and Persian tribes. Historical references of ancient Persia have made it possible to arrive at this conclusion. Maka is mentioned by Greek historian Herodotus as one of the early satraps of Cyrus the Great, who successfully united several ancient Iranian tribes to create an empire.^{[13] [14]} In the Behistun Inscription, Darius the Great mentions Maka as one of his eastern territories.^[15] Darius is recorded to have personally led his elite forces, whose ranks were restricted to those with Persian, Mede or Elamite ancestry, to fight the invading Scythians of Asia^[16] and then led the conquest towards the Indian sub-continent,^{[17] [18] [19]} where he conquered Sindh in 519 BC, constituted it as his 20th Satrapy, and made use of the oceans there.^{[20] [21]} Darius wanted to know more about Asia, according to Herodotus; he also wished to know where the "Indus (which is the only river save one that produces crocodiles) emptied itself into the sea".^[22] The present region of Makran, which is inhabited by Baluch people, derived its name from the word "Maka". The Babylonians had also made voyages using Maka to communicate with India.^[23] Maka had also communicated with Euphrates, Tigris and Indus valley, objects from the Harappan culture have also been found in modern-day Oman, other archaeology suggest that Maka was exporting copper. Herodotus mentions the inhabitants of Maka as "Mykians" who were also previously involved in several conquests with Cyrus the Great and after the conquest of Egypt with Cambyses,^[24] they went to Sindh in command of Darius I, and also took in army of Xerxes the great at the battle of Thermopylae, where they were dressed and equipped the same as Pactyans, Utians and Paricanians, the tribes adjacent to the Mykians. The word Maka later became Makran as it is common in closely related ancient Avestan and Old Persian languages to use "an" and "ran" at the end of plurals,^[25] which then translates as "the land of Mykians". They are mentioned as "the men from Maka" in *daeva* inscriptions. The "*daeva* inscription" is one of the most important of all Achaemenid inscriptions; in the Baluchi language, *dêw* translates as "giant devil or monster". Mykians were also responsible for many inventions, such as *qanats* and underground drainage galleries that brought water from aquifers on the piedmont to gardens or palm groves on the plains. These inventions were important reasons behind the success of the Achaemenid Empire and survival of Mykians in their largely harsh natural



In 334 BC, the Achaemenid empire fell from its western borders following Alexander's conquest. The last 30-day stand by Achaemenid forces was made at the Battle of the Persian Gate, around 825 kilometers from present-day Sistan va Baluchestan.^[9]

environment. Other inscriptions also record that gold, silver, lapis lazuli, turquoise, cornalin, cedar wood, wood and the decoration for the relief at Susa were from Maka.^[26] The Mykians of the other side of ancient Maka, the present-day region of Balochistan and Sindh had later taken independence because they are not mentioned in the book written by Arrian of Nicomedia about campaigns of Alexander the Great but he only mentions the Oman side of Maka which he calls "Maketa". The reasons for this may have been the arguably unjust rule of Xerxes.^{[27] [27] [28] [29]} It is highly likely that the ancient Mykians were one of the Median or Persian tribes and an important part of Achaemenid empire, as they are not mentioned as one of the ancient Iranian tribes that Cyrus the Great and Darius I had fought with. Cyrus himself was of both Persian and Median ancestry as his father was Cambyses I, who is believed to have married Mandane of Media, the daughter of Astyages, a Median king.^[30]



Baluch tribes and the paths that Alexander the Great took. This also includes the harsh desert path where previously Cyrus the Great and Semiramis are thought to have lost large portions of their army. These stories are thought to have inspired Alexander to do better than Cyrus and Semiramis.^[10] Later Ferdowsi in his book "Shahnameh" Chapter 11 also mentions this desert path and tells the story of army of Kai Khosrow that decided to avoid the desert and instead took the road that leads toward Kelat for rest and refreshment where Kai Khosrow's brother Firoud had been the ruler.^[11]

Historical evidence suggests that Baluch people had been the ancient inhabitants Maka satrapy of Achaemenid empire. Baluch inhabiting the coastal areas in the region of Makran (Chabahar, Gwadar), Gulf (Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain) and Arabian Sea (Karachi and other parts of Sindh) and tribes including the Rind, Bizenjo, Brahvi and Gabol are highly skilled in designing boats, fishing and other skills required to survive in their environment. Herodotus also mentions that Darius had made use of the ocean in this region of Sindh. The Slemani Baloch who inhabit the region of Baluchistan including Makran—for example, tribes including the Brahvi, Marri, Bugti, Buzdar, Mazari, Mengal, Rind, Bizenjo, Hasni, Zehri, Dehwar and others—carry different skills to survive in their mostly mountainous environment and have a history of aggressive behavior towards invasions. These tribes are not confined to one specific location as they also contain sub-tribes and can be found all over the region. Later, in 500 BC, the Iranian poet Ferdowsi (940–1020), in his book the Shahnameh ("Book of Kings"), mentions the Baluch as a group of people ready for war.

The origins of the word "Baluch" are shrouded in controversy. According to German archaeologist and Iranologist Ernst Herzfeld, it is derived from the Median word *brza-vaciya*, which means "loud cry", while others claim the word derives from ancient Iranian languages.

Baluchi culture

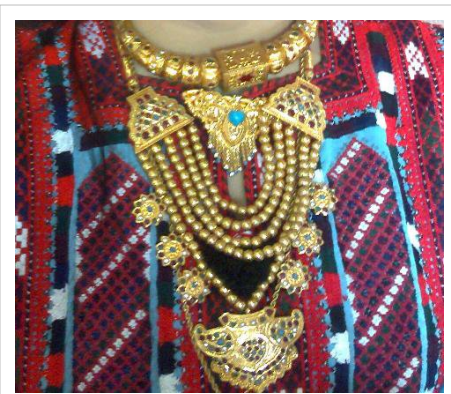
The origins of Baluchi culture and traditions can be traced back to Mesopotamia, which is widely accepted as the origin of the Baluch people.



View of a beach in Makran region. Today the economy of Makrani Baluch is largely based on use of the oceans; practices like designing boats and fishing are traditional to the Baluch. The ancient Mesopotamian text "Adapa and the Food of Life" mentions Adapa (a wise man and a priest) and fishing in the Persian Gulf as one of his sacred duties.^[12]

Baluchi customs and traditions are conducted according to codes imposed by tribal laws. These strong traditions and cultural values are important to Baluch people and have enabled them to keep their distinctive ancient cultural identity and way of life with little change to this day.

Baluchi culture is mentioned in the Pirmohamad M. Zehi's account of his travel to the province of Sakestan, or the present-day Sistan va Baluchistan province of Iran, which holds strong significance to the culture of Baluch people. Baluch people have preserved their traditional dress with little change over the centuries. The Baluch men wear long shirts with long sleeves and loose pants resembling the Achaemenid outfits of ancient Persians; the dress is occasionally accompanied by a turban or a hat on their heads. The dress worn by Baluch women is one of the most interesting aspects of Baluchi culture. They are of strong significance to the culture of Iran and hold a special place in the society. The women put on loose dress and pants with sophisticated and colorful needlework, including a large pocket at the front of the dress to hold their accessories. The upper part of the dress and sleeves are also decorated with needlework, a form of artistry that is specific to the clothing of the Baluch women. Often the dress also contains round or square pieces of glass to further enhance the presentation. They cover their hair with a scarf, called a *sarig* in the local dialect.^[31] These customs are unique to the people of Iran and the art of this needlework on women's clothing may provide one with a picture of the freedom and high status of Baluchi women in Achaemenid era.^[32] Gold ornaments such as necklaces and bracelets are an important aspect of Baluch women's traditions and among their most favored items of jewelry are *dorr*, heavy earrings that are fastened to the head with gold chains so that the heavy weight will not cause harm to the ears. They usually wear a gold brooch (*tasni*) that is made by local jewelers in different shapes and sizes and is used to fasten the two parts of the dress together over the chest. In ancient times, especially during the pre-Islamic era, it was common for Baluch women to perform dances and sing folk songs at different events. The tradition of a Baluch mother singing lullabies to her children has played an important role in the transfer of knowledge from generation to generation since ancient times. Apart from the dressing style of the Baluch, indigenous and local traditions and customs are also of great importance to the Baluch.^[33]



Some jewelry traditional to Baluch women.

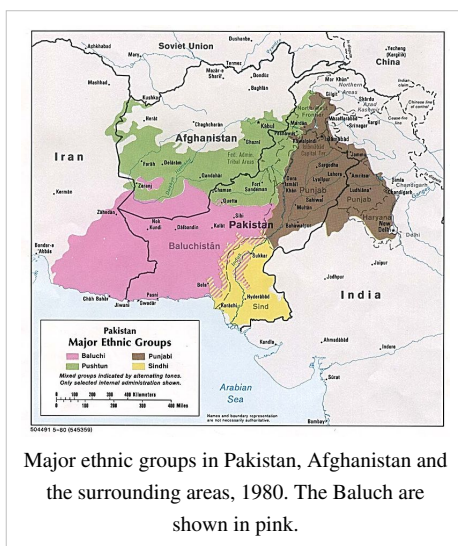
Baloch people are culturally and traditionally regarded as secular. However, Baloch people are a minority, and growing Islamic fundamentalism in the region is seen as a threat to Baluchi culture. Other challenges include violations of basic human rights, psychological warfare, propaganda in mass media of their modern geography enabled by poverty, illiteracy and inaccessibility to information in the digital age.^{[34] [35] [36] [37] [38] [39]} According to Amnesty International, Baloch activists, politicians and student leaders are among those who have been targeted in forced disappearances, abductions, arbitrary arrests and cases of torture and other ill-treatment.^[40]

Baluchi music

Folk music has always played a great role in Baluchi traditions. Baluchi music and instruments belong to the same branch of Persian music performed by many other Iranian peoples including Kurds, Lurs, Tajiks and others. Traditions like the transfer of knowledge from generation to generation by singing lullabies to children and praising warriors also have a significant role in Baluchi music traditions. The fact that both men and women participate in folk music reflects on the pre-Islamic significance of folk music in Baluchi culture. Many years of invasions, wars and later adopted religious values have prevented Baluchi music from prevailing further in the 21st century. However, a Swedish folk band, Golbang, has made progress in introducing Baluchi folk music to the Western world. The most commonly used instruments in Baluchi folk music are *tanbur*, long-necked lutes. Lutes have been present in Mesopotamia since the Akkadian era, or the third millennium BCE. The *dohol*, a large cylindrical drum with two skin heads, is the principal accompaniment for the *surna*, an ancient Iranian woodwind instrument that dates back to the Achaemenid Dynasty (550-330 BCE). The *ney* is also commonly played, using single or double flutes. The *suroz*, a Baluchi folk violin, is also commonly played. Other Baluchi musical instruments include the *tar* and the *saz*. Balochi music has also influenced Sindhi and Seraiki folk music.

Geographic distribution

The total population of ethnic Baloch people is estimated to be around 9 million worldwide. However, the exact number of those who are Baloch or claim to be of Baloch ancestry is difficult to determine. As of 2010, the Baloch are 4.97% of Pakistan's 177,276,594 million people.^[41] They make up 2% of Afghanistan's roughly 30 million people^[42] and 2% of Iran's estimated 67 million.^[43]



the western city of Perth.

Baluch ancestry is also claimed in the neighboring areas that adjoin Baluch majority lands. The Brahui are also considered Baloch but they speak the Brahui language. Despite very few cultural differences from the Baluch. Many Baluch outside of Balochistan are also bilingual or of mixed ancestry due to their proximity to other ethnic groups, including the Sindhis, Saraikis and Pashtuns. A large number of Baluch have been migrating to or living in provinces adjacent to Balochistan for centuries. In addition, there are many Baluch living in other parts of the world, with the bulk living in the GCC countries of the Persian Gulf. The Baluch are an important community in Oman, where they make up a sizable minority.

There is a small population of Baloch in several Western countries such as Sweden and Australia. Some Baloch settled in Australia in the 19th century; some fourth-generation Baloch still live there, mainly in

Baluch in Oman

The Baluch in Oman have maintained their ethnic and linguistic distinctions. The Southern Baluch comprise approximately 22% of the country's population. The traditional economy of Baluch in Oman is based on a combination of trade, farming and semi-nomadic shepherding.^[44]

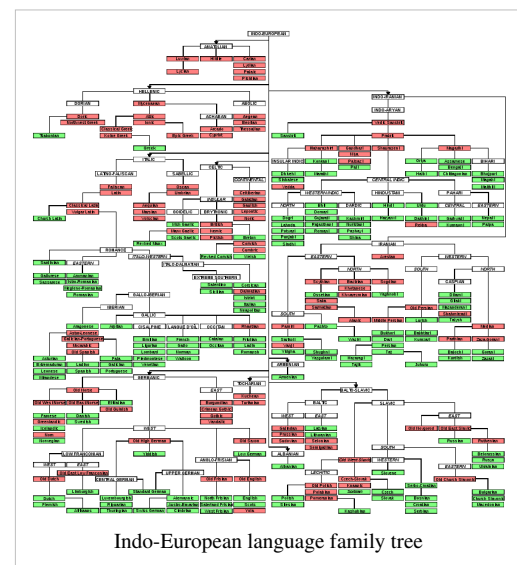
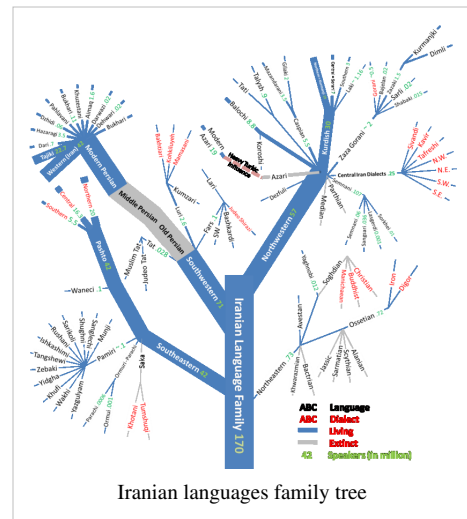
Baluchi language

The Balochi language is spoken in Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, the Persian Gulf Arab states, Turkmenistan, and as far as East Africa and some Western countries. It is classified as a member of the Iranian group of the Indo-European language family, which includes Kurdish, Persian, Pashto, Dari, Tajik and Ossetian. The Baluchi language has the closest similarities to Kurdish, Avestan, old Persian and other Iranian languages.

Two main dialects are spoken in Sistan va Baluchestan and Baluchestan: Eastern and Western. The exact number of Baluch speakers is difficult to know, but the estimated number could be around six million. The majority speak Western Baluchi, which is also the dialect that has been most widely used in Baluchi literature. Within the Western dialect are two further dialects, Rakhshani (spoken mainly in the northern areas) and Makkurani (in the south).^[45]

The Baluch have several tribes and sub-tribes. Some of these tribes speak Brahui, while most speak Baluchi. Multilingualism is common, with many Baluch speaking both Brahui and Baluchi. The Marri tribe and the Bugti tribe speak Baluchi. The Mengal tribe, who live in the Chagai, Khuzdar, Kharan districts of Balochistan and in southern parts of Afghanistan, speak Brahui. The Lango tribe, who live in central Balochistan in the Mangochar area, speak Baluchi as their first language and Brahui as their second. The Bizenjo tribe living in the Khuzdar, Nal, and parts of Makran, speak both languages, as do the Muhammadsanis. The Bangulzai tribe mostly speaks Brahui, but has a Baluchi-speaking minority (known as Garanis).

The Mazaris widely speak Baluchi or both dialects. The Malghani are part of the Nutkani tribe, which is the largest tribe in the tehsil. The Talpur, Mastoi, Jatoy, Gabol, Lashari, Chandio, Khushk, Khosa, Bozdar, Jiskani, Heesbani, Magsi, Zardari, Rind, Bhurgri, Jakhrani and other Baluch tribes that settled in Sindh speak Sindhi, Baluchi and Saraiki. The Qaisrani Baluch living near Taunsa Sharif in the Punjab province of Pakistan speak Saraiki and Baluchi, while their clansmen living the Dera Ghazi Khan tribal areas speak Balochi. The Lund Baluch living in Shadan Lund speak Sindhi, Sairaki and Balochi. The Leghari, Lashari, Korai, and Kunara Baluch in the Dera Ismail Khan and Mianwali districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa speak Saraiki as their first language. The Tauqi Baloch in the Khara, Noshki, Chaghai and Washuk districts of Balochistan can speak both Baluchi and Brahui, but their primary language is Baluchi. The Buzdar are one of the largest tribes of Baloch in southern Punjab, living in the Koh-e-Suleman range. The Buzdar tribe is composed of four union councils in Dera Ghazi Khan District. It is headed by Sardar Fateh Muhammad Khan Buzdar. Sardar Farooq Buzdar, from the same family, also holds a prominent position among the Buzdar tribe.^[46]



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Balochi language

Balochi	
بالیچي <i>balochī</i>	
Spoken in	Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, UAE, Oman
Total speakers	7–8 million (1998, Ethnologue)
Language family	Indo-European <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indo-Iranian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iranian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Western Iranian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northwestern Iranian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balochi
Official status	
Official language in	 Pakistan (Balochistan) (Regional Language)
Regulated by	Balochi Academy (Pakistan)
Language codes	
ISO 639-1	<i>None</i>
ISO 639-2	bal
ISO 639-3	bal ^[1] – Macrolanguage individual codes: bgp ^[2] – Eastern Balochi bgn ^[3] – Western Balochi bcc ^[4] – Southern Balochi
Linguasphere	–
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="flex: 1; text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;"> क़ि → कि </div> <div style="flex: 2; padding-left: 10px;"> <p>This page contains Indic text. Without rendering support you may see irregular vowel positioning and a lack of conjuncts. More...</p> </div> </div> </div>	

Balochi (بالیچي also *Baluchi*) is a Northwestern Iranian language.^[5] It is the principal language of the Baloch of Balochistan, Pakistan, eastern Iran and southern Afghanistan. It is also spoken as a second language by some Brahui. It is designated as one of nine official languages of Pakistan.

Phonology

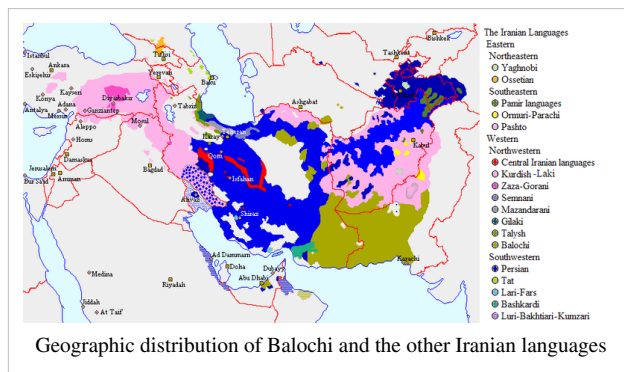
Vowels

The Balochi vowel system has at least eight vowels: five long vowels and three short vowels.^[6] The long vowels are /a:/, /e:/, /i:/, /o:/, and /u:/. The short vowels are /a/, /i/ and /u/. The short vowels have more centralized phonetic qualities than the long vowels.

Southern Balochi (at least as spoken in Karachi) also has nasalized vowels, most importantly /ẽ:/ and /ã:/.^[7]

Consonants

The following consonants are common to both Western Balochi and Southern Balochi.^[8] The place of articulation of the consonants /s/, /z/, /n/, /r/ and /l/ is claimed to be alveolar in Western Balochi, while at least the /r/ is claimed to be dental in Southern Balochi. The stops /t/ and /d/ are claimed to be dental in both dialects.



	Labial	Dental	Alveolar	Retroflex	Palatoalveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stop	p b	t d		ʈ ɖ			k g	
Affricate					tʃ dʒ			
Fricative			s z		ʃ ʒ ^[9]			h ^[10]
Tap			r	ɽ ^[11]				
Nasal	m		n					
Approximant	w		l			j		

Notes

[1] <http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/documentation.asp?id=bal>

[2] <http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/documentation.asp?id=bgp>

[3] <http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/documentation.asp?id=bgm>

[4] <http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/documentation.asp?id=bcc>

[5] "Eastern Iranian languages". (<http://www.iranica.com/newsite/articles/v7f6/v7f659.html>) *Encyclopedia Iranica*. "Baluchi, a North-Western Iranian language, is spoken chiefly in Pakistan, in the south-eastern corner of the Iranophone area."

[6] See Farrell (1990) for Southern Balochi (as spoken in Karachi, Pakistan, and Axenov (2006) for Western Balochi as spoken in Turkmenistan.

[7] Farrell (1990).

[8] See Axenov (2006) and Farrell (1990), respectively.

[9] Words with /ʒ/ are uncommon.

[10] Word-initial /h/ is dropped in Balochi as spoken in Karachi.

[11] The retroflex tap has a very limited distribution.

In addition, /f/ is listed for Southern Balochi, but is found in few words. /x/ (voiceless velar fricative) in some loanwords in Southern Balochi corresponding to /χ/ (voiceless uvular fricative) in Western Balochi; and /ɣ/ (voiced velar fricative) in some loanwords in Southern Balochi corresponding to /ʁ/ (voiced uvular fricative) in Western

Balochi.

Grammar

The normal word order is Subject Object Verb. Like many other Indo-Iranian languages, Balochi has split ergativity. In the present tense or future tense, the subject is marked as nominative, and the object is marked as accusative. In the past tense, however, the subject of a transitive verb is marked as oblique, and the verb agrees with the object.^[1]

History

Balochi is closely related to other Northwestern Iranian languages such as Kurdish. It has influences on other languages in Pakistan, including Sindhi.

Writing system

Before the 19th century, Balochi was an unwritten language. The official written language was Persian, although Balochi was still spoken at the Baloch courts. British linguists and political historians wrote form with the Roman script, but following the creation of Pakistan, Baloch scholars adopted Urdu Arabic script. The first collection of poetry in Balochi, Gulbang by Mir Gul Khan Nasir was published in 1951 and incorporated the Urdu Arabic Script. But it was much later that Sayad Zahurshah Hashomi wrote a comprehensive guidance on the usage of Urdu Arabic script and standardized it as the Balochi Orthography in Pakistan. This earned Sayad Hashomi the title of 'the Father of Balochi'. Sayad's guidances are widely used in Eastern and Western Balochistan. In Afghanistan, however, Balochi is written in a modified Arabic script based on what is used for Pashto.

The Sayad Zahurshah Hashomi 'Urdu Arabic orthography'

آ ا ب پ ت ج چ د ر ز س ش گ ک ش س ژ ر د چ ج ت پ ب آ

Baluchi Roman orthography

The following Latin-script based orthography was adopted in the International Workshop on "Balochi Roman Orthography" (University of Uppsala, Sweden, May 28–30, 2000).

Alphabetical order:

a á b c d d' e f g ĝ h i í j k l m n o p q r ř s š t ť u ú v w x y z ž ay aw

(33 letters and 2 digraphs)

A/a amb (mango), angúr (grape), bagg (camel-caravan), sardar (naked-head), namb (mist)

Á/á dár (wood), árt (flour), bahá (price), pád (foot), áhag (to come), áhán (them)

B/b (be) barp (snow, ice), bám (dawn), bágpán (gardner), baktáwar (lucky)

C/c (che) cattr (umbrella), bacc (son), kárc (knife), Karáci, Kulánc, Cákar, Bálác

D/d (de) dard (pain), drad (rainshower), dárú (medicine), wád (salt)

Ď/d' is same as Ř/ř (ře) so this latter is preferably used to simplify the orthography.

E/e eš (this), cer (below), eraht (end of date harvest), pešraw (leader, forerunner), kamer (ploughshare)

F/f (fe) To be used only in loan words where its use is inevitable, like Fráns (France), fármaysí (pharmacy)

G/g (ge) gapp (talk), ganok (mad), bág (garden), bagg (herd of camels), pádag (foot), Bagdád (Baghdad)

Ĝ/ĝ (like ĝhaen in Perso-Arabic script) Only in loan words and in eastern dialects

H/h (he) hár (flood), máh (moon), koh (mountain), mahár (rein), hon (blood)

I/i (i) istál (star), idá (here), pit/piss (father), bigir (take), kirr (near)

- Í/í (í) ímmán (faith), šír (milk), pakír (beggar), samín (breeze), gálí (carpet)
- J/j (je) jang (war), janag (to beat), jing (lark), ganj (treasure), sajjí (roasted meat)
- K/k (ke) Kirmán (Kirman), kárc (knife), náko (uncle), gwask (calf), kasán (small)
- L/l (le) láp (stomach), gal (joy), gall (party, organization), gull (cheek), gul (rose)
- M/m (me) mát/más (mother), bám (dawn), camm (eye), mastir (leader, bigger).
- N/n (ne) nán/nagan/nagan (bread), nok (new, new moon), dann (outside), kwahn (old), náko (uncle)
- O/o (o) oštag (to stop), ožnág (swim), roc (sun), dor (pain), socag (to burn)
- P/p (pe) Pád (foot), šap (night), šapád (bare-footed), gapp (talk), aptád (70)
- Q/q (qú) Used in loan words, like Qábús
- R/r (re) Rustum (a name), rek (sand), barag (to take away), girag (to get), garrag (to bray), gurrag (to roar), šarr (good), sarag (head), sarrag (a kind of donkey's braying)
- Ř/ř (ře) řák (post), řukkál (famine), gařř (urial), guřř (last), guřřag (to chop).
- S/s (se) sarag (head), kass (someone), kasán (little), bass (enough), ás (fire)
- Š/š (še) šap (night), šád (happy), meš (sheep), šuwánag (shepherd), wašš (happy, tasty).
- T/t (te) tagird (mat), tahná (alone) tás (bowl), kilítt (kay), masítt (mosque), battí (lantern)
- Ť/ť (ře) ťung (hole), řillo (bell), bařř (cooked rice), bařřág (eggplant).
- U/u uštir (camel), šumá (you), ustád (teacher), gužn (hunger), buz (goat)
- Ú/ú (ú, sounds like the "oo" in English word "root") úrt (thin), zúrag (to take), bizú (take), dúr (distant)
- V/v (ve) used in loanwords only, like in the English word service, very.
- W/w (we) warag (food, to eat), wardin (provision), dawár (abode), wád (salt), kawwás (learned)
- X/x (khe) Xudá (God),
- Y/y (ye) yád (remembrance), yár (friend), yázdah (eleven), biryání (roasted meat), raydyo (radio), yakk (one)
- Z/z (ze) zarr (monay), zí (yesterday), muzz (wages), moz (banana), nazzíkk (nearby), bazgar (tenant)
- Ž/ž (že) žand (tired), žáng (bells), pažm (wool), gažžag (to swell), gužnag (hungry).
- ay (h)ayrán (surprise), ayrát (distribution), say (3), may (our), kay (who), šumay (your)
- Aw/aw kawr (river), hawr (rain), kissaw (story), dawl (sort), dawr (jump), awlád (off-spring), kawl (promise), gawk (neck).

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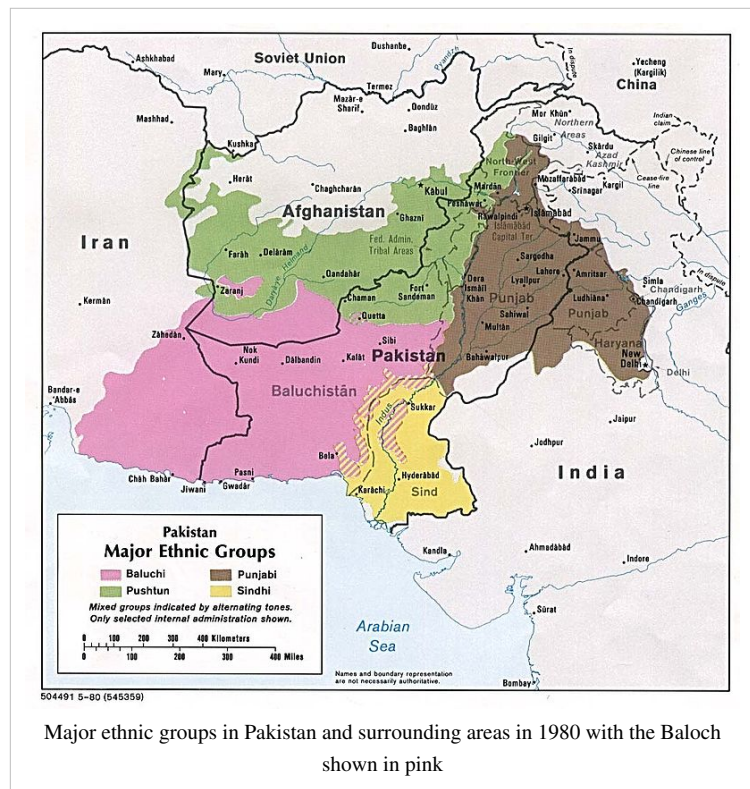
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- EuroBalúči online translation tool (<http://www.eurobaluchi.com/dictionary/index.htm>) - translate Balochi words to or from English, Persian, Spanish, Finnish and Swedish
- iJunoos English to Balochi Dictionary (<http://www.ijunoos.com/balochidic/>)
- *Ethnologue* report on Balochi (http://www.ethnologue.com/15/show_family.asp?subid=90030)
- UCLA Language Materials Project: Baluchi (<http://www.lmp.ucla.edu/Profile.aspx?menu=004&LangID=193>) - a general overview of Balochi with societal context and history of the language
- Balochi language (<http://users.tpg.com.au/users/goshti>) - a website about the language
- EuroBalúči (<http://www.eurobaluchi.com>) - Baluchi alphabet, grammar and music
- Balochi News (<http://www.balochinews.com/>) - a Balochi-language news site publishes on various issues

Balochistan

Balochistan (Balochi: **ڤاتسچول ب**) or **Baluchistan** is an arid, mountainous region in the Iranian plateau in Southwest Asia; it includes part of southeastern Iran, western Pakistan, and southwestern Afghanistan. The area is named after the numerous Baloch tribes, Iranian peoples who moved into the area from the west around 1000 AD. All natives are considered Balochi even if they do not speak the Balochi language; Pashto, Hazaragi, Persian, and Brahui languages are also spoken in the region. The southern part of Balochistan is known as Makran.

The Baloch and Pashtun people constitute the two major ethnic groups; a mixed ethnic stock, mainly of Sindhi origin, forms the third major group (Sindhi Baloch). Balochistan is rich in mineral resources; it is the second major supplier of natural gas in Pakistan.



Landscape and ecology

Balochistan's landscape is composed of barren, rugged mountains and fertile land. During the summer, some regions of Balochistan are the hottest. Most of the land is barren, particularly in the Iranian and Afghan side of the region, and it is generally sparsely populated. In the south Makran lies the desert through which Alexander the Great passed with great difficulty.

Agriculture in the region is based on the cultivation of *kharif* or winter crops. Cultivation is often located in alluvial fans, along river-courses, and in fertile areas which are maintained through artificial irrigation systems such as qanats (holes sunk in the ground to trap water) and *gabarbands* (low stone and earth mounds which create raised beds which, in turn, become saturated by rainfall and water run-off from the surrounding hills). In the southern Makran and oasis region (south of the Chagai Hills) the date palm is grown and cultivated. Orange orchards are also typical in southern Balochistan, particularly Jhalawan and Sarawan.

History

The earliest evidence of occupation in Balochistan is dated to the Paleolithic, represented by hunting camps and lithic scatters (chipped and flaked stone tools). The earliest settled villages in Balochistan date to the ceramic Neolithic (c. 7000-6000 BCE), including the sites of Mehrgarh (located in the Kachi Plain, east of Quetta) and Kile Gull Mohammad. These villages expanded in size during the subsequent Chalcolithic, while interaction was amplified. This involved the movement of finished goods and raw materials, including chank shell, Lapis lazuli, turquoise and ceramics. By 2500 BCE (the Bronze Age) Balochistan became part of the Harappan cultural orbit, providing key resources to the expansive settlements of the Indus river basin to the east.

From the 1st century to the 3rd century AD, the region was ruled by the Pāratarājas (lit. "Pārata Kings"), a dynasty of Indo-Scythian or Indo-Parthian kings. The dynasty of the Pāratas is thought to be identical with the Pāradas of the Mahabharata, the Puranas and other Indian sources.^[1]

They are essentially known through their coins, which typically exhibit the bust of the ruler on the obverse, with long hair within a headband), and a swastika within a Brahmi legend on the reverse (usually silver coins) or Kharoshthi (usually copper coins). The coins can mainly be found in the Loralai area of modern Pakistan.

Herodotus in 650 BC describes the *Paraitakenoi* as a tribe ruled by Deiokes, a Persian king, in northwestern Persia (History I.101). Arrian describes how Alexander the Great encountered the *Pareitakai* in Bactria and Sogdiana, and had them conquered by Craterus (Anabasis Alexandrou IV). The Periplus of the Erythraean Sea (1st century AD) describes the territory of the *Paradon* beyond the Ommanitic region, on the coast of modern Balochistan.^[2]

During the Arab conquest of the Persian empire in the 8th century, Muslim technocrats, bureaucrats, soldiers, traders, scientists, architects, teachers, theologians and sufis flocked from the rest of the Muslim world and many settled in Balochistan and its tributary state until the rise of the Mughals. Numerous Baloch tribes, an Iranian people, moved into the area from the west in the 11th century to escape the Seljuk Turks. Western Balochistan was conquered by Iran in the 19th century, and its boundary was fixed in 1872. Omani influence waned in the east and Oman's last possession, Gwadar, was bought by Pakistan in 1958. In 1998, Pakistan conducted nuclear tests in the Pakistani province of Balochistan.

People from Balochistan as ethnic minorities in other countries

Croatia

There is a small ethnic minority of people from Balochistan in Croatia who settled there in the times of former Yugoslavia. Only 3579 people are recognized in Croatia as members of the Balochistan ethnic group. They have integrated into society well; their cultural center is near the city of Rijeka. Most of them speak Croatian language pretty well but have problems with hard Croatian letters as Č and Ć. They often participate in local traditional gatherings called "Marunada" (chestnut festival) presenting their own culture. In the times of Tito, Yugoslavia had good relations with third-world countries including Pakistan, Iraq and Iran. Many people from the Middle East came to Yugoslavia as students and stayed there building their families.

Secessionist movements

- Balochistan Liberation Army
- Baloch Liberation Front
- Baloch National Movement
- Baloch Republican Army
- Baloch Students Organization
- Baloch Students Organization – Awami
- Bugti militia
- Jundallah
- Parrari
- Partisans of National Liberation of Afghanistan
- Popular Front for Armed Resistance

References

- [1] "New light on the Paratarajas" p11
 [2] "New light on the Paratarajas" p29-30 (<http://people.bu.edu/ptandon/Paratarajas.pdf>)

Balochistan, Afghanistan

Balochistan (Balochi: **ښاتسچول ب**) or **Baluchistan** is an arid, mountainous region that includes part of southern and southwestern Afghanistan. It extends into southeastern Iran and western Pakistan and is named after the Baloch tribes which moved into the area from the west around 1000 AD.

Geography

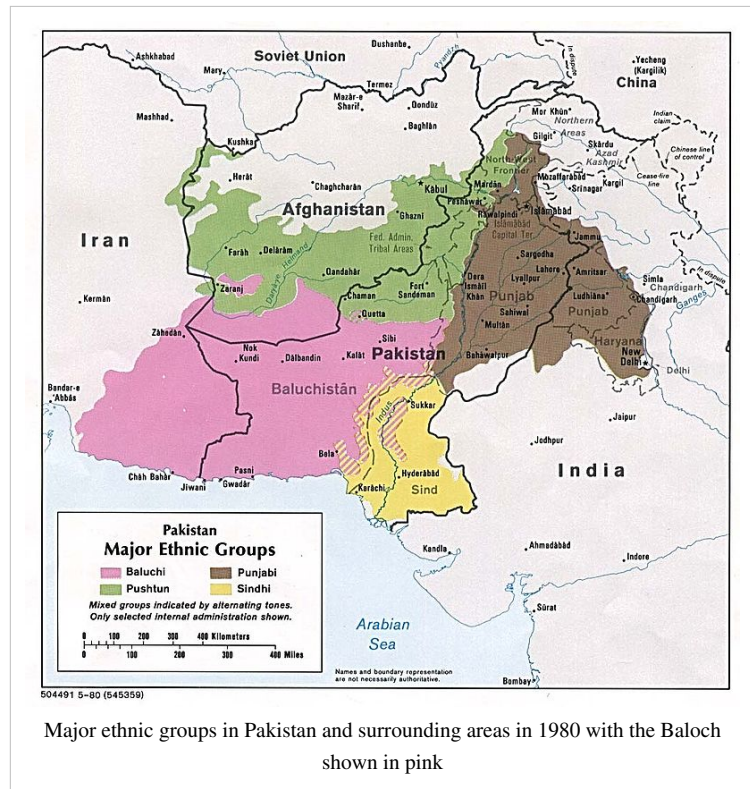
Afghan Baluchistan is Nimroz, south of Helmand, Kandahar and south-west of Farah province of Afghanistan. **Afghan Baluchistan** has an area of approximately (70,000 km²). It became part of Afghanistan after the Perso-Baluch Boundary was drawn.

History

The Baluch are an Iranian ethnic group that numbers around 200,000 in Afghanistan. The main Baloch areas located in Balochistan province in Pakistan and Sistan and Baluchistan province of Iran. Many also live in southern Afghanistan. They are most likely an offshoot of the Kurds and reached Afghanistan sometime between 1000 and 1300 BCE. Mainly pastoral and desert dwellers, the Baluch are Sunni Muslim.^[1] The Baluch population in Afghanistan number approximately 200,000 and Brahui also approximately 200,000. The majority of the Baluch and Brahui people live in southern Afghanistan. The Baluch are mostly settled in Nimruz and Farah provinces. The Brahui mainly inhabit Kandahar province. In Helmand, the Baluch and Brahui intermingle. Baluchs in other parts of Afghanistan speak Pashto. During the Soviet war in Afghanistan and Afghan Civil War (1989-1992) many Pashtuns settled in northern parts of **Afghan Baluchistan**.

References

- [1] Demographics of Afghanistan



Sistan and Baluchestan Province

Sistan and Baluchestan Province ناتس‌چولب و ناتسی‌س ناتسا — Province —	
	
Ghal'eh Sab, Saravan.	
	
Location of Sistan and Baluchestan within Iran	
Coordinates: 29°29′33″N 60°52′01″E	
Country	 Iran
Capital	Zahedan
Counties	14
Area	
- Total	181785 km ² (70187.6 sq mi)
Population (2006-10-28) ^[1]	
- Total	2,405,742
- Density	unknown operator: u',/km² (/sq mi)
Time zone	IRST (UTC+03:30)

- Summer (DST)	IRST (UTC+04:30)
Main language(s)	Baluchi Persian Brahui

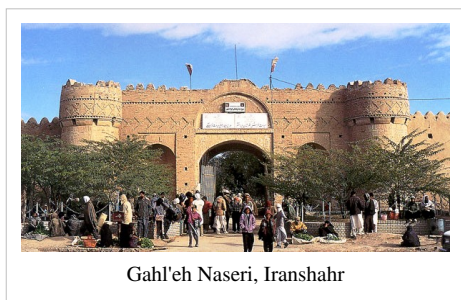
Sistan and Baluchestan (Persian: *Sistān wa Balūchestān*) is one of the 30 provinces of Iran. It is in the southeast of the country, bordering Pakistan and Afghanistan and its capital is Zahedan.

The province is the largest in Iran, with an area of 181,785 km² and a population of 2.4 million. The counties of the province are Chabahar, Dalgan, Hirmand, Iranshahr, Khash, Konarak, Nikshahr, Saravan, Sarbaz, Soran, Zabol, Zaboli, Zahedan and Zehak.

The population comprises Sunni Muslim Baluchis and Shi'a Persian Sistanis.

Geography and culture

The province comprises two sections, *Sistan* in the north and *Baluchestan* in the south. The combined Sistan & Baluchestan province today accounts for one of the driest regions of Iran with a slight increase in rainfall from east to west, and an obvious rise in humidity in the coastal regions. The province is subject to seasonal winds from different directions, the most important of which are the 120-day wind of Sistan known as *Levar*, the *Qousse* wind, the seventh (*Gav-kosh*) wind, the *Nambi* or south wind, the *Hooshak* wind, the humid and seasonal winds of the Indian Ocean, the North or (*Gurich*) wind and the western (*Gard*) wind.



In the south, east and west of *Sistān* and *Balūchestān*, the people are mostly *Balōch* and speak the Baluchi language. The name *Balūchestān* means "Land of the *Balōchi*" in Persian language. Similarly, the Persian language name *Sistān* comes from the Old Persian *Sakastāna*, meaning "Land of the *Sakas*".

Many scholars, orators, and literary personalities have sprung up from this part of Iran, amongst which are the reputed Farrokhi sistani, Ya'qub bin Laith as-Saffar and Rostam. Ayatollah Sistani is also from

Sistān; though he currently resides in Najaf, Iraq.

History

In the epigraphs of Bistoon and Persepolis, Sistan is mentioned as one of the eastern territories of Darius the Great. The name Sistan, as mentioned above, is derived from Saka (also sometimes *Saga*, or *Sagastan*), one of the Aryan tribes that had taken control over this area in the year 128 BCE. During the Arsacid Dynasty (248 BC to 224 CE), the province became the seat of Suren-Pahlav Clan. From the Sassanid period till the early Islamic period, Sistan flourished considerably.

During the reign of Ardashir I of Persia, Sistan came under the jurisdiction of the Sassanids, and in 644CE, the Arab Muslims gained control as the Persian empire was in its final moments of collapsing.

During the reign of the second caliph of Islam, this territory was conquered by the Arabs and an Arab commander was assigned as governor. The famous Persian ruler Ya'qub-i Laith Saffari, whose descendants dominated this area for many centuries, later became governor of this province. In 916 CE, Baluchestan was ruled by the Daylamids and thereafter the Seljuqids, when it became a part of Kerman. Dynasties such as the Saffarids, Samanids, Qaznavids, and Seljuqids, also ruled over this territory.

In 1508 CE, Shah Ismail I of the Safavid dynasty conquered Sistan, and during the reign of Nader Shah there was further turmoil.

Baluchestan has always gone by two ancient names, the *Maga/Maka* (which through the passage of time it changed to *Mokran / Makran*), and *Godar* (from the Bactrian language (Pashto) from which the Greeks derived *Gedrosia* and which, through the passage of time, changed to Gwadar). Both names still survive inside the Pakistan administered part of Baluchestan today.

Sistan and Baluchestan today

The province today is the most underdeveloped, desolate, and poorest of Iran's provinces. The government of Iran has been trying to reverse this situation by implementing new plans such as creating the Chabahar Free Trade-Industrial Zone.

Colleges and universities

1. University of Sistan and Baluchestan
2. Chabahar Maritime University
3. Zabol University
4. Islamic Azad University of Iranshahr
5. Islamic Azad University of Zahedan [2]
6. Zahedan University of Medical Sciences [3]
7. Zabol University of Medical Sciences
8. International University of Chabahar
9. Iranshar University



The southern coasts of the province along the Gulf of Oman.

Publications

A number of Iranian scholars have published their works on the cultural and social issues of Balochistan of Iran such as Dr. Iraj Afshar Sistani, Dr. Azim Shahbukhsh, Ghasem Siasar, and Abdolvodod Sepahi. On political issues several major works have been done by Professor Selig Harrison and Dr. Taj Mohammad Berissiq. However, on the politics of Balochistan after the Islamic Revolution of 1979, two substantial studies have been carried out by Dr. Mohammad Hassan Hossinbour and Dr. Ahmad Reza Taheri.

References

- [1] Provinces of Iran (<http://www.statoids.com/uir.html>)
 [2] <http://www.iauzah.ac.ir>
 [3] <http://www.zdmu.ac.ir>

External links

- Chabahar Free Trading Zone, Sistan and Baluchistan (<http://www.chabaharfz.com/>)
- Chris Zambelis, "Insurrection in Iranian Balochistan," ([http://www.jamestown.org/programs/gta/single/?tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=4648&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=167&no_cache=1](http://www.jamestown.org/programs/gta/single/?tx_ttnews[tt_news]=4648&tx_ttnews[backPid]=167&no_cache=1)) *Jamestown Foundation*, Vol. 6, Iss. 1, 11 January 2008.
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Balochi music

Balochi music (or **Baluchi music**) refers to music performed by the Baloch people in Sistan and Baluchestan Province an eastern province in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Balochistan, a western province in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, southern Oman, some parts of Afghanistan and Middle East. Baluchi music is very rich and played with varieties of traditional instruments. Baluchi music is traditionally sung in both Baluchi and in Brahui. The Baluchi music derives from its roots in ancient Persian music. Due to their demographics and strong cultural values, the Baluch people have been able to keep their rich traditional heritage alive. The art of playing double flute is traditional to Baluch and can be seen in many parts of present-day Baluch geography.

Origin

Folk music has always played a great role in Baluchi traditions. The Baluchi music and instruments belong to the same branch of Persic from prevailing further in the 21st century. However, a Swedish folk band Golbang has made achievements in introducing Baluchi folk music in the western world.

Major instruments

The instruments used in Baluchi music can also be found throughout modern day Kurdistan, Iran, Afghanistan and present day occupied Baluchestan. The most commonly used instruments in Baluchi folk music are Tanbur, long-necked lutes. Lutes have been present in Mesopotamia since the Akkadian era, or the third millennium BCE. Dohol a large cylindrical drum with two skin heads, it is the principal accompaniment for the Surna an ancient Iranian woodwind instrument that dates back to the Achaemenid Dynasty (550-330 BCE). Ney which is also commonly played with using single or double flutes. Suroz, a Baluchi folk violin is also commonly played. Other Baluchi musical instruments include: Tar, Saz, and others.

Traditional Baluch dances

Dances performed by Baluch people:

Do-Chapi

An ancient Persian dance mostly performed by forming a circle by a group of people, dancing and clapping. Do-Chapi almost always includes Surna and Dohol.

Lewa

Lewa is also a Baluchi dance performed mostly by a group of people in a circle with hand movements. Lewa almost always includes a Surna and Dohol.

Baluchi music composers and performers

- MULLA KAMALAN
- Faiz muhammad (Faizok)
- Mulla Musa
- Mulla Ghulam qader
- Qadir Bakhsh (Qadok)
- Mulla Mazar
- Amina Tuti
- Noor Khan Bizenjo
- Noor Mohammad Noral
- Arif Baloch
- Akhtar Channal Zehri
- Ali Reza Askani
- Asim Baloch
- Qasim Gazichi
- Bakshi Baloch
- Saeed Borhanzahi
- Shah Jaan Dawoodi
- Noor Mohammad Nooral

Listen Balochi Music Performers

- Mulla Kamalan (<http://www.balochmultimedia.com/2002/11/mulla-kamalan-download-page.html>)
- Noor Mhommad Nooral(<http://www.balochmultimedia.com/2009/02/noor-mhommad-nooral-download-page.html>)
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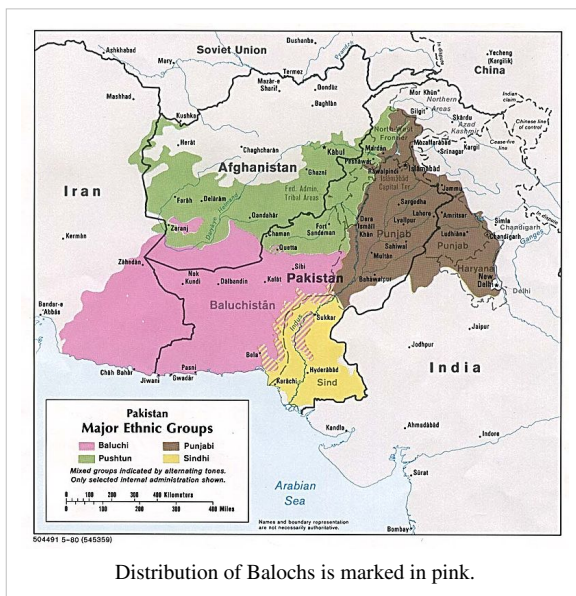
Baloch Multimedia ^[1]

[1] <http://www.balochmultimedia.com>

Balochistan conflict

The **Balochistan conflict** is an ongoing conflict between Baloch nationalists and the government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan over Balochistan, the country's largest province.^[1] Recently, separatists have also clashed with Islamic Republic of Iran over its respective Baloch region, which borders Pakistan. Pakistan has often alleged the rebels are supported by rival India, which has been denied. Shortly after Pakistan's creation in 1947, the Army of the Islamic Republic had to subdue insurgents based in Kalat from attempting to secede in 1948 and 1958. The movement gained momentum during the 1960s, and amid consistent political disorder, the government ordered a military operation into the region in 1973, assisted by Iran, and inflicted heavy casualties on the separatists. The movement was largely quelled after the imposition of martial law in 1977, after which Balochistan witnessed significant development. After insurgency groups again mushroomed in the 1990s and 2000s, the 2001 invasion of Afghanistan and the war in North-West Pakistan exacerbated the conflict, most recently manifested in the killings of non-Baloch settlers in the province by separatists since 2006.

Area of dispute



- Sardars (Tribal chiefs)

First conflict 1948 (led by Prince Abdul karim khan)

In April 1948, Baloch nationalists claim that the central government sent the Pakistan army, which allegedly forced Mir Ahmed Yar Khan to give up his state, Kalat. Kalat was a landlocked British protectorate that comprised roughly 22%–23% of Balochistan. Mir Ahmed Yar Khan signed an accession agreement ending Kalat's de facto independence. His brother, Prince Abdul Karim Khan, was a powerful governor of a section of Kalat, a position that he was removed from after accession. He decided to initiate an insurgency against Pakistan.^[3] On the night of May 16, 1948 Prince Abdul Karim Khan initiated a separatist movement against the Pakistani government. He conducted guerrilla warfare based in Afghanistan against the Pakistan army.^[4]

The prince invited the leading members of nationalist political parties—the Kalat State National Party, the Baloch League, and the Baloch National Workers Party — to join him in the struggle for the creation of an independent "Greater Balochistan."

Historical Balochistan comprised the Balochistan region. Its western region was the southern part of Sistan o Baluchestan province, Iran. In the east was Pakistani Balochistan. In the north was the Helmand province of Afghanistan. The Gulf of Oman formed its southern border. Although historical Balochistan is the largest (44% of the country's area) region of Pakistan, it is the least populated (only 5% of the population) and the least developed area.^[2]

Main characters

There are four distinct parties involved and affected by this conflict:

- Central government of Pakistan (since 1948)
- Government of Iran (since 2003)
- People of the region

Second conflict 1958–59 (led by Nawab Nowroz Khan)

Nawab Nowroz Khan took up arms in resistance to the One Unit policy, which decreased government representation for tribal leaders. He and his followers started a guerrilla war against Pakistan. Noroz Khan & followers were charged with treason and arrested and confined in Hyderabad jail. Five of his family members (sons and nephews) were subsequently hanged under charges of aiding murder of Pakistani troops and treason. Nawab Nowroz Khan later died in captivity.^[5]

Third conflict 1963–69 (led by Nawab Khair Baksh Marri)

After the second conflict, the Federal government sent the Army to build new military bases in the key conflict areas of Balochistan in order to resist further chaos. Nawab Khair Baksh Marri appointed an unknown shero Marri to lead like-minded militants in guerrilla warfare by creating their own insurgent bases spread out over 45,000 miles (72,000 km) of land, from the Mengal tribal area in the south to the Marri and Bugti tribal areas in the north. Their goal was to force Pakistan to share revenue generated from the Sui gas fields with the tribal leaders. The insurgents bombed railway tracks and ambushed convoys. The Army retaliated by destroying vast areas of the Marri tribe's land. This insurgency ended in 1969 and the Baloch separatists agreed to a ceasefire. Yahya Khan abolished the "One Unit" policy.^[6] This eventually led to the recognition of Balochistan as the fourth province of West Pakistan (present-day Pakistan) in 1970, containing all the Balochistani princely states, the High Commissioners Province and Gwadar, an 800 km² coastal area purchased by the Pakistani Government from Oman.

Fourth conflict 1973–77 (led by Nawab Khair Baksh Marri)

In 1972, major political parties from a wide spectrum of political ideology united against the government of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (the then President of Pakistan) and formed the National Awami Party (NAP). They demanded more representation for the ethnic Baloch in the government. This allegedly did not sit well with Bhutto's approach, as he did not want his party, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), to face strong opposition in Balochistan and North-West Frontier Province (NWFP, now Khyber Pakhtunkhwa).

In February 1973, in the presence of news media in Islamabad, the police opened a consignment of Iraqi diplomatic pouches containing arms, ammunition and guerrilla warfare literature. The Pakistani intelligence agencies claimed these arms were en route to the Baloch (Marri) insurgents of Balochistan, contrary to Iraqi claims that the materials were meant for insurgents in Iran. Citing treason, President Bhutto dismissed the provincial governments of Balochistan and NWFP and imposed martial law in those provinces.^[7] Dismissal of the provincial governments led to armed insurgency. Khair Baksh Marri formed the Balochistan People's Liberation Front (BPLF), which led large numbers of Marri and Mengal tribesmen into guerrilla warfare against the central government.^[8] According to some authors, the Pakistani military lost 300 to 400 soldiers during the conflict with the Balochi separatists, while between 7,300 and 9,000 Balochi militants and civilians were killed.^[9] Bhutto was deposed by General Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq in 1977, and the conflict formally ended when new martial law administrator General Rahimuddin Khan declared general amnesty for belligerents willing to give up arms. Shortly thereafter, Rahimuddin oversaw a complete military withdrawal. He ruled Balochistan for a decade, during which Balochistan was the most stable, economically and politically, in all of its history.

Fifth conflict 2004 – to date (led by Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti and Mir Balach Marri)

In 2005, the Baluch political leaders Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti and Mir Balach Marri presented a 15-point agenda to the Pakistan government. Their stated demands included greater control of the province's resources and a Moratorium on the construction of military bases.^[10]

Some political party members, students, doctors and tribal leaders are alleged to have been detained by government security forces, many disappearing for years. The majority is still missing, mainly due to their links to foreign agencies and terrorist activities. As of 2008 the BLA has also claimed responsibility for conducting systematic ethnic genocide against unarmed Punjabi civilians, or people with Punjabi blood, most of whom are fourth or fifth generation inhabitants of Balochistan. Most of the victims are educators, lecturers, barbers and doctors and are said to be spies by the BLA. The ethnic genocide against Punjabis has claimed almost 500 victims. When Nawab Bugti's son, Talal Akbar Bugti, was asked during a visit to Rawalpindi by a Punjabi lawyer about Punjabi killings in Balochistan at the hands of Baloch people, he refused to give a statement, saying that "some people don't want our province to progress and our people to get educated so they are killing our guests, our teachers and our brothers. How can we kill Punjabis knowing that the Baloch population in Punjab is larger than the Baloch population in Balochistan." In response to another question he said, "we have huge mineral wealth and the world is hungry, if we will have our own engineers and researchers we can utilise our resources for our benefit without begging western companies to explore and develop them. This is what is the point. So the gold, copper and other mining companies in those countries are sponsoring this. We can never do this, we are patriotic to Pakistan, we need your support and we will prove it." Nonetheless, hatred in Punjab for Baloch is increasing. According to a Balochi doctor based in Lahore, "People used to be very friendly when I first came here in 1998 and remained so until 2008. They even expressed their grievances on Bugti's murder and called it a crime, but now they look at me with mistrust. Now my children feel loneliness as their classfelowes don't talk to them. The insurgents in Balochistan are shooting down two birds with one arrow Punjabi genocide in Balochistan might lead to a Baloch genocide in Punjab. Thus the separation of these two provinces from Pakistan will destroy Pakistan as there would be no link between Khyber-Pakhtunkhawa and Sindh."

On 15 December 2005, Inspector-General of Frontier Corps Maj Gen Shujaat Zamir Dar and his deputy Brig Salim Nawaz (the current IGFC) were wounded after shots were fired at their helicopter in Balochistan province. The provincial interior secretary later said that "both of them were wounded in the leg but both are in stable condition." The two men had been visiting Kohlu, about 220 km (135 miles) south-east of Quetta, when their aircraft came under fire. The helicopter landed safely.^[11]

In August 2006, Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti, 79 years old, was killed in fighting with the Pakistan Army in which at least 60 Pakistani soldiers and 7 officers were killed. He was charged by Pakistan's government of a series of bomb blasts, killings of the people he professed to protect (the Baloch in a series of bomb blasts and tribal genocide against rivaling Baloch tribes in Bugti territory) and the rocket attack on the President Pervez Musharraf.^[12]

In April 2009, Baloch National Movement president Ghulam Mohammed Baloch and two other nationalist leaders (Lala Munir and Sher Muhammad), were seized from a small legal office and were allegedly "handcuffed, blindfolded and hustled into a waiting pickup truck which is in still use of intelligence forces in front of their lawyer and neighboring shopkeepers." The gunmen were allegedly speaking in Persian (a national language of neighboring Afghanistan and Iran) Five days later on April 8 their bodies, "riddled with bullets" were found in a commercial area. The BLA claims Pakistani forces were behind the killings, though international experts have deemed it odd that the Pakistani forces, would be careless enough to allow the bodies to be found so easily and 'light Balochistan on fire' (Herald) if they were truly responsible.^[13] The discovery of the bodies sparked "rioting and weeks of strikes, demonstrations and civil resistance" in cities and towns around Balochistan.^[14] (See Turbat killings).

On August 12, 2009, Khan of Kalat Mir Suleiman Dawood declared himself ruler of Balochistan and formally made announcement of a Council for Independent Balochistan. The Council's claimed domain includes "Baloch of Iran",

as well as Pakistani Balochistan, but does not include Afghani Baloch regions, and the Council contains "all separatist leaders including Nawabzada Bramdagh Bugti." He claims that "the UK had a moral responsibility to raise the issue of Balochistan's illegal occupation at international level."^[15]

Foreign support for Baluch rebels

Pakistan has repeatedly accused India of supporting the Baluch rebels in order to destabilize the country. India has however categorically denied the allegations on its part, stating that no concrete evidence has been provided. The facts are controversial, but Pakistan still continues to insist.^[16] Iran has repeatedly accused America of supporting Jundallah. After his capture, Jundallah leader Abdulmalek Rigi confirmed these allegations. The US has however denied this.^[1]

Baluchi rebels in Pakistan are said to receive major support from the Taliban in Afghanistan.^[17] In the 1980s the CIA, the Iraqi Intelligence Service, Pakistani Sunni extremist group Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan and the Mujahedin e-Kalq all supported a Baluchi tribal uprising against Iran.^[1]

The biggest attacks of the terrorist group Jundallah in Iran

- 2007 Zahedan bombings: 18 people were killed.
- 2009 Zahedan bombing: 20 people were killed.
- 2009 Pishin bombing: 43 people were killed.
- July 2010 Zahedan bombings: 27 people were killed.
- 2010 Chabahar suicide bombing: 38 people were killed.

Among the deaths in the Pishin bombings were two Iranian Revolutionary Guards generals: Noor Ali Shooshtari, the deputy commander of the Revolutionary Guards' ground forces and Rajab Ali Mhammadzadeh, the Revolutionary Guards' Sistan and Baluchistan provincial commander.^[18]

Development

Steps are being taken for industrialization of the province and industrial zones are planned along the new Gawadar-Karachi highway. This development is envisaged to bring accelerated progress in the future for the Baloch. Steps are also being taken to boost Balochistan's small agricultural sector and to provide incentives to Balochi farmers. Progress in this sector has been repeatedly restricted by the BLA. On the third of May 2004 Three Chinese engineers working on a hydropower project that would enable irrigation for poor Baloch farmers as part of Pakistani government's initiatives to develop Baloch agricultural capacity were killed while another 11 injured in a car bomb attack by BLA. China called back her engineers working on the project in Balochistan. The progress in the hydro-power sector has been slow since then. However, the people of the region have been largely forced to maintain a nomadic lifestyle due to extreme poverty, illiteracy and inability to respond to changing modern environment.^[19] The indigenous people are continuously threatened by war and other means of oppression which has resulted in loss of thousands of innocent lives for many years.^{[20] [21] [22]} Presently, according to Amnesty International, Baluch activists, politicians and student leaders are among those that are being targeted in forced disappearances, abductions, arbitrary arrests and cases of torture and other ill-treatment.^[23] The resources of the local inhabitants such as natural gas, minerals, oceans and others have been used to fulfill the energy demands for the industrialization of Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Due to these circumstances, the local inhabitants of the region remain incapable of supporting infrastructure. Skill is imported from other regions, thus undermining the local inhabitants even further. Previously, Baluch and Sindhi people had been the indigenous people of the city Karachi in Sindh but after the partition of India large number of immigrants were settled in Karachi thus isolating the local inhabitants to ghettos known for its low standard of life while more advanced locations such as Defence are developed for military and religious elite. The locals are often provided madrasahs as a source of education funded

by foreigner and Pakistani religious organizations in order to distort the Baluch perspective and encourage fundamental Islamic ideologies for which the Baloch people are completely new and openly reject such values.^[24] The land of local inhabitants are reported to have been sold to Arabs to strengthen Pakistan's relations with its allies.^{[25] [26]} The Karachi city has been playing a key role as a financial hub for Pakistan as a seaport and continuous to be a home for ethnic and sectarian violence while indigenous people were traditionally secular.^{[27] [28] [29] [30]} These events are not reported in the media of their modern geography and rejection is met with harsh Islamic laws and other oppressive tactics. Mir Suleiman Dawood claims that the people in Balochistan remain deeply resentful of Pakistan's policies in the region and he, apart from other, rather militant, Baloch nationalist organizations have openly called for India's assistance in Balochistan's separation from Pakistan. On August 12, 2009, Khan of Kalat Mir Suleiman Dawood declared himself ruler of Balochistan and formally made announcement of a Council for Independent Balochistan. The Council's claimed domain includes "Baloch of Iran", apart from Pakistani Balochistan, but does not include Afghani Baloch regions, and the Council contains "all separatist leaders including Nawabzada Bramdagh Bugti."^[31]

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External links

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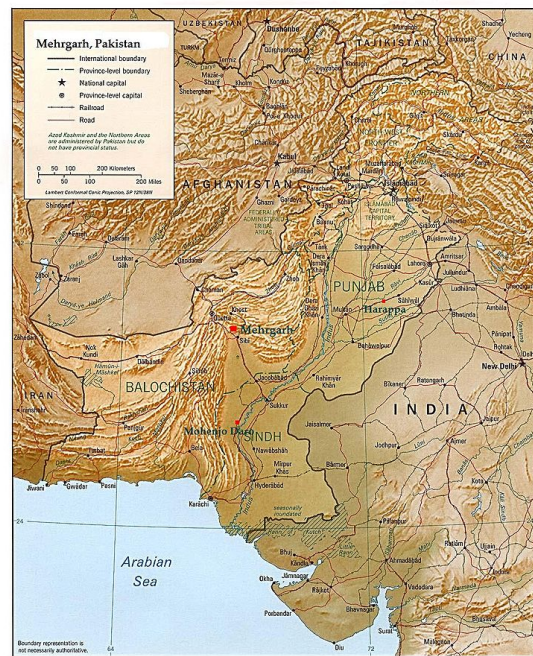
Mehrgarh

Mehrgarh, (Urdu: مہرگاہ, Brahui: **Mehrgarh**) one of the most important Neolithic (7000 BC to c. 2500 BC) sites in archaeology, lies on what is now the "Kachi plain" of today's Balochistan, Pakistan. It is one of the earliest sites with evidence of farming (wheat and barley) and herding (cattle, sheep and goats) in South Asia."^[1] .

The site is located near the Bolan Pass, to the west of the Indus River valley and between the present-day Pakistani cities of Quetta, Kalat and Sibi. Mehrgarh was discovered in 1974 by an archaeological team directed by French archaeologist Jean-François Jarrige, and was excavated continuously between 1974 and 1986. The earliest settlement at Mehrgarh—in the northeast corner of the 495-acre (2.00 km²) site—was a small farming village dated between 7000 BCE–5500 BCE.

Lifestyle and technology

Early Mehrgarh residents lived in mud brick houses, stored their grain in granaries, fashioned tools with local copper ore, and lined their large basket containers with bitumen. They cultivated six-row barley, einkorn and emmer wheat, jujubes and dates, and herded sheep, goats and cattle. Residents of the later period (5500 BCE to 2600 BCE) put much effort into crafts, including flint knapping, tanning, bead production, and metal working. The site was occupied continuously until about 2600 BCE.^[2]



A relief map of Pakistan showing Mehrgarh.

In April 2006, it was announced in the scientific journal *Nature* that the oldest (and first *early Neolithic*) evidence in human history for the drilling of teeth *in vivo* (*i.e.* in a living person) was found in Mehrgarh.^[3]

Archaeological significance

Mehrgarh is now seen as a precursor to the Indus Valley Civilization. "Discoveries at Mehrgarh changed the entire concept of the Indus civilization," according to Ahmad Hasan Dani, professor emeritus of archaeology at Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad, "There we have the whole sequence, right from the beginning of settled village life."

According to Catherine Jarrige of the Centre for Archaeological Research Indus Balochistan at the Musée Guimet in Paris:

"...the Kachi plain and in the Bolan basin (are) situated at the Bolan peak pass, one of the main routes connecting southern Afghanistan, eastern Iran, the Balochistan hills and the Indus River valley. This area of rolling hills is thus located on the western edge of the Indus valley, where, around 2500 BCE, a large urban civilization emerged at the same time as those of Mesopotamia and the ancient Egyptian empire. For the first time in the Indian subcontinent, a continuous sequence of dwelling-sites has been established from 7000 BCE to 500 BCE, (as a result of the) explorations in Pirak from 1968 to 1974; in Mehrgarh from 1975 to 1985; and of Nausharo from 1985 to 1996."

The chalcolithic people of Mehrgarh also had contacts with contemporaneous cultures in northern Afghanistan, northeastern Iran and southern central Asia.^[4]



Early farming village in Mehrgarh, c. 7000 BCE, with houses built with mud bricks. (Musée Guimet, Paris).

Mehrgarh Period I

Archaeologists divide the occupation at the site into several periods. Mehrgarh Period I 7000 BCE–5500 BCE, was Neolithic and aceramic (i.e., without the use of pottery). The earliest farming in the area was developed by semi-nomadic people using plants such as wheat and barley and animals such as sheep, goats and cattle. The settlement was established with simple mud buildings with four internal subdivisions. Numerous burials have been found, many with elaborate goods such as baskets, stone and bone tools, beads, bangles, pendants and occasionally animal sacrifices, with more goods left with burials of males. Ornaments of sea shell, limestone, turquoise, lapis lazuli, sandstone and polished copper have been found, along with simple figurines of women and animals. Sea shells from far sea shore and lapis lazuli found far in Badakshan, Afghanistan shows good contact with those areas. A single ground stone axe was discovered in a burial, and several more were obtained from the surface. These ground stone axes are the earliest to come from a stratified context in the South Asia.

In 2001, archaeologists studying the remains of two men from Mehrgarh made the discovery that the people of the Indus Valley Civilization, from the early Harappan periods, had knowledge of proto-dentistry. Later, in April 2006, it was announced in the scientific journal *Nature* that the oldest (and first *early Neolithic*) evidence for the drilling of human teeth *in vivo* (i.e. in a living person) was found in Mehrgarh. According to the authors, their discoveries point to a tradition of proto-dentistry in the early farming cultures of that region. "Here we describe eleven drilled molar crowns from nine adults discovered in a Neolithic graveyard in Pakistan that dates from 7,500 to 9,000 years ago. These findings provide evidence for a long tradition of a type of proto-dentistry in an early farming culture."^[3]

Mehrgarh Period II and Period III

Mehrgarh Period II 5500 BCE–4800 BCE and Merhgarh Period III 4800 BCE–3500 BCE were ceramic Neolithic (i.e., pottery was now in use) and later chalcolithic. Much evidence of manufacturing activity has been found and more advanced techniques were used. Glazed faience beads were produced and terracotta figurines became more detailed. Figurines of females were decorated with paint and had diverse hairstyles and ornaments. Two flexed burials were found in period II with a covering of red ochre on the body. The amount of burial goods decreased over time, becoming limited to ornaments and with more goods left with burials of females. The first button seals were produced from terracotta and bone and had geometric designs. Technologies included stone and copper drills, updraft kilns, large pit kilns and copper melting crucibles. There is further evidence of long-distance trade in period II: important as an indication of this is the discovery of several beads of lapis lazuli—originally from Badakshan. Mehrgarh Periods II and III are also contemporaneous with an expansion of the settled populations of the borderlands at the western edge of South Asia, including the establishment of settlements like Rana Ghundai and Sheri Khan Tarakai.



A figurine from Mehrgarh, c. 3000 BCE. (Musée Guimet, Paris)

Mehrgarh Period VII

Somewhere between 2600 BCE and 2000 BCE, the city seems to have been largely abandoned, which is when the Indus Valley Civilisation was in its middle stages of development.

Common variant spellings

- Mehrgarh is also spelled as Mehrgahr, Merhgarh or Merhgahr.
- Kachi plain is also spelled as Kacchi plain, Katchi plain.

Notes

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