

## CFR Resources

Eleanor Albert, "[Southern Asia's Nuclear Power.](#)"

A brief, readable summary of the nuclear arsenals and policies of India, Pakistan, and China. (2500 words)

Zachary Laub, "[The Taliban in Afghanistan.](#)"

A brief, readable introduction to the Taliban. (1,900 words)

## Articles

Maria Abi-Habib, "[How China Got Sri Lanka to Cough Up a Port.](#)" *New York Times*, June 25, 2018.

A close look at the Chinese-funded port at Hambantota, Sri Lanka, that ended up under Chinese control after Sri Lanka could not pay its debt, an article highlighting some of the risks to countries where China is building infrastructure as part of its Belt and Road Initiative. (4,100 words)

Prayaag Akbar, "[Caste Lives on, and On.](#)" *Aeon*, April 20, 2017.

A feature-length article on the complex and contradictory reality of caste in India today. (4,600 words)

David L. Chandler, "[Deadly Heat Waves Could Hit South Asia This Century.](#)" *MIT News*, August 2, 2017.

A technical description of a study of excessive heat in South Asia, including a video with statistics and detailed maps. (1,100 words)

Max Fisher, "[India, Long at Odds With Pakistan, May Be Rethinking Nuclear First Strikes.](#)" *New York Times*, March 31, 2017.

A thorough analysis of nuclear strategy in India and Pakistan. (1,700 words)

Paul Salopek, "[On the Ancient Silk Road, a Walk Shadowed by a Mystery.](#)" *National Geographic Magazine*, December 2017.

An outstanding piece of travel journalism from a writer who walked the route of the Silk Road through Central Asia, providing a window into everyday life across the region. (4,100 words)

# Classroom Reading List: South and Central Asia

Somini Sengupta, "[In India, Summer Heat May Soon Be Literally Unbearable](#)," *New York Times*, July 17, 2018.

A news article describing how, due to climate change, parts of India are becoming simply too hot for human habitation. (2,000 words)

"[The Legacy of Indian Migration to European Colonies](#)," *Economist*, September 2, 2017.

A wide-ranging look at the colonial era, when Indians migrated throughout the British Empire as indentured workers, and how the descendants of those migrants fare today. (1,900 words)

## Nonfiction Books

Alyssa Ayres, *Our Time Has Come* (2018).

Written by a former State Department official and current fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, a thoughtful analysis of how India's growing influence will change its role on the world stage. (360 pages)

Gary Bass, *The Blood Telegram* (2013).

The detailed story of how U.S. foreign policy officials in Washington stood by as Pakistan committed atrocities in the war that would eventually lead to Bangladeshi independence. (537 pages)

Katherine Boo, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity* (2012).

An award-winning account of life in Mumbai slums, based on years of on-the-ground reporting, that looks at many of the major changes to Indian society through the lives of a few families. (288 pages)

Steve Coll, *Directorate S* (2018).

From a New Yorker staff writer, the definitive history of U.S. involvement in Afghanistan and Pakistan since 2001. Coll wrote about the earlier years of U.S.-Afghanistan relations in his book *Ghost Wars*. (784 pages)

Mira Kamdar, *India in the 21st Century: What Everyone Needs to Know* (2018).

A concise introduction to all aspects of modern India in a question-and-answer format. (264 pages)

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Somini Sengupta, *The End of Karma* (2017).

The story of a rapidly changing society, told through the lives of a diverse group of young people, by the India bureau chief of the New York Times. (256 pages)

Shashi Tharoor, *Inglorious Empire* (2018).

From an Indian diplomat-turned-politician, an account of the British rule of India that forcefully argues that colonialism benefited only the British at the expense of Indians. (336 pages)

## Literature

Mohsin Hamid, *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* (2007).

A short novel about a Pakistani man living the United States whose worldview is upended by the 9/11 terrorist attacks. (191 pages)

Khaled Hosseini, *The Kite Runner* (2003).

The story of a childhood friendship set against the backdrop of Taliban-era Afghanistan. (337 pages)

Hamid Ismailov, *The Railway* (2008).

Set in a small town in Uzbekistan, a picaresque story that introduces the reader to the diversity and change that this Central Asian country saw over the course of the twentieth century. (336 pages)

Karan Mahajan, *The Association of Small Bombs* (2016).

Set in New Delhi, a novel that traces the stories of both the victims and perpetrators of a terrorist bombing. (288 pages)

Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things* (1998).

A Booker Prize-winning novel that illuminates a number of important aspects of Indian life: the caste system, family life, and political change. Readers should be aware that the book depicts incest and pedophilia. (333 pages)

Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children* (1981).

A Booker Prize-winning novel set against the backdrop of Indian independence, illuminating the country's history and culture. (536 pages)

Mukhamet Shayakhmetov, *Silent Steppe: The Memoir of a Kazakh Nomad*

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*Under Stalin* (2007).

A memoir that tells the story of the lives of Kazakh nomads under Stalin's rule. (360 pages)

## Multimedia

Richard Attenborough, *Gandhi*, 1982.

An outstanding, historically accurate biographical film of the life of Mohandas Gandhi, India's greatest advocate for independence from Britain. (191 minutes)

Michael Barbaro, "[When Facebook Rumors Incite Real Violence](#)," *The Daily, New York Times*, May 16, 2018.

The story of how social media drove ethnic tensions and led to violence in Sri Lanka. (23 minutes)

Marcelo Duhalde, Adolfo Arranz, and Marco Hernandez, "[The Five Main Projects of the Belt and Road Initiative](#)," *South China Morning Post*.

An excellent visual explainer of what China's Belt and Road Initiative is and where the various parts of the project are being built.

Ariel Nasr, "[Kabul Portraits](#)."

A series of short film portraits of six inhabitants of Kabul, Afghanistan.

## News Sources

[Times of India](#)

India's largest and oldest English-language newspaper.

[Eurasianet](#)

A nonprofit online news source based at Columbia University's Harriman Institute that focuses on the Caucasus and Central Asia.

[Daily Star](#)

The leading English-language newspaper in Bangladesh.

[Dawn](#)

Pakistan's leading English-language newspaper.

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[Tolo News](#)

The website of Afghanistan's satellite news channel.

[Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty](#)

An American-based news organization focused on the former Soviet countries.