

What's in a name?

For the etymologists out there...

“-istan” means place of, or country, or home or land, in Persian. England is Inglistan in Hindi.

Pakistan” is composed of letters taken from the **names** of people’s homelands: that is, **P**unjab, **A**fghania [North-West Frontier Province], **K**ashmir, **I**ran (or **I**slam), **S**indh, and Baluchis**Tan**. It means the land of the Paks, the spiritually pure.

Some historians say that is pure nonsense, that it consists of two words: **Pak** meaning “holy” in Persian, and **Istan**, meaning “land or place.”

Both Pakistan and Afghanistan were originally part of the British Empire. Pakistan has also been part of the Persian Empire and the Mongol Empire before Britain.

Pakistan also has the 6th largest army in the world.

The capital of Pakistan is Islamabad, which means “City of Islam.”

East Pakistan became Bangladesh in 1971.

Afghan means member of the Pashtuns, so **Afghanistan** means Land of the Pashtuns..

Excavations of prehistoric sites suggest that humans were living in what is now Afghanistan at least 50,000 years ago, and that farming communities in the area were among the earliest in the world.

The capital of Afghanistan is Kabul because it sits on the Kabul River. The official name is the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.