



GEOnotes

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The Extra Credit Opportunity of a Life Time

South Asian

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According to the text, Pakistan (under military rule) is one of the poorest countries in the world, for many reasons, including the poor environmental planning along the Porali River. But Pakistan is in the process of an economic rise (by government), which has actually been working. According to http://www.finance.gov.pk/summary/jul_jan_feb.pdf, the economy of the current fiscal year has had industrial growth (excluding sugar), a positive tax collection and monetary expansion, an unchanged stock market, and a scaled down inflation rate (which did rise though). There has been an increase in yield on the treasury bills, which helped to restore stability in the foreign exchange markets. And a large amount of workers are back in the work field, along with their buoyant exports.

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On pages 403 and 404 the text addresses the issue of child labor in South Asia. Bonded labor is a particularly cruel form of this. Many parents use their children as a form of collateral. The child's labor is used to pay off a debt incurred by the parents or sometimes even just to put food on the table. A report by the Human Rights Watch entitled THE SMALL HANDS OF SLAVERY-Bonded Child Labor in India also discusses this horrible practice.

<http://www.hrw.org/summaries/s.india969.html>

It tells the story of a ten-year-old girl working long and hard hours to pay of the equivalent of a \$17.00 debt.

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