Reading Guide for *The Age of Walls* by Tim Marshall
Chapter 5, The Indian Subcontinent

"Fences & walls are not necessary. Mostly they are manifestations of superficial thinking."

This chapter explains and analyzes the history and the political tensions primarily between India and Pakistan, but also existing between and within a variety of South Asian nations, including Bangladesh, Myanmar, Afghanistan, and Iran. India is primarily a Hindu country, and Pakistan is Mulsim, and as you'll learn the split occurred in 1947 after India won independence from Great Britain, initiating the single-largest human mass migration in recorded history, as millions fled to safety from sectarian (religious) violence. The tension between the two nations is ever-present, owing to border disputes over regions like Kashmir. As we've learned in previous chapters each country that Tim Marshall examines in this chapter is pulled and pushed by various internal forces and neighboring countries, and understanding these forces is key to understanding events developing today.

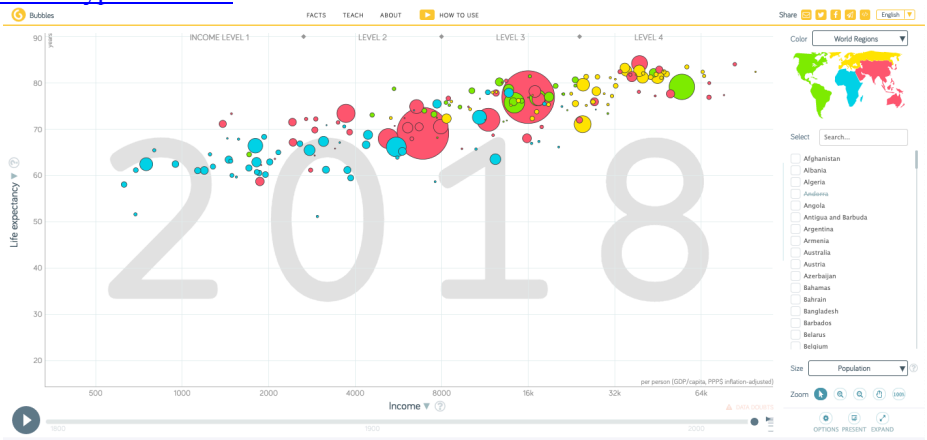
125-127 India's border fence with Bangladesh –"Primarily it's there to prevent illegal immigration."

"The divisions across the subcontinent stem partially from ***borders drawn by colonial powers***, compounded by regional religious and ethnic prejudice and political realities." (p. 127)

127-128 A brief history of the arbitrary border lines, begun after Britain relinquished control of India, and millions of people moved to be safe to avoid the bloodletting.

128-138 Bangladesh's history… India is a multi-faith democracy, but Bangladesh and Pakistan are not. Their populations fled there from India in the mass migrations after India won its independence from Great Britain in 1947.

See the moving graphic that shows the change in the life expectancy and income of Indians from 1800 to 2017 by clicking below.
https://www.gapminder.org/tools/#$state$time$value=2018;&marker$select@$country=ind&trailStartTime=1800;;;;&chart-type=bubbles



The story of illegal immigration into ***Assam state*** in northeast India … new Muslims … 1982 mass anti-Bangladeshi demonstrations. ***The Assam Accord of 1985***.

India's Prime Minister ***Narendra Modi,*** p. 134

p. 134 "Pakistan has never forgiven India for helping Bangladesh gain independence."
What is "***forward strategic depth***" and ***Bango Bhoomi***
p. 135 "Bangladesh is smaller than…Florida but home to 165 million people."
p. 137 "A crisis of mass migration."

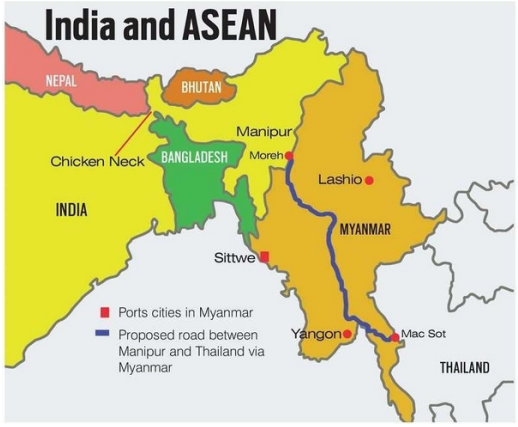
Rohingya Refugees

Naga

p. 138-140. The story of the minority ***Rohingya*** people in Myanmar.
p. 140-142 The story of the minority ***Naga*** people in Myanmar.

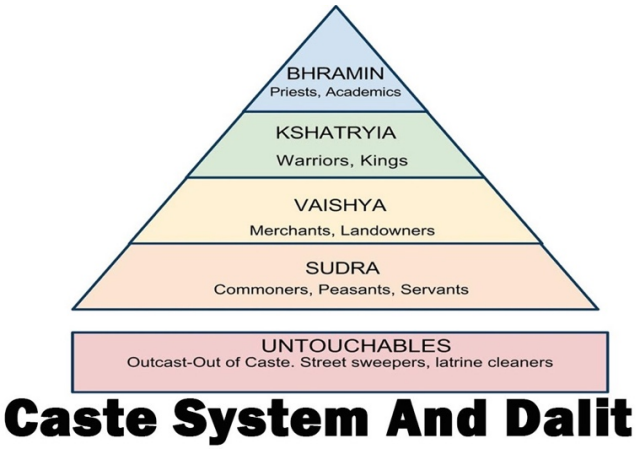
<u>The Border Walls of South Asia</u> –"fly in the face of a dream of creating a vast open trading zone…"
p. 142-147 Tim Marshall explains other border disputes with . India & Bhutan…China & India both claim ***Arunachal Pradesh*** – know what "***the chicken's neck***" is. (p. 143)

…and India & Pakistan and its longstanding dispute over ***Kashmir*** has created a "hot border." Wars have been fought over it in 1947, 1965, and 1999 (p. 143). It is "***the world's highest combat zone***."



…The Pakistan and Afghanistan border is known as ***The Durand Line,*** established by an Englishman in 1893.

…The Pakistan-Iran border, separating a largely Sunni nation & a largely Shia nation.



p. 147-152 "The horrors of the Indian Caste system … the four main categories of people … and ***the Untouchables*** … "one of the most degrading social systems on the planet." (p. 151)

"The walls around India are designed to keep people out, and those within to keep people down." (p. 152)