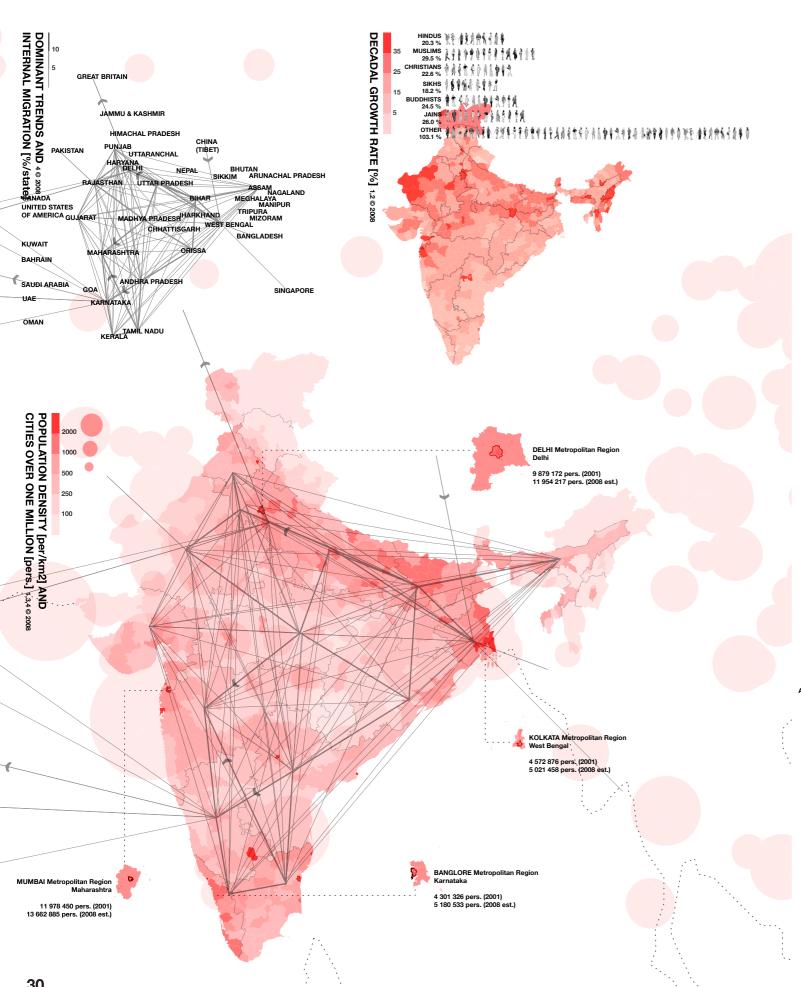
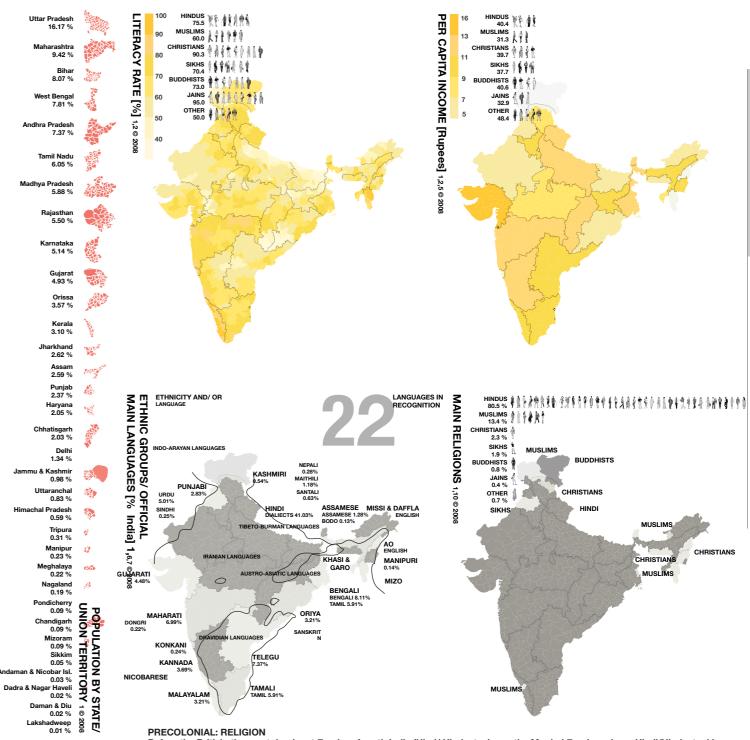
DEMOGRAPHY OF INDIA



Sources: 1 Census of India 2001, Registrar General & Census Commissioner (http://www.censusindia.gov.in/). 2 Census GIS India 2001, Census of India 2001 (http://www.censusindiamaps sources: 1 census of india 2001, Registrar General & Census Commissioner (http://www.censusindia.gov.in/). 2 census of india 2001, Census of india 2001 (http://www.censusindianaps.net/page/India_WhizMap/IndiaMap.htm). 3 Burdett, Ricky/ Sudjic, Deyan (2008): The Endless City. The Urban Age Project by the London School of Economics and Deutsche Bank's Alfred Herrhausen Society. Phaidon Press, London. 4 Srivastava, Ravi/ Sasikumar, S.K. (2003): An overview of migration in India, its impacts and key issues. Development and Pro-Poor Policy Choices in Asia, Dhaka. 5 Compare Infobase Limited: Maps of India 2008, Per Capita Income of States (2005-06). 6 Compare Infobase Limited: Maps of India 2008, Indian Languages (2001-02). 7 Schwartzberg, Joseph E. (1992): A Historical Atlas of South Asia (Reference Series/ The Association for Asian Studies). Oxford University Press, New York. 8 http://www.indiansaga.com/ languages/, download: 10. October 2008. 9 Brass, Paul R. (1994): The Politics of India since Independence (The New Cambridge History of India). Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. 10 Compare Infobase Limited: Maps of India 2008, Religions in India (2001-02). 11 Flickr Internet research, October 2008.



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Before the British, the most dominant Empire of north India (Hind/ Hindustan) was the Moghul Empire, whose Hindi/Hindustani language and script were based on the ancient Indian Sanskrit language (Devanagiri script). Based on Hindi, Arabic and Persian, Urdu (Perso-Arabic script) became the language of the Muslims and was used for official purposes under the British aswell.

COLONIAL: BUREACRACY AND POLITICAL INSTRUMENTARY

Before independence, the Muslims supported the continuation of Urdu (Perso-Arabic script) as the official language of India, while the Hindus supported Hindi - even those who didn't speak it as a native language. In order to secure Hindi's position as the sole official language of India the political leaders convinced the north Indians to claim that they speak a Hindi dialect and so different dialect speakers were put together in the Hindi speaking category by the British bureaucrats. India is called Hind in many languages and the Indians also began calling their different languages as Hindi.

POSTCOLONIAL: TRIBAL INTERPRETATION

After independence, Muslim Pakistan made Urdu its official language and Indians made Hindi as their official language, but different Hindi language speakers began demanding official recognition of their languages. Most Hindi languages are considered dialects and their status is interpreted differently. Only Punjabi has achieved recognition as an official language.

Today, one of the main political issues in Indian politics is connected to the language diversity. The central government decided to allow the state governments to pick their official languages and recognized constitutionally other languages of India. For now, the Indian constitution and its 28 states recognizes 18 Indian languages, though different states have different official languages and some of them not recognized by the central government. Only English and Hindi have official status in all states.

