Britain’s Legacy on the Indian Subcontinent

Summer Term 2025

Course requirements/expectations (for CP)

- erfolgreicher Abschluss des **Basismoduls Sprach- und Textproduktion** (Grammar BM + Academic Skills)

und

- erfolgreicher Abschluss der Veranstaltung ***Introduction to Cultural Studies*** **(GB oder US)** im Basismodul Literatur- und Kulturwissenschaft

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- regular attendance (no more than three excused absences!), preparation of all course materials and active participation
  - ➢ for missed sessions there will be a substitute task

- **Übung:** all assignments **+** written test (90 min.) OR oral discussion (20 min.)
- **Seminar:** all assignments **+** written test (120 min.) OR oral discussion (30 min.) OR 12-15-page term paper

Assignments

- answer the **guiding questions** / complete the assignments on Moodle on and using the materials for each session by Sunday evening before the respective course session
- you may miss these preparatory tasks two times
  - instead, you will then have to complete a follow-up task on the discussions in the course // the results of the questions / problems discussed in class

Written test

- essay-style exam
  - open-ended, allowing for interpretation and argumentation
  - qualitative, not focused on short factual answers

Comment and elaborate on one (Übung) or two (Seminar) of the following options (quotations, photographs, cartoon, or video clip) by relating them to our course contents.

Oral discussions

- intended as preparation/practice for your oral B.A. final exam (mündliche B.A.-Abschlussprüfung)

You are tasked with providing three (Übung) or five (Seminar) theses no later than one week before the date of your oral discussion, covering at least two different topics (= sessions) from our course. For each thesis you will have to provide at least one academic source/reference in MLA style (e.g., a journal article). At the beginning of your oral discussion, you will be informed which of your submitted theses you should present and elaborate on, followed by additional questions related to your arguments.

Term papers

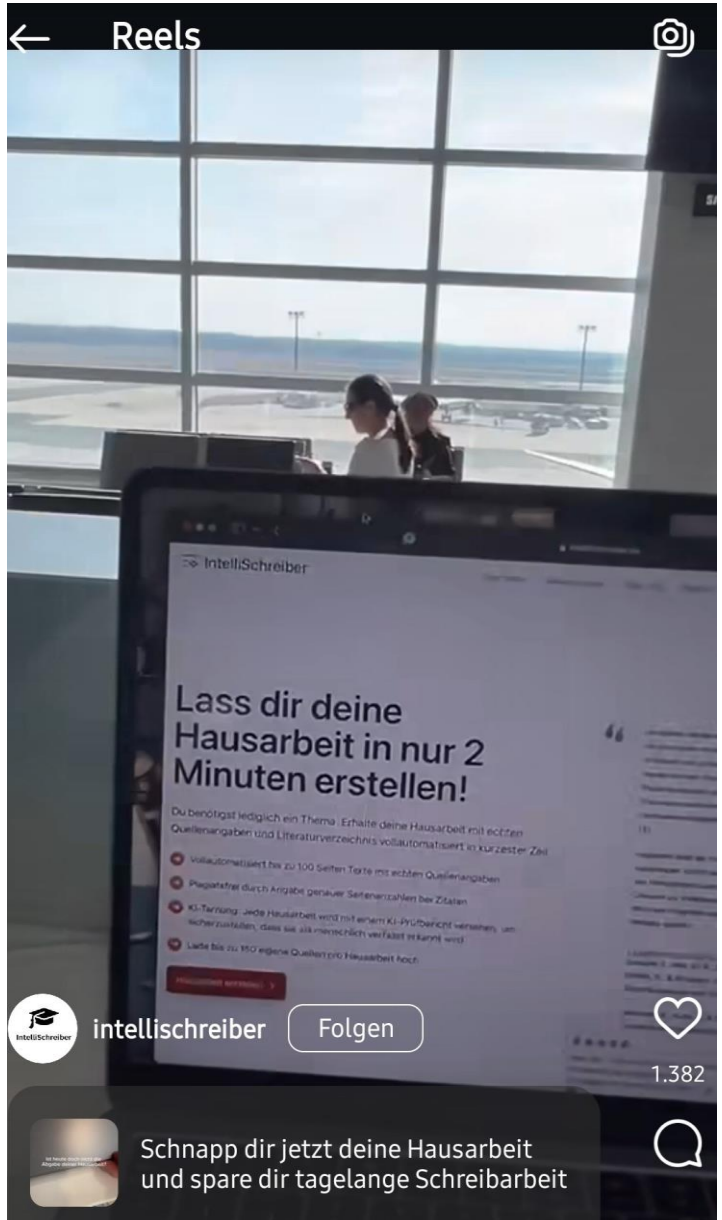
Obligatorisch sind im Verlauf der Aufbauphase …

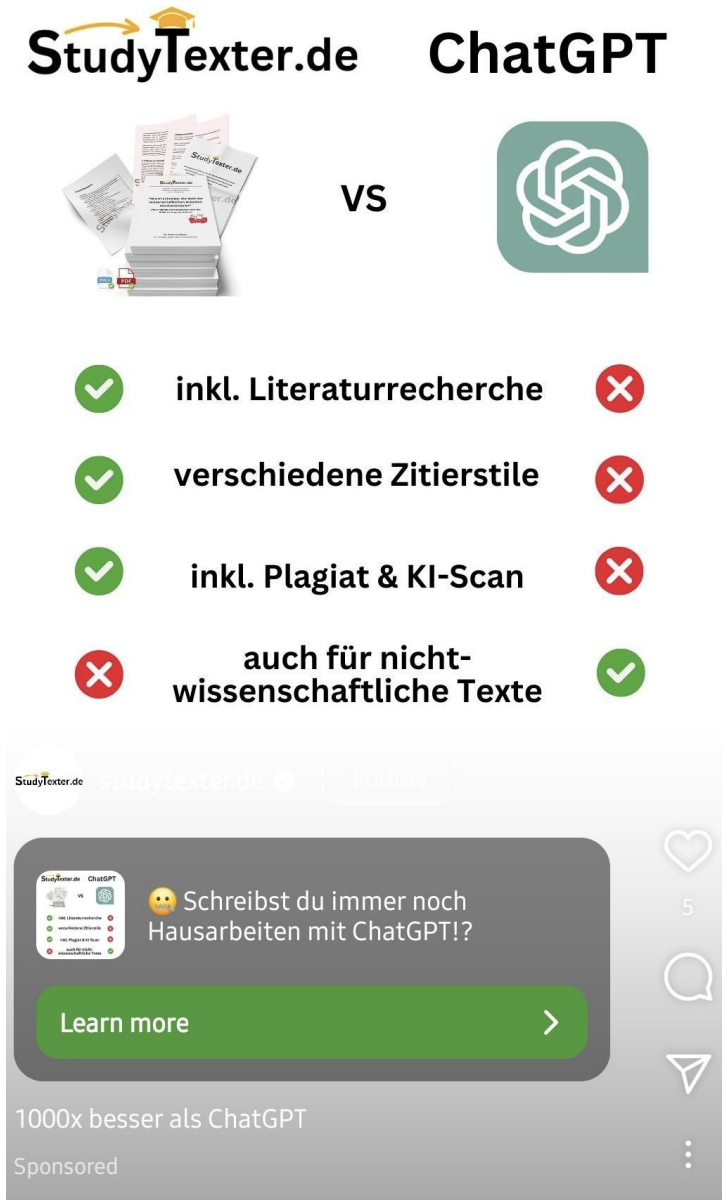
• das Anfertigen je einer schriftlichen Hausarbeit zum Kreditpunkterwerb in mindestens zweien der in den Aufbaumodulen belegten Seminare.

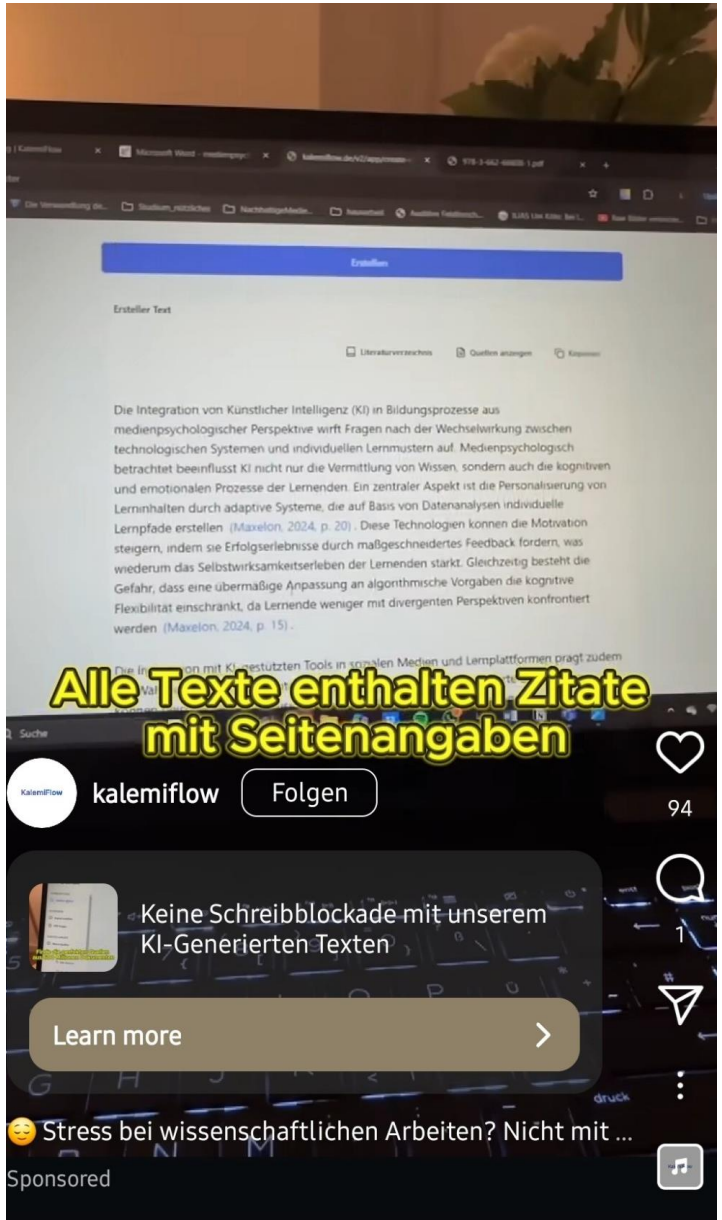
- **Formalities:** 12-15 pages; 1.5 line spacing; font size 12; leave a margin of 4cm on the right side for corrections/comments (2cm on the left; 3cm at the top and bottom)
- **Deadline:** 30 September 2025
  - Please send me a PDF and submit a printed version (in a standard folder is sufficient!) to the Geschäftszimmer / Servicezimmer, or to me personally in GB 6/149 during my office hours or an individual appointment.

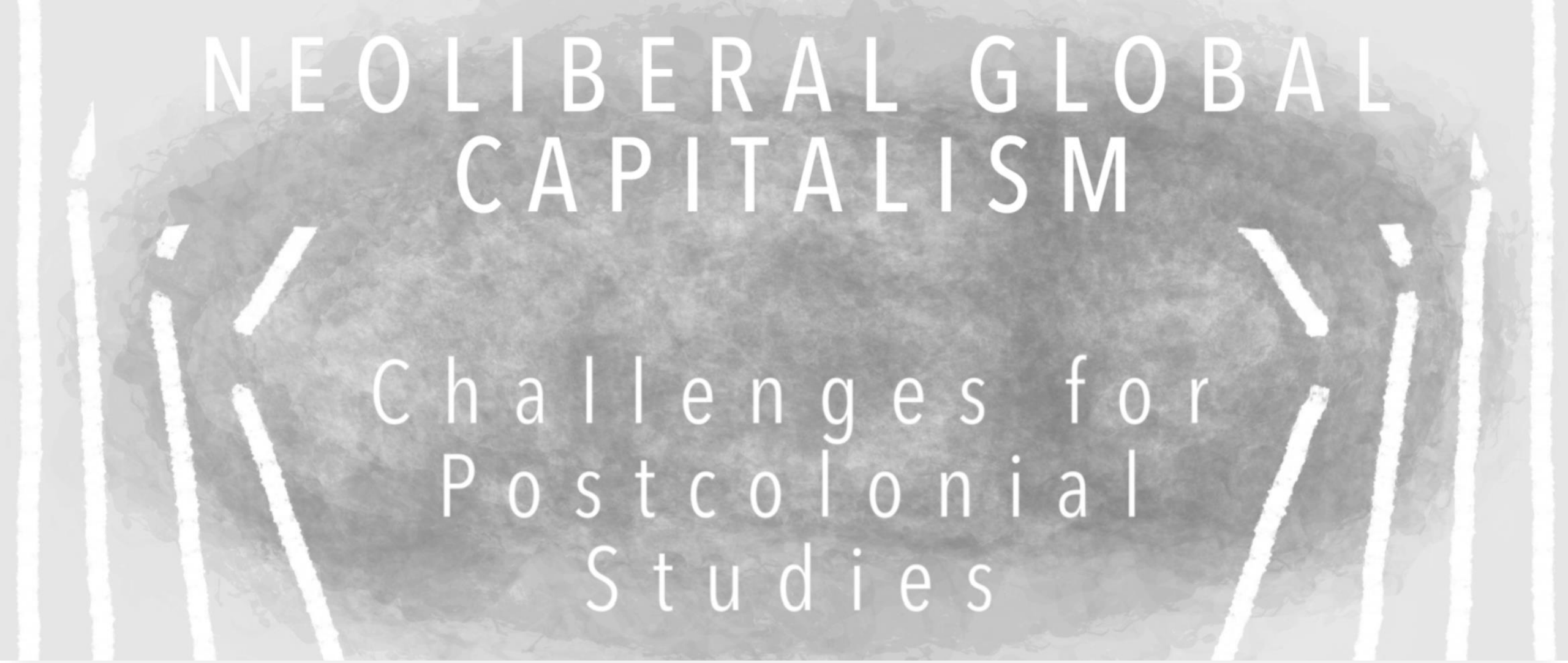
- adhere to the instructions from your **Academic Skills course (= the Academic Style Sheet)**
- outline your **thesis or research question** in your introduction as well as your line of argument
- stick to the basic rule of citing **at least one academic source per page**
- make sure your own view becomes clear!

Please don’t fall for these kind of AI based chatbots!









Alternative: response paper

Annual Conference of GAPS (Gesellschaft für Anglophone Postkoloniale Studien):

Neoliberal Global Capitalism – Challenges for Postcolonial Studies

29-31 May 2025 at the University of Bielefeld

Akshay Kumar

I, Dr. Akshay Kumar, am a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi, India. I was awarded a PhD in 2023-24 from the Centre for Comparative Politics and Political Theory at Jawaharlal Nehru University for my dissertation titled *Marginality and Resistance: An Exploration of the 'Culture' of the Musahars in Bihar*.

My research interests focus on exploring the intersections of caste, class, and gender within subaltern studies, emphasising their interconnectedness in shaping culture and political economy. I critically engage with postcolonial and subaltern studies, addressing their limitations in overlooking these dynamics, which are crucial for understanding institutionalised exploitation.

Speaker at Panel "Re-Reading Anti- and Postcolonial Theory" (Friday, 11:00) → Abstract: Reimagining Postcolonialism: Ambedkar, Caste, and Capitalism in the Neoliberal Context

Jaya Sharma

Jaya Sharma is a PhD student at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Dehli, India and is currently pursuing her PhD in German Studies. The title of her dissertation is 'An Ecocritical Analysis of Selected Contemporary German and Hindi Literature.' As a scholarship holder of the Erasmus+ programme, she will spend a semester at the University of Konstanz in 2025. Her research interests include Comparative Studies, Environmental Humanities, Post-Colonial Studies and Literary Studies. With her work, she wants to explore and deepen the connection between Indo-German scientific and environmental thought.

Speaker at Panel "Debt, Developmetnalism and Postcolonial Capitalism" (Friday, 9:00) → Abstract: Reimaging Natureculture: Narratives of Resistance to "Developmentalism" in Contemporary Hindi Literature

Harald Pittel

Dr. Harald Pittel teaches British Cultural Studies at Leipzig University. He has published articles on post-Brexit fiction, working-class literature and decadent theory. From 2018 to 2019, he was a visiting scholar at Delhi University. He wrote his PhD thesis on *Romance and Irony: Oscar Wilde and the Political*. His second book (in progress) explores to what extent the crises of the present might shape a new understanding of world literature. His other research interests include political affect studies, comparative film studies, genre theories, and materialist theories of culture.

Speaker at Panel "Cultural Studies Approaches to Neoliberal Capitalism" (Friday, 11:00) → Abstract: Structure of Feeling as a Mode of Resistance? Countering the Capitalist Crisis of Indian Cinema

Alternative: Exhibition review

"NO great portion of the world population was so effectively protected from the horrors and perils of the World War as were the peoples of Hindustan. They were carried through the struggle on the shoulders of our small Island. British Government officials in India were wont to consider it a point of honour to champion the particular interests of India against those of Great Britain whenever a divergence occurred."
Churchill, Winston. *The Second World War*. London 1954, vol. 4.

Please take a few minutes to discuss with your seat neighbours some of the first things that come to mind when you think of India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, or Myanmar.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cs6l27ZKWXs

Press Release from Cllr Sabina Akhtar, Deputy Leader of the Labour Group

"I have just resigned from the Labour party.

I was the first female speaker of the council from Bangladeshi origin, and I was a proud Labour party member, but I find I cannot be proud of this party anymore when the leader of the party singles out my community and insults my Bangladeshi identity.

I have defended the party all my life and was very proud of it. But it is clear the direction it is heading is unacceptable to me and my community."

Sabina Akhtar

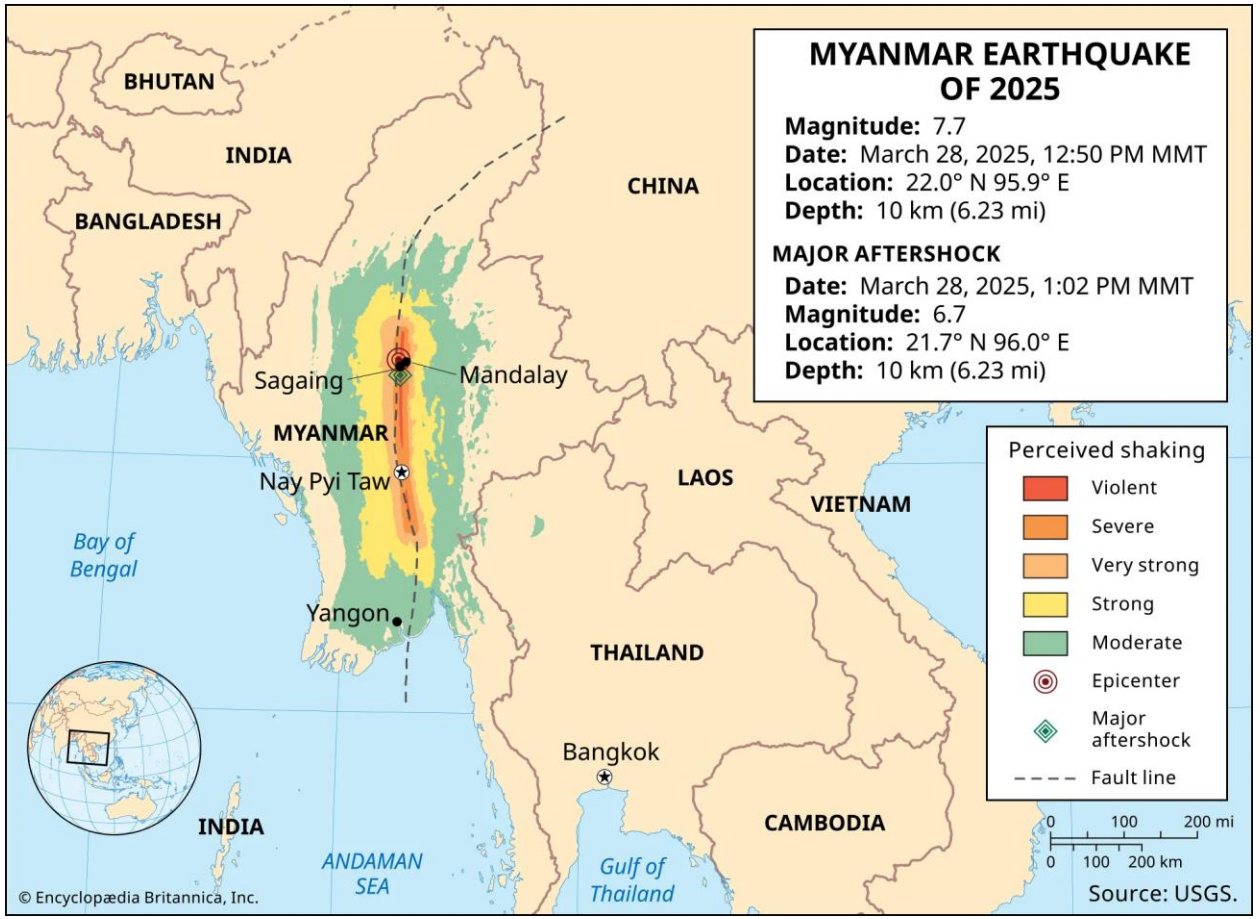
Deputy Leader of the Labour Group
26th June 2024

Tower Hamlets in east London

HNRP FLASH ADDENDUM

MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE

ISSUED
APRIL 2025



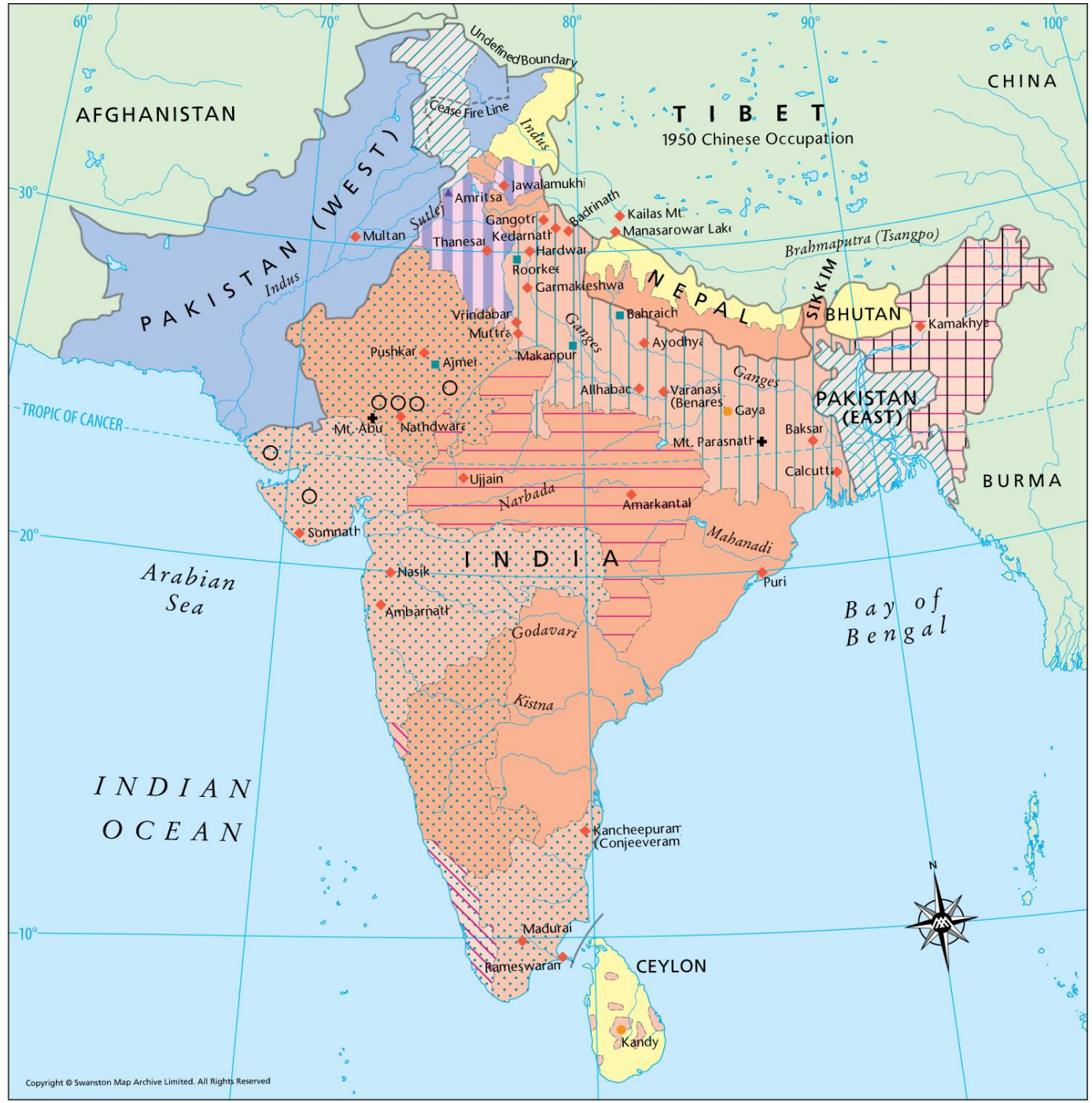
The Situation Room at the White House
Washington, DC, United States of America
May 1, 2011

JAYS FOCUS TO
VERCOME LIMITS

AYURVEDA NATURKOST
DESHI ANTON Exotische Lebensmittel GesmbH
Asiatische, Afrikanische, Lateinamerikanische
Naschmarkt Stand 600
KASSA

Some Remarks About This Course

- not a lecture
  - no historical overview / no chronological order
- we will look at (and try to make sense of) various cultural phenomena and conflicts across the Indian subcontinent
- difficult and complex in many ways:
  - geographically, linguistically and culturally (ancient civilizations, diverse languages and religious traditions)
  - often misunderstood/misrepresented, e.g., the caste system



India: Religions, c.1950

Hindus:
- 20-30%
- 60-70%
- 70-90%
- 90-100%

Mohammedans:
- 5-10%
- 10-25%
- 70-80%
- 90-100%

Christians:
- 5-20%
- over 30%

Buddhists
- 80-100%

Sikhs:
- 30-40%

Animists:
- 5-30%

Jains:
- each circle represents 100,000 Jains

Sacred places of:
- Hindus
- Mohammedans
- Buddhists
- Sikhs
- Jains

India, Pakistan and Ceylon Languages c. 1950
Mon-Khmer
Munda
Dravidian
Indo-Aryan
Iranian
Sino-Tibetan
Burushaski
KHASI Name of language
Linquistic boundaries
AFGHANISTAN
IRAN
TIBET
Chinese Occupation 1950
CHINA
PAKISTAN
INDIA
NEPAL
BHUTAN
BURMA
Arabian Sea
Bay of Bengal
INDIAN OCEAN
Laccadive Is.
Maldive Is.
Tropic of Cancer
Indus
Ganges
Brahmaputra (Tsangpo)
Narbada
Mahanadi
Godavari
BURUSHASKI
KAFIRISH
DARDISH
SHINA
BALTI
LADAKHI
KASHMIRI
PASHTO (AFGHAN)
LAHNDA
PUNJABI
PAHARI
BALOCH (BELLUDJI)
BRAHUI
RAJASTHANI
SINDI
GUJARATI
WEST HINDI
EAST HINDI
BIHARI
BENGALI
THAKURI
NEWAR
LEPCHA (NEPALI)
SIKKIM
LIMBU
MIRI
ASSAMESE
NAGA
MANIPURI
GARO
KHASI
TIPURA
LUSHEI
BURMESE
KHERWARI
KURUKHI
BHILI
GONDI
KANDHI
ORIYA
MARATHI
KANNADA (KAHNARESE)
TELUGU
TULU
TAMIL
MALAYALAM
SINHALESE
CEYLON
TAMIL
0 400 km
0 400 miles
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to-do list for next session

- must-read text on Moodle (optional texts are for further context)
- answer the guiding questions by Sunday, 28 April
- familiarise yourselves with the maps on Moodle
- check the suggested topics for our sessions on Moodle