

Study Questions for the Pradhan and Subba Articles

In *Ethnicity and Caste in a Pluralistic Society*, Pradhan writes, “While the Tibeto-Burmans give Nepal its extraordinary demographic diversity, the Indo Aryans (dominant Brahmin-Chettri group) have provided the connections that have bound the country together as one.” What are the major “connections” referred to here?

According to Pradhan, what is “Parbatiyazation?” How have various groups responded to this?

Based on Pradhan’s article, describe the three basic ways the state (as representing the dominant group) has attempted to deal with Nepal’s cultural and ethnic pluralism (that is, during the Rana regime, during the Panchayat regime, and since the democratic movement of 1990). How have different ethnic groups responded?

According to Pradhan, different groups in Nepal have different concepts of who the dominant, oppressive group is. Who is the dominant group according to 1) the janajati, 2) the madhesi, and 3) the dalits? How is the madhesi sense of this relevant to the current political situation in Nepal? (See enclosed articles from Himal South Asia).

Explain the three basic types of Nepali speakers in India as described by Subba.

What are the major “Push and Pull” factors that are responsible for the movement of Nepalis into the Darjeeling region. What factors continue to push Nepalis out of Nepal and into India today?

How do Indian Nepalis view the Nepal government’s foreign policy of striking a balanced relationship between India and China? Explain.

Subba remarks that the “national goal for a truly integrated Nepal” has been better realized in India (specifically in the Darjeeling region) than in Nepal. Please explain this and describe the key factors within Nepal and within India that have made this possible. Why is it so important for the different Nepali ethnic groups in India to forge a Nepali identity while maintaining a separate identity from Nepalis in Nepal?

What major cultural aspects differentiate Indian Nepalis from Nepali Nepalis? What is the difference between “Nepali identity” in Nepal and “Nepali identity” among Indian Nepalis?