

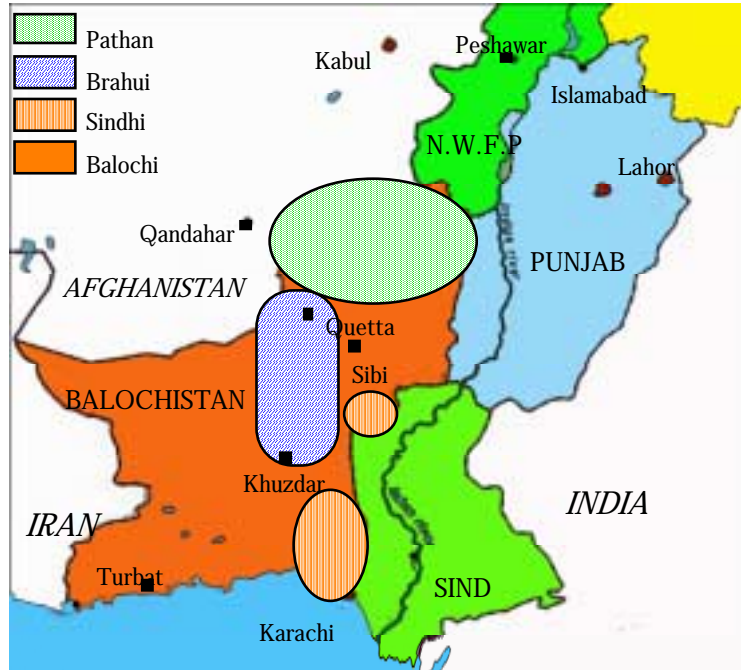
# AAINews

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## People in Quetta

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan is divided into four provinces; Punjab, Sind, Balochistan and the North West Frontier Province (N.W.F.P.). The capital city of Balochistan is Quetta. The name "Quetta" is derived from a word "Kwatta", which means a fortress in Pashtu language because the city is located inside a basin called Quetta Valley surrounded by mountains and looks like a fortress. The city has been an important traffic point of the area connecting Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran. In 1935, a big earthquake almost destroyed the city. Small scale earthquakes sometimes occur, however, the big one like that of 1935 has never occurred ever since.



**The Four Provinces of Pakistan and Major Socio-linguistic Groups in Balochistan.**

The name "Balochistan" made us believe that this is the land of Balochi, however, there are many Pathan (Pashtun) living in Quetta and Pashtu language is commonly spoken. Urdu, the official language in Pakistan is widely spoken as well. It is easy to find those who can speak several languages such as Urdu, Pashtu, Persian, Baloch, English and so on. Other ethnic groups like Punjabi, Central Asian, Mongolian also live in this area. Because of the civil war in Afghanistan, a lot of refugees live here as well as in N.W.F.P. The number of the refugees are estimated over 1,000,000.

Balochi, Pathan, Brahui and Sindhi spread in Balochistan as shown in the map. The Balochi are the majority in the province and also spread to the west region of Iran along Balochistan. Their language is similar to Persian. The Pathan live not only in Balochistan but occupy a half of Afghanistan and most part of N.W.F.P. Population in Balochistan is estimated as some 4,300,000 according to the census in 1981. However, this figure is not very reliable since a lot of nomads have been seasonally migrating without concerning the border or administrative boundaries. Actually, it is rather difficult to distinguish between nomads and Afghanistan refugees.  
(Reported by Koto in Quetta)



Balochi (farmer)



Pathan (watch seller)



Hazara (hotel employee)



Afghani (shop owner)



Panjabi (driver)