The Himalayan mountains had both positive and negative impacts on the development of India and China. The effects of the Himalayan mountains on India and China shaped both countries to become the way they are. Both India and China were positively impacted by these Himalayas, which includes having a natural defence for protection, climatic barriers, rivers and etc. On the other hand, it caused poor access to trade with other nations and vegetation was an issue as well. Some of these effects were answers to the problems people faced in India and China, whereas, some of them were just another problem.

The Himalayan mountains act as a defence barrier for the people in India and the country itself. It is a protection from invasion from countries in other parts of Asia. India is a country with a ‘Tropical Monsoon’ type of climate. The Himalayas prevent the monsoon wind of Indian ocean from going over to Northern countries and it causes heavy rainfall in Northern India. Without the support of these mountains, India would’ve been full of dry and barren lands. As a consequence of the dry lands, it would’ve been difficult for the country to grow crops and produce goods. Furthermore, the slopes of these mountains have dense forests which include trees of many types. These trees serve as shelter for wild animals and birds, as well as providing a variety of raw materials to the forest-based industries. The Himalayan mountains give the people in India a way to settle safely and have all the resources in their daily lives.

Similarly, one of the largest export economies in the world, China is surrounded by the many Himalayas. The snow on these mountains melt in the summer and provides water into the rivers such as the Yangtze and the Yellow river. These rivers, as well as other rivers
in China, are used for irrigation, producing electricity, and needed for survival to the people that live in this country. China wouldn’t have been such a productive country without their resources that mostly comes from the Himalayan mountains. It is evident that China trades their goods and products with several other countries in the world. Without the help of these mountains, it wouldn’t be able to trade with other countries for economic growth. Being surrounded by these mountains led to the rise of not only the economy but shared customs and traditions with other parts of the world. The mountains also provide protection from other countries of Asia invading China, especially if stealing China’s valuable goods is their intent. The benefits of these mountains prevent China from experiencing economic loss and continues to flourish as a country.

Despite the Himalayas being the greatest asset in Asia, the countries India and China both face challenges as a result of this geographic feature. The Himalayan mountains, in other words, the defense barrier led to difficulty in cultural diffusion and having peaceful contact with other countries. Unlike the ancient “Silk Road or “Silk Route”, these mountains prevent easy access to trade with other countries for development. Due to this natural barrier, China was an isolated country for centuries. This limited China’s contact with other early civilizations. These mountains also lacked arable farmlands, therefore, the people in India and China cut steps into the mountains in order to get a flat land suitable for growing crops.

Geographic features can have a colossal impact on the nation or region, just like the Himalayan mountains. These mountains affected economic development, where people settled and the daily lives of the people in India and China. Therefore, India and China both have benefited with more advanced supplies and faced challenges from the Himalayan mountains at the same time.