

- Alexander defeated Darius III

- Persian influence was marginal; most significant = political

- Satrapal system of administration

- Alexander's Empire
 - Marched into Indus Valley in 326BC

 - At Beas River he defeated King Porus at Battle of Hydaspes 326 BC

- Greco-Buddhist period
 - It's a cultural syncretism

 - Influenced artistic development of Mahayana Buddhism

 - Elements in representations of Buddha point to Greek influence

- Tensions caused by Alexander gave birth to first native Indian empire.

- Maghada

- Chandragupta Maurya

- Chandragupta's armies rolled over neighboring states

- Took Punjab from Greeks & occupy Afghanistan.
- Created centralized efficient bureaucratic system

- Based on Persian satrap system

- Obedience maintained thru use secret police

- Next period of expansion during the reign of Ashoka
 - Early years

 - Experienced his own enlightenment

 - Announced regret for his many wars

 - Engaged in a more humanist-style form of aggression

- Sought to win converts, not conquests

- Financed massive building projects

- Forbade slaughter of animals for sacrifices & use for food.

- Construction of *Stupas*

- Model for *chakravartin*

- Last Mauryan emperor gave up throne in 180BC
 - Buddhists in western India retained traditions established by Ashoka

- Central and eastern India new ideas brought in
 - Bactria

 - Scythians

 - Parthians

 - Yuezhi - Kushan period

- Kushans converted to Buddhism
- Kanishka greatest patron of Buddhism along w/ Ashoka
- All invaders slowly absorbed
- Once chaos settled, new Indian dynasty again arose

— Gupta Empire

- Chandragupta I
- Pataliputra
- Chandragupta I came to power ~ 320AD
- Greatest accomplishment = support of Brahmin religion

— Indian Buddhism had become a religion of monks

- Great division took place

- Mahayan & Hinayan (Theravada Buddhists).

- Mahayana Buddhism was carried to China
 - Promised ordinary men & women might pass into

 - Bodhisattva

- Theravada Buddhism remained predominately monastic
 - Emphasized gained merit for better rebirth

 - Theravadins were more closed to commoners

 - Only by joining monastery could one begin road to salvation

- Gupta, largely supported Brahmanism
 - Brahmins advanced importance of several more popular deities

 - Lakshmi

- Genesha

 - Shiva

 - Shakti

 - Ardhanareshwara

 - Kali
-
- Brahmanism became more rigid under Guptas

 - Late 5th century Gupta period began to fade
 - Brahmanism once again was altered

 - *Puja* became formalized

 - Worshipper brought offerings to images of deities

 - Emphasis was placed on close personal devotion

- *Bhakti*
- Tantrism active use of esoteric techniques of psychoenergetic development
- Identified with Shiva & Shakti
- Devotees met at night
- Yoga

— Umayyad caliphate & Coming of Islam