

- 1500BC, change in sub-continent of India
  - Early civilization disappeared
  - *Aryas* invaded thru Hindu Kush
    - “Aryans” = effective warriors
    - Create new civilization
    - Primarily pastoral people
    - Society based on - *rita*
    - Tribal society
    - *Raja* = war leader
  - Four social classes appeared
    - Ruling classes = *Brahmins & Kshatriyas*
    - Middle class = *Vaishyas*
    - Lower class = *Shudras*
    - Sub-class = *Dasas*
  - Each class subdivided into *jatis*
  - Most powerful = Brahmins
    - Maintain rules of *jatis*
  - Importance of family
    - Duties to family = most important
    - Structure = patriarchal

— Religion =

- Aryan worship = sacrificial rituals PLUS *ric* verses
- Aryan “holy” books: *Rig-Veda; Brahmanas; Upanishads*
- Religion = polytheistic; forces of nature
  - 4 most important: Indra; Agni; Mitra; Varuna
  - Two later additions = Vishnu & Brahma
- *Gurus* appear
  - Gurus = preachers
  - Taught about nature; *atman*
  - Main concern = maintaining *atman* thru *dharma*
    - » *Dharma* results in *karma*
- *Samsara* = Reincarnation
  - Goal = *moshka*
- “Brahmanism” = devotional faith

• Aryan society = 1000 years of stability

- Problems begin around 6<sup>th</sup> Cen BC
- 1<sup>st</sup> = appearance of Mahavira
  - “Desire” = root of life’s problems
  - All life = sacred
  - Became guru

- Mahavira's disciples = *Jains*
- *Jainism* = requires path of non-violence
- 2<sup>nd</sup> threat = Siddarth Gautama – The Buddha
  - Attains enlightenment
  - To understand life = four nobles truth
    - 1) Suffering = life
    - 2) Suffering from ambition/desire
    - 3) Suffering ends if freed of ambition/desire
    - 4) Accomplished thru Eightfold Path
  - If completes = obtain *Nirvana*
  - Buddha = guru
  - Goal = *moshka*
  - NOTE: gender equality
- 3<sup>rd</sup> problem = invasion
  - Darius I and the Persians
  - NOTE: 1<sup>st</sup> “political” contact = Cyrus the Great
  - Darius I invades in 521BC
  - Xerxes maintains control
  - Persian control lasts thru 330BC
  - NOTE: Darius III deposed by Alexander the Great

- Persian impact = marginal
  - Most significant = *satrapal* system
  - Governed by “*satrap*”
  - Controlled all day-to-day affairs
  
- Next threat = 4<sup>th</sup> Century BC
  - Alexander the Great invades
  - Enters Indus Valley in 326BC
  - Fights for two years
  - Alexander wants “globe”
  - But army votes; returns home
  - NOTE: kept garrison at Khyber Pass
  
- Greek invasion triggers – Greco-Buddhist period
  - Trigger = cultural syncretism
  - Influences artistic development
  
- Consequence of Greek invasion = 1st native empire
  - Chandragupta Maurya
    - Builds powerful war machine
    - Exploits destruction left by Alexander
    - Drives Greeks back to Afghanistan
  
  - Mauryan Empire assimilates satrap system

- Centralized bureaucratic system created
- It = top-down system; king w/ council of advisers
- Obedience maintained thru secret police
- System had huge advantages

— Greatest Mauryan ruler = Ashoka

- Had major conversion; affected all of Asia
  - Early in reign = fierce conqueror
  - Then, experienced “enlightenment”
- Ashoka announced regret for many wars
  - NOTE: didn’t abandoned all warfare – hearts & minds
- Tried to repair damage
- Forbade slaughter of animals
- Greatest achievement = Sanchi Stupa
- Ashoka = model for *chakravartin*

— After death, empire shatters

- Broke into several small kingdoms
- New ideas enter
- Then wave after wave of invaders

• Kushan Period

- Yuezhi = from China

- Left during Han Dynasty
- Conquered Bactria
- Assimilated into Greco-Buddhists
- Kushan Kingdom = major center of civilization in ~100AD
  - Kushans push Buddhism
  - But slowly absorbed into Indian society
- Greatest ruler = Kanishka
  - His empire = vast
  - Controlled Silk Road
  - Experienced similar transformation as Ashoka
- Kushans facilitated Mahayana missionary activity
- Kushan vast empire = short-lived
- Gupta = next Indian empire
  - Similar to Mauryan
  - Chandragupta I emerges
    - Builds huge army
    - Exploits chaos
  - Gupta Empire similar to Mauryan Empire
  - Chandragupta I appears ~320AD
  - Empire expanded son (Samudragupta) & grandson (Chandragupta II)

- Ushered in India's "golden age"
- Wisest move = accepted defeated foes as vassals
- Greatest accomplish = supporting Brahmanism
- NOTE: Gupta initially tolerant of Buddhism
  - Buddhist schism
  - Mahayana = "Great Vehicle"
  - Theravada = "Teachings of the Elders"
    - Focus = monastic life
    - Closed to commoners
    - Monasteries = road to salvation
    - Strict code = *vinaya*
- Gupta supported Brahmanism
  - Brahmins sought to popularize
  - Added popular deities = Lakshmi & Genesha
  - Most important = Lord Shiva – Destroyer of the World
    - Part of "holy trinity" = Brahma; Vishnu; Shiva
    - NOTE: adaptation of Vishnu
  - Brahmanism becomes rigid
    - Gupta = enforce *jatis*
    - Emphasis = knowing one's place

- Gupta prosperity fades
  - Starts with Huns
  - Empire collapses; unity shattered
  - But, no new outsiders for 7 centuries
  - Rise of *Rajputs*
  
- Social stability disturbed 13<sup>th</sup> century
  - Muslim army invades
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Muslims = merchants
  - Gained converts
  - Muslim rulers control thru 19<sup>th</sup> century
  - British until 20<sup>th</sup> century
  - Indian independence not until 1947