



Harappan Civilisation (2500 – 1800 B.C.)

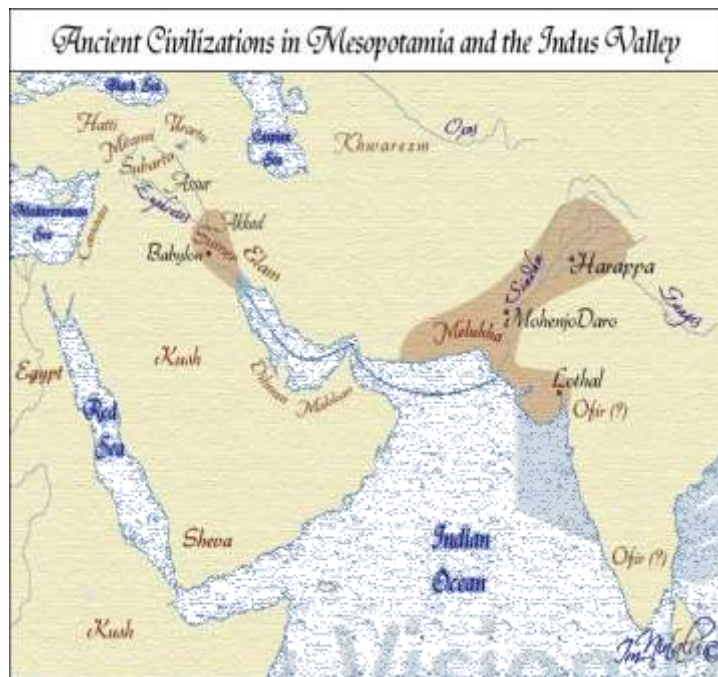
Geographical Area



POLITICAL

- Who were rulers?
 - The Priestly class or
 - The Mercantile class
- Nature of political organisation
 - Main Ruler
 - Supportive Ruler
 - Centralised Structure
 - Decentralised Structure

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SOCIAL

- Priestly class
- Mercantile class
- Common man
- Condition of women, children (girl & boys)

Economic

First Urbanisation

Trade

Religion

- Worship of Nature

Causes of Decline

- Natural Disaster (earthquake)
- Aryan Invasion
- Mismatch of supply and demand of food grains
- Change in rivers course

- Decline in foreign trade

CONTINUITY WITH PRESENT ERA

- Bull worship
- Worship of Shiva (Proto- type)
- Worship of Nature
- Female figurine, bull, Horned Deity, Pipal-sacred.
- Differences between Mesopotamia & IVC
 - Mesopotamian city had a number of temples, each owning land & participating in trade
 - Mesopotamian merchant's houses are not on lavish Indus scale & had miserable sanitary arrangements

Puzzles

- Why the Indus merchant did not adopt writing upon clay tablets from Iraq?
- Why did they not take over the better foreign tools?
- Why not use canal irrigation & deep ploughing for agriculture?

1) Proto-Australoid

2) Mediterranean

- Most primitive
- Might have arrived in India in late neolithic times
- Head is small

3) Mongoloid

4) Alpines

5) Armenoid

- short headed with a markedly convex high bridged nose
- Evolved in SW Asia
- Might have migrated from Persia & Persian Gulf
- Lothal

6) Nordics

- Head is massive
- Chitpavan or Konkanastha Brahmin
- Indo-Aryans

QUESTIONS

- A. The decline of Harappan civilisation was caused by ecological degradation rather than external invasion. 2015 (20M)

- B. Do you think the Harappan civilisation had a diversity of subsistence base? 2014 (15M)
- C. The ancient civilisation in Indian subcontinent differed from those of Egypt, Mesopotamia & Greece in that its culture & tradition have been preserved without to the present day. Comment 2015 GS (12 ½)
- D. To what extent has the urban planning & culture of the Indus Valley civilisation provided inputs to the present day urbanisation? Discuss 2014 (10M)
- E. The continuity of Indus Valley Civilisation into later ages was not confined to the religious & spiritual field alone. Analyse the statement. 1997
- F. Explain why majority of the known Harappan settlement are located in the semi arid areas with saline groundwater 2016
- G. Discuss the water management & its conservation planning in the Harappan (Indus – Saraswati) cities 2013 (20M)
- H. Explain majority of known Harappan settlement are located in semi-arid areas with saline ground water. 2016 20 M

*Bronze- Stone tools –difficult to clear forest

*Potentialities of the place for food production

- Proximity to trade routes
 - Source of raw material & mineral resources
 - Use of river for transportation
 - Lothal – arid coastal plain
 - Suktagendor – Makran coast.
 - Harappana- Access to Hindukush & N.W. Frontier.
 - Access to precious stones such as Turquoise & lapis-lazuli from Afghanistan.
 - The settlement of Jodhpur ,Bagor & Ganeshwar in Central Rajasthan were in close proximity of khetri-mines.
- I. Discuss water management & its conservations planning in the Harappan (Indus-Saraswati cities). 2013 20 M.
- Transitional zone between rainfall region of western Asia & monsoon rainfall region of south Asia.
 - Bullocks & oxes
 - Mohenjodaro - Hundreds of well dugs
 - Great Bath.
 - Several sights in western Sind lie close to natural spring or artesian wells.
 - Allahdino-water from stone-lined artisans wells was utilised.
 - Gujarat-no winter rainfall.
 - Dholavira-bunds were constructed across the channel of minor rivuletes to pond the several flow & diverts it into reservoir in the city.
 - Harappans & Mohenjodaro- Waste water management system.

CHALCOLITHIC

Q.5. In the absence of written script, chalcolithic pottery gives us a fascinating insight into the culture & lifestyle of the people of those times comment critically. 2013, 15M.

- Pottery was both rotating wheel made & hand made.
- It was decorated with naturalist design such as birds , animals & fishes
- Mohoa pottery –might have been used for drinking by upper strata of society & not every body – social stratification.

NEOLITHIC AGE 7000 BC

- Polished stone tools
- Widely used metal was copper
- Late Stone Age
- Neolithic

Q. Delineate and account for the regional characteristics of the Neolithic period in India.

Q. Mesolithic rock cut architecture of India not only reflects the cultural life of the times but also a fine aesthetic sense comparable to modern painting. Critically evaluate this comment. 2015 12.5 M GS I

a) Middle Eastern Region:-

- Chopani-Mando – earliest evidence of pottery.
- Belan Valley (6000 B.C.)
- Koldihawa – Rice Forming community
- Mahagara

b) Northern Region:-

- Burzahom (2500 B.C.)
- Evidence of agriculture and domestication of animal have not been found.
- Placing of dog in grace of master, pit dwelling north Chinese Neolithic culture.

c) South of river Godavari:-

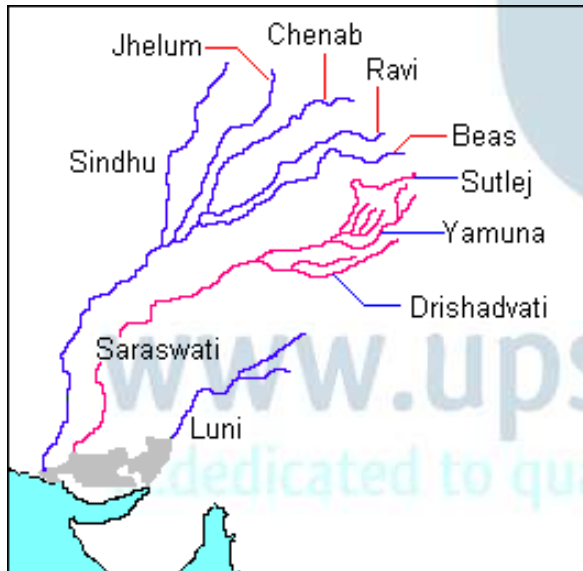
- 2500 B.C. – 1500 B.C.
- Stone axes & stone Blades.
- Fire Baked earthen figurines suggest that they kept large no of cattles .
- Reddish brown pottery, red wave & grey Wave indicate different phases of Neolithic culture.
- Millet.
- Houses made in circular or rectangular shape of mud & reed.
- Piklihal

D) Mid – Gangetic valley:-

- 2500 – 1500 B.C.
- Chirand
- Microlithic ground cells, bone tools, semi-precious stones.

RIGVEDIC PERIOD 1500 – 1000 BC

Geographical area



Vedic Saraswati as drawn by Valdiya

Political

- Tribal or Tribes
- Who were rulers
 - Priestly class or
 - Warrior class
- Battle of ten kings
- Separation of temporal from spiritual power

SOCIAL

- Priestly class
- Warrior class
- Common man
- Condition of women, children (girls & boys)
- Male had more important role
- Women slaves but in household activities
- Purushsukta

Varna

- Ritual status
- By the middle of first millennium, dvija
- Caste would be the result of people being conquered, subordinated or encroached upon by caste society already observing varna distinctions.
- Then there was a re-allocation of status

ECONOMIC

- Source of income was war booty
- Nomadic People

RELIGION

- Worship of nature
- Personification of natural forces
- Terracotta figurine are alien
- Fertility cults meets with strong disapproval
- Life after death was envisaged in terms of either punishment or reward
- Metempsychosis – souls being reborn in plants

Indo – Aryan

- Indo-Aryan is of the Indo-European family of language
- Indo-Aryan language also incorporated elements of Dravidian & Munda
- Northern Syria
 - i. A treaty between Hittites & Mitannis (1400 BC)
 - ii. Indra, Mitra, Nasatya, Varuns.
 - iii. No reference of Agni & Soma

RIG VEDA

- Hittites & Mitanni Treaty (1380 BC)
 - Mitanni had come from East
 - Names of leaders, military & equestrian terminology appears to be derived from Sanskrit
 - Mitanni art shows peacock & peacock like griffins

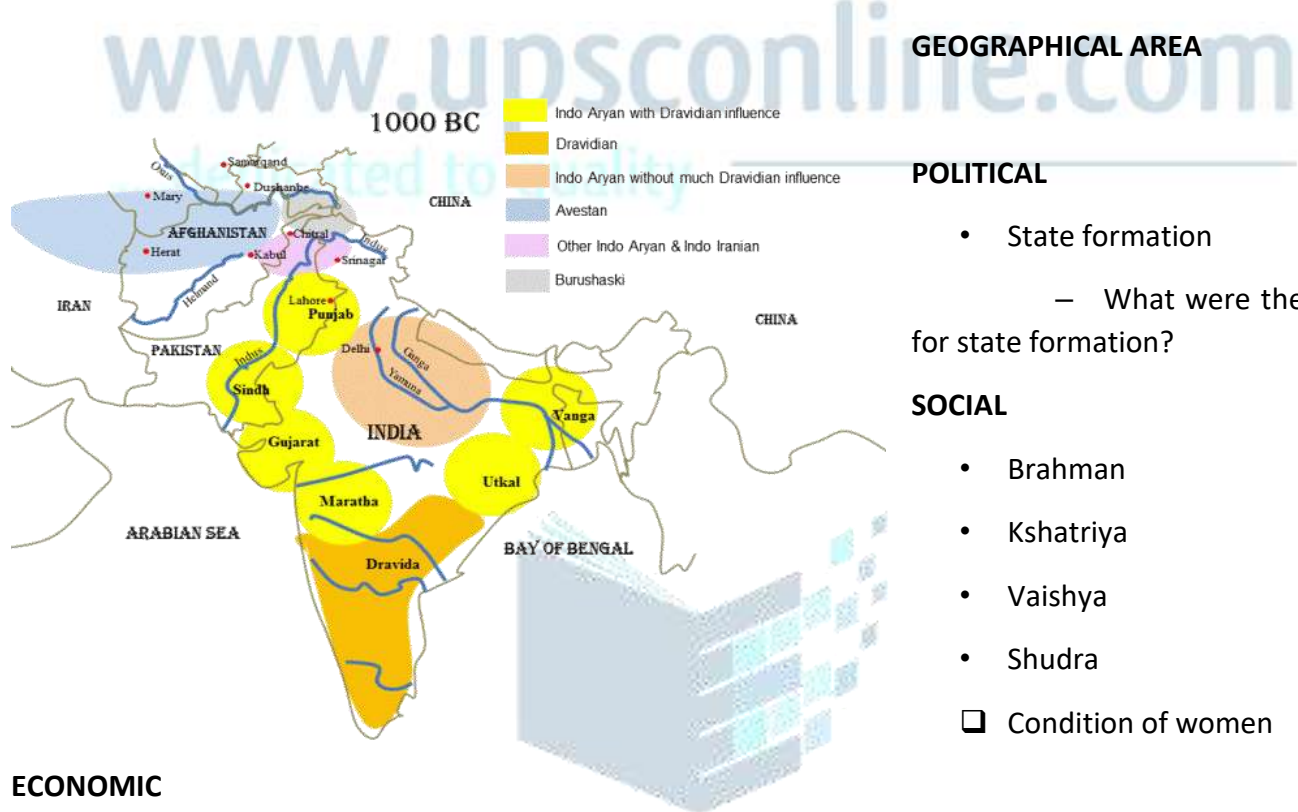
LITERATURE

- Rigveda – 1500-1000 BC (2nd millennium BC)
 - Samveda
 - Yajurveda
 - Atharweda
- Brahmins – exegesis on the rituals
- Upanishad
- Aranyaka
- Sutra
 - Grihyasutra
 - Shrautasutra – public rituals performed for establishing status
 - Dharmasutra – sacred duty in accordance with caste regulations
- Mahabharat (900 BC)

- Societies adhering to clan & lineage organisation
- It marked the termination of clan-based societies
- Ramayan
 - More closely on the endorsement of monarchy
 - The theme of exile represents migration & settling of communities in forested areas
- Religion
 - How did Indo-Aryan become the dominant language of Northern India?
 - Power
 - Effective technology
 - Claims to the ritual superiority

Q. "Archaeology known of no Aryans, only literature knows of Aryans" Examine critically. 2015 (15M)

Later Vedic Period 1000-600 BC



ECONOMIC

- Agriculture developed
- To some extent trade

RELIGION

- Worship of Nature
- New Gods formed
- Religious sacrifices

UPANISHAD

- Around 600 B.C.
- Salvation by knowledge or realisation rather than by faith or works. Their ethics are fundamentally pragmatic
- Karma & Rebirth were emphasised
- More contribution of kshatriyas than Brahman in creation of Upanishad
- Kshatriyas were testing the efficacy of yajna or sacrifices. That led to development of upanishadic through.
- Chhandogya & Brihadanyaka Upanishad- oldest one.

Q. " The Upanishadic principles embody the epitome of the Vedic thought" Discuss 2014 15M

Q. Examine the view that sacrifice was a ritual and a form of social exchange in India. 2010

Q. Evaluate various views regarding human settlement as gleaned from Vedic sources. 2013

Q. Evaluate the conceptual basis of the Vedic deities. 2011

Q. " The Varna concept may always have been largely a theoretical model & never an actual description of society" Comment in the context of Ancient India. 2013

URBANISATION 600 B.C.

Urban Revolution

- The size of urban settlement .
- Social stratification .
- Wealth Distributions .
- Trade Relations .
- V. Gordan Child .

PERSIA (600 BC)

- Achaemenid Emperor of Persia, Cyrus 530 BC- Kamboj
- Perhaps the rock inscription of Ashoka was inspired by rock inscription of Darius
- Script- Kharoshti- Aramaic
- Achaemenid ascendancy in NW India was ended by Alexander of Macedon in 330 BC
- Irrigation
- Iron-agriculture & craft activities
- Agriculture surplus
- Collecting and redistributing of surplus
- Possibly, the mobilisation of labour for the extension of agriculture took precedence over urban construction

- The evolution towards the state required a new relationship between those who laboured & those who managed their labour
- Untouchables - hereditary status
 - Economic deprivation
 - Social disability
- Clan loyalty weakened giving way to caste loyalty
- Rise of wealthy traders



Geographical Area

POLITICAL

- Mahajanapada
- Monarchy
- Republican

SOCIAL

- Brahmins
- Kshatriya

- Vaishya
- Shudra
- Untouchable
- Condition of women
- Amrapali
- Little clay cart – Vasantsena, Charudatta
- Ramgarh cave inscription (Religious prostitution)- just after Ashoka

1. Ancient India contained one class of women who were not bound by the rules and restrictions which limited the freedom of the high caste wife. Explain

ECONOMIC

- Second Urbanisation
- NBPW (Northern Black Polished Ware)

Trade

- Alagankulam- NBPW
 - Punch-marked coins
- Ujjain, Vidisha, Tripuri – Pratishtana
- Tamruk
- Bhrigukachcha

- Usury
- Brahmi script

RELIGION

- Buddhism
 - Ajivika
- Jainism
 - Charvak

RELIGION & IDEOLOGIES

- **Jainism**
 - The purification of soul is the goal of living
 - To achieve, purification of soul, required balance living
- **Buddhism**
 - It was atheistic
 - Origin of state
 - Buddha denied the existence of atman of soul

BUDDHIST LITERATURE

- Early literature was in Pali
- Suttapitaka (Dialogue between Buddha and followers)
- Vinaypitaka (Rules of monastries)
- Upanishads

PANINI

- Ashtadhyayi (500 BC) – grammar of Sanskrit
- Why grammar was written at this time?
 - i. To prevent further changes in Sanskrit introduced by the currency of non-Aryan language
 - ii. To provide structure for the learning of language
 - iii. Oral tradition be given from the north-west.

Gana – Sangh (Oligarchy)

➤ Characteristics

- Power was diffused
- Stratification of society was limited
 - i. Kshatriya rajakula
 - ii. Dasa karmakars
 - iii. Ramification of administration & coercive authority were not extensive
- No democracy
- Republic – it conceded social stratification but was distinct from monarchy

CHARVAKA

- He believed that only the world perceived by the senses was real
- The existence of God was denied
- Also denied the truth of Vedas

Q. How far it correct to say that changes in post Vedic economy gave birth to new religious movement in India? 2015 (20M)

Q. Trace the role of guilds & trade organisations in the development of early Indian economy 2015 (15M)

Q. Buddha's teaching to a large extent could be helpful in understanding & resolving the problems of today's society. Analyse critically. 2014 (15M)

- Throw light on the technical achievement during the ancient period.
- Semi-transparent silk
- NBPW pottery
- Mauryan art
- Gupta Iron Pillar



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