



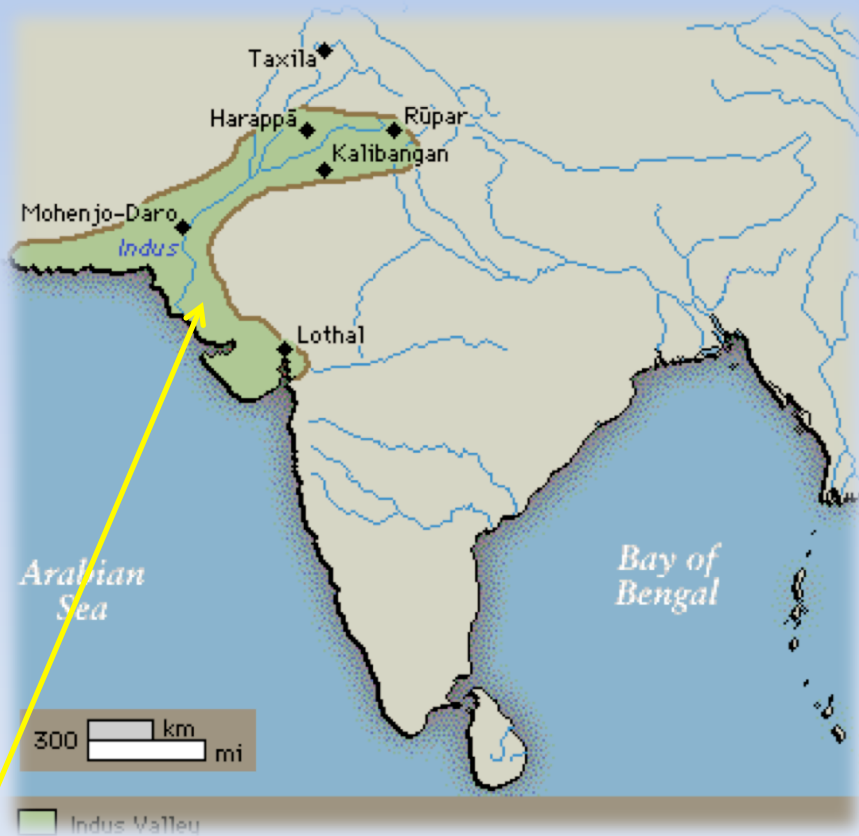
# Ancient India



## Ch. 6



# Then & Now



Ancient India=Indus River Valley  
Civilization



Today Ancient India=Pakistan

# Subcontinent

- Continent= South Asia
- Subcontinent= large landmass that is set apart from the rest of the continent
  - Known as the Indian subcontinent



# INDUS RIVER

- River begins at the ***Himalaya mountains***
  - World's tallest mountains
  - Highest peak: Mount Everest
  - Indus River important to farming
  - India's first civilization grew around the Indus River: Indus Valley Civilization
- Ganges River flows in the northern part of the subcontinent (famous holy river)
  - Bath in the river to clean the body and spirit—wash away sins
  - Pilgrimages to this area



# Early Civilizations

- **Harappa & Mohenjo-Daro**

- Little known
- Two largest cities of Ancient India
- Mohenjo-Daro means=“*hill of the dead*”

- **The cities**

- **Thick walls surrounded the city**
- about 40,000 people
- dozens of streets
- sturdy brick houses
- Some bathrooms/world’s first sewer system
- **Citadel**– fort in the city
- Builders, engineers, and craft workers highly skilled



- **Highly advanced**

- In mathematics
- Music instruments, toys and games, and pottery
- Uncovered—combs, soap, and medicine
- Experimented with dentistry (remains found with teeth that had been drilled)

- **Cities abandoned around 1600 B.C.**

- Mystery: drought, invasion, earthquake, massive floods, standing water spread disease, forests stripped of trees, cattle overgrazed the land.

# Government & Religion

- Indus Valley people were well organized
  - Common system of weights and measurement
  - Strong central government: no royal tombs or statues ever found
- Scholars have found no temples or signs of priests
  - Some Indus Valley statues look like god that are worshipped in Hinduism
- Scholars haven't been able to decode their symbols (writing?)

# Aryan People

- 3 Different Theories:
  1. 1500 B.C. newcomers invaded Indus Valley=**Aryan people**
    - Crossed *Hindu Kush Mountains*
    - migration: natural disasters or wars at home
  2. Original inhabitants
  3. Nomads raising cattle/horses in Afghanistan
    - Eventually migrated to Indus Valley
- Aryan means="noble ones"
  - Brought with them their language and their religion



# Caste System



- Caste= “classes”
  - decided by birth, marriage, job
- 5 groups
  1. **Priests**: emerged from Brahma’s mouth
  2. **Warriors/Ruling class**: Brahma’s arm
  3. **Merchants/Artisan**: Brahma’s hands
  4. **Laborers/servants**: Brahma’s feet
  5. **Untouchables**: seen as unclean
- Caste system is outlawed today



# Early Religion of Ancient India



- Hindu means="Indian"
- Hinduism="religion of people of India"
  - One of the world's oldest religions (5,000+ years old)
  - No single founder/teacher
  - Monotheistic: believe in 1 God reincarnated into different forms
- Aryan people began writing down their sacred songs/hymns
  - known as the Vedas= means "*Books of Knowledge/wisdom*"

# Vedas



- Sacred holy books of their religion
  - Set of 4 books
- Written in Sanskrit
  - told Hindus how to live & explained life
  - Also introduced the **Caste System**
- Believe that prayers and hymns are revelations from the gods

नम	बालः	बाला	स	सा	तौ	ते	
bow (namaste)	boy	girl	he	she	they (m)	they(f) many	
पठ	पठति	लिख	पच	खाद	चल	हस	धाव
read	reads	write	cook	eat	walk	laugh	run
खेल	वद	शाखा	पत	अम्बा	जनक		
play	speak	branch	fall	mother	father		
पुत्र	एव	च	न	कुत्र	अत्र	तत्र	
son	also	and	no	where ?	here	there	
अज	गज	अश्व	सिंह	ति	तः	न्ति	
goat	elephant	horse	lion	does-singular	does-(two)	does-many	

# Beliefs

- Reincarnation: A cycle of birth, death, and rebirth into a new body (where you end up depends on previous life)
  - Passing through many lives to reach Brahman
  - Believe that you have live many lives and go through many experiences before you attain perfection and become one with the divine
  - The goal is to end reincarnation
- Believe in a universal spirit=Brahma/Brahman
  - created and is present in everything
- Worship many gods/goddesses, but are monotheistic
  - Worship at home, shrines, or temples (worship is called *puja*)
  - Brahmins=Hindu priests

# Afterlife



Hindu's believe at the time of death:  
Soul departs from body  
through a Chakra  
(spiritual channel in the body)

- Karma determines where soul will go— NO hell
  - A force that determines the quality you lived



# Dharma

- Means “duty”
- The divine law (natural universal laws)
  - The path of righteousness by living certain codes of conduct
  - If you live out these laws it will lead to happiness
  - Requires people to perform the duties of their caste
- Good Dharma=Good Karma



**Dharma = Duty**

Hinduwebsite.com

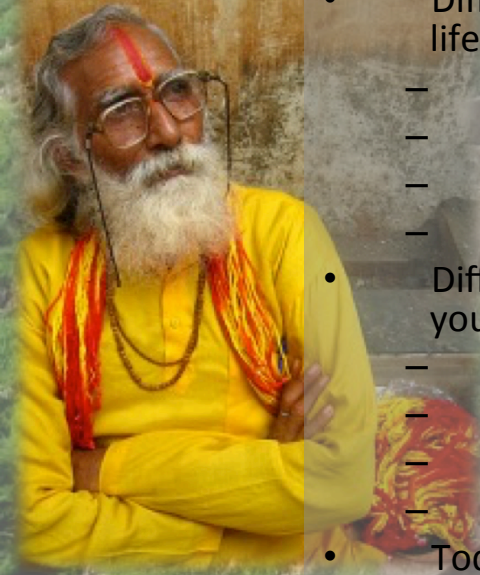
# Moksha

- Liberation from reincarnation
  - The ultimate goal for Hindus
  - Reaching perfect happiness
  - This is reached when one overcomes ignorance and no longer desires anything
  - Becomes one with Brahman

# Forehead Markings



- Identify a person's third eye
  - Hindus believe this is the center of a person's nervous system—important nerve center
  - area in which a person can see spiritual truths
  - Provides protection
  - Reminds Hindus of the purpose of life when they see it on others around them—remind you of the things you need to do reach your goal
- Different colors worn for different occasions and stages of life
  - red, white, and black dots or lines
  - Married women—wear a red bindi
  - Widow—black bindi
  - Young girls—any color
- Different colors also use to symbolize which caste system your family was apart of
  - Priest caste=white
  - Warrior/Ruling Class-red
  - Merchants/Artisans/Businessmen=yellow
  - Laborers/Service class-black
- Today the Bindi is more of an accessory

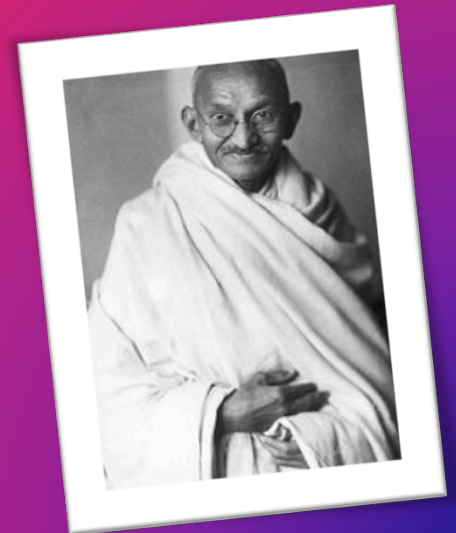




# Today



- About 80% of Indian Population are Hindu
- About 800 millions Hindu's in the world
- Famous Hindu: Gandhi (1869-1948)



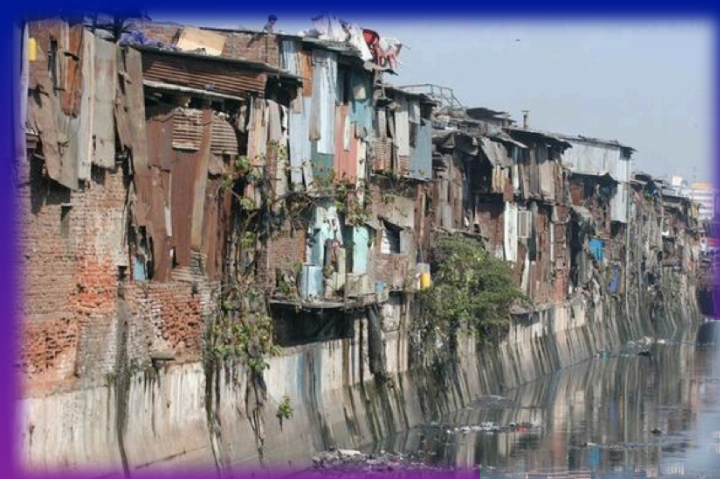




A third of the world's poorest people live in India

- The following are deemed poor:
  - A rural family of 5 spending less than 4,860 rupees (\$80/month)
  - An urban family spending less than 7,035 rupees (\$110/month)
  - 363 million Indians meet one of these
- 44% of children under 5 years old are malnourished
- 50% don't have proper shelter
- 70% don't have access to decent toilets
- 35% of households don't have a nearby water source
- 85% of villages don't have a secondary school
- Health care and clean drinking water is a great issue
- Life expectancy is 64 years old vs 78.7 years in the United States

[http://thumbnails-visually.netdna-ssl.com/all-poverty-is-not-created-equal\\_502915e3cbf9e\\_w1500.jpg](http://thumbnails-visually.netdna-ssl.com/all-poverty-is-not-created-equal_502915e3cbf9e_w1500.jpg)



<http://thenextweb.com/google/2013/10/15/falling-asleep-train-boy-indian-man-finds-way-home-26-years-later-google-earth/>

