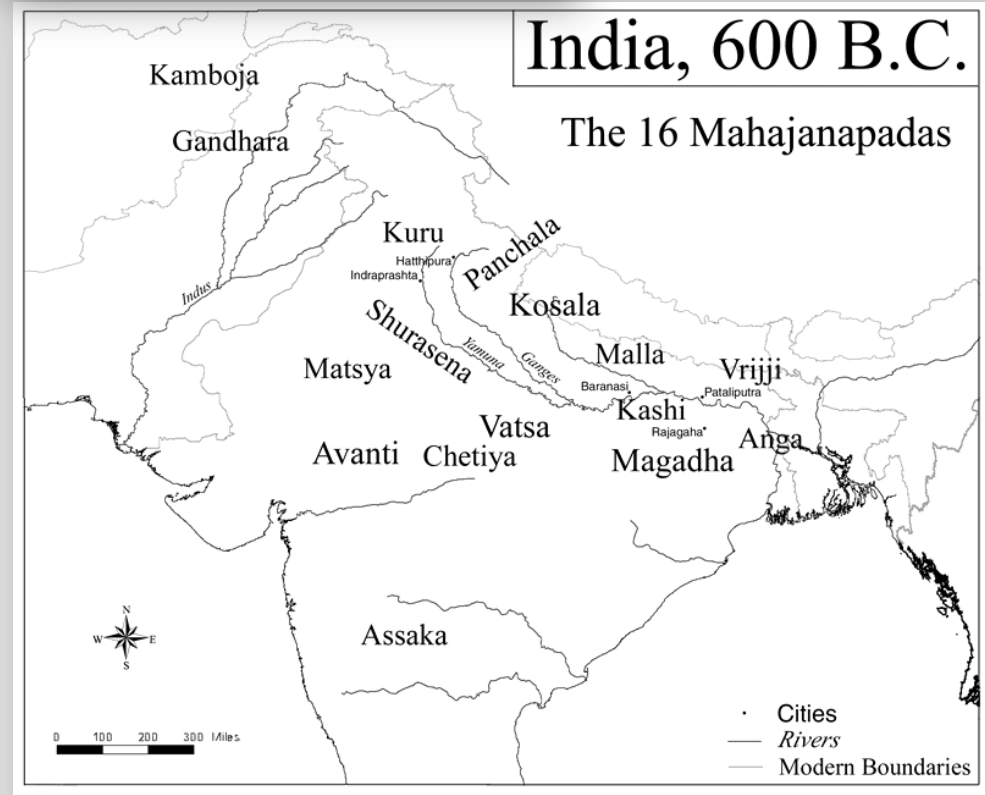


CLASSICAL INDIA



1. Origins of Classical India after fall of Indus River Valley

- **A. 1500 B.C.E. Indus River Valley Civilization (Harappa & Mohenjo Daro) falls**
- **1500 – 500 B.C.E. - nomadic Aryans move in, build new civilization closer to Ganges river**
 - **Based on rigid social structures and the emerging Hindu religion**



Indo-Aryan Migration into India, c. 1750 B.C.

→ Indo-Aryan routes

B. Less politically unified than classical China or Rome


-Similar to Greece

**-Different types of gov't in different areas, called
regionalism**

- Monarchies, assemblies of priests/warriors
most common political formats

**-While connected by religious beliefs and social
organization (caste system), warfare between regions
very common**

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- C. Unification after invasion
 - 327 B.C.E. - Alexander the Great invades, provokes regional leaders
 - 322 B.C.E. - Mauryans seize power along the Ganges river, unite many of the kingdoms under a (somewhat) centralized gov't
 - NO MORE REGIONALISM

- Borrows from Alexander the Great:
 - Large, powerful military to keep peace, gain territory
 - Autocratic (absolute) rule over large region
 - Large bureaucracy for establishing law and order



2. *Dynastic Changes*



- **A. Mauryan dynasty** is first dynasty to rule over a mostly united South Asia
- Class structure based on Aryan **varnas** – caste system begins to take shape and influence society

2. *Dynastic Changes*



- B. Kushans, an invading group from the north, take over (1st – 3rd centuries CE)
- Leaders adopt and try to force Buddhism on population
 - leads to backlash against Buddhism (and the Kushans) in India

2. *Dynastic Changes*

- C. Gupta dynasty begins after removal of Kushans
 - Under Gupta dynasty, longest period of political stability in Classical period (4th – 6th centuries CE)
 - Promoted uniform law code for entire empire
 - Supported higher education and arts
 - Considered “golden age” of Indian history



3. Economic Developments

- Agriculture based
 - Population mostly farming peasants
 - Wheat & barley (winter), rice (summer), spices (black pepper, cinnamon)
- Focus on trade and merchant activity
 - Merchants held high status
 - Trade within India and outside thanks to sea routes
 - Rise of early banking system



4. Technological Developments

- Rivalled China in terms of technological advancement
 - Early understanding of chemistry
 - Early adopters of iron, later steel
 - Cloth manufacturing – cashmere, calico



5. Social Structure

- Indian life based on strict hierarchy of the “caste system”
- 5 main social classes (**varnas**)
 - **Brahmins** – priests
 - **Kshatriyas** – warrior/governing class
 - **Vaishyas** – traders & farmers
 - **Kshudras** – common laborers
 - **Untouchables** (Dalit)– confined to jobs like hauling trash and dead bodies

- **Caste system** becomes *hereditary* (passed to children)
- Marriage between castes *punishable by death*
- Caste system *assigns occupations*, social identity
- **Society**
 - Patriarchal - **husbands & fathers** dominant figures
 - Women had *little-to-no* political or economic rights
 - *Arranged marriages* common

