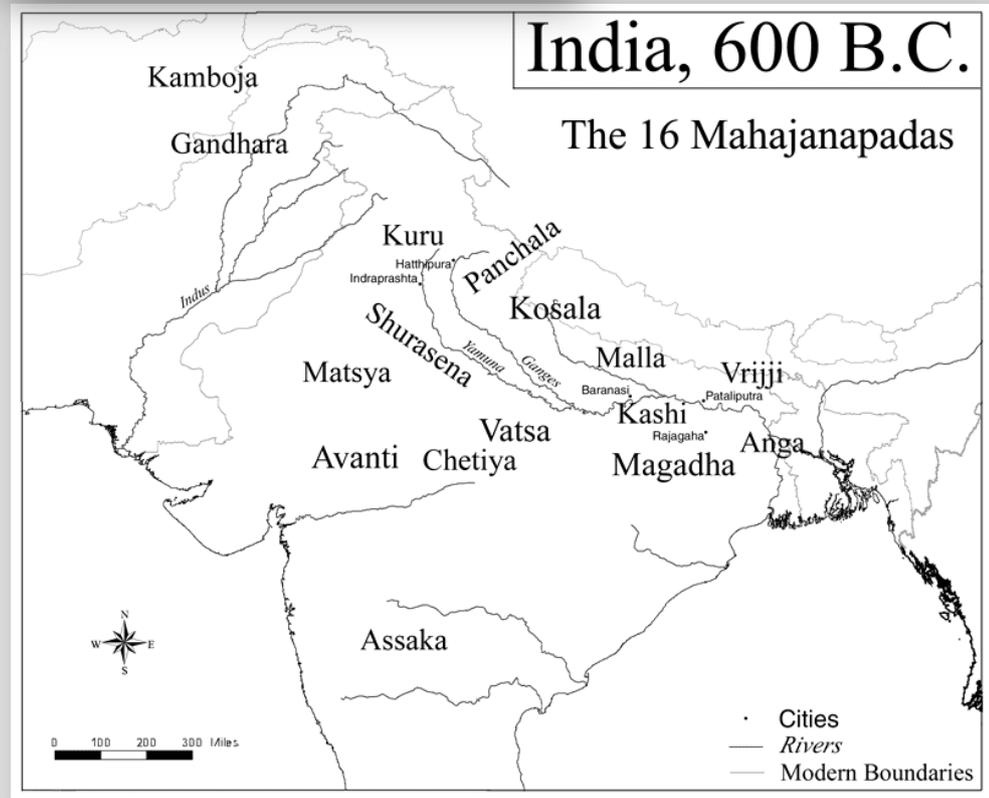


CLASSICAL INDIA



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

0 200 400 mi
0 200 400 km

INDIAN OCEAN

- 
- **C. Unification after invasion**
 - 327 B.C.E. - **Alexander the Great** invades, provokes regional leaders
 - 322 B.C.E. - **Maurians** 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

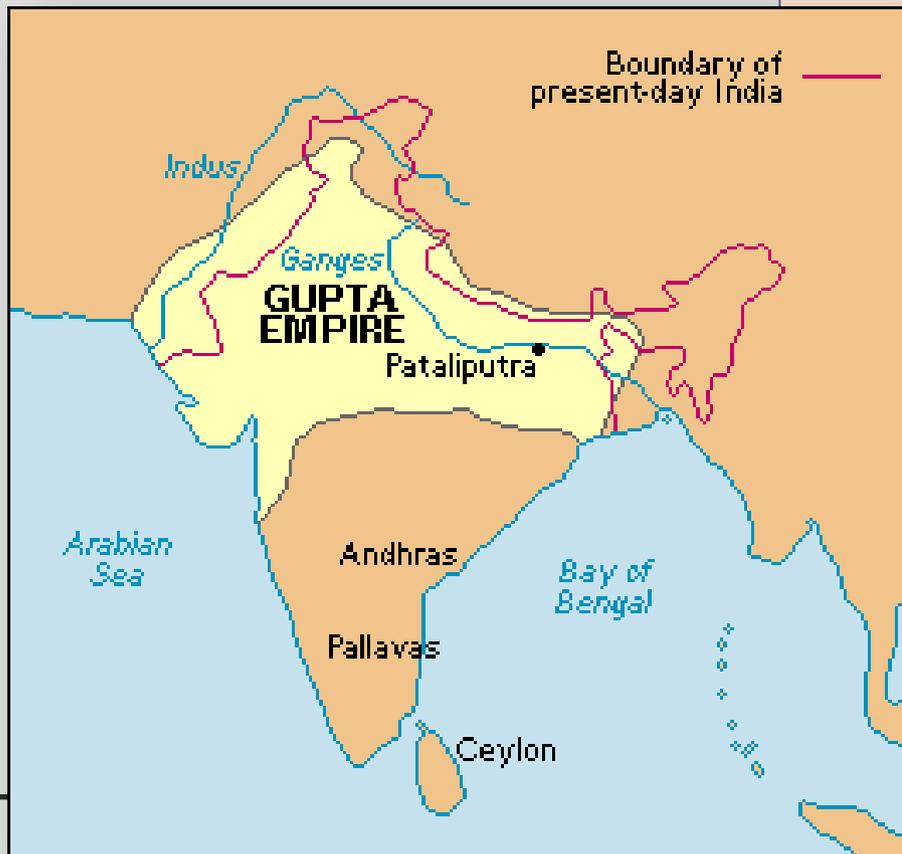
2. *Dynastic Changes*



- **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
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- **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

