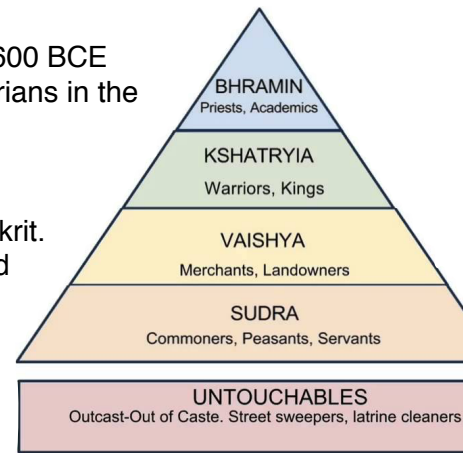


India/South Asia

Northern India was host to an early river civilization, the Harappans. From 3,300-1600 BCE The Harappans were excellent city planner and traders, who traded with the Sumerians in the Middle East. The remainder of India consisted of primarily hunters and gatherers.

In 1700BCE, the Aryan migration swept into India. Just as in Europe, the Aryans brought their religion that would become Hinduism and their language, called Sanskrit. Sanskrit is related to Latin and shares many similar words. As the Aryans expanded into India, they created and implemented the Caste System. The Caste System divided societies into castes or roles, with the religious and rich on top and the poor on the bottom. The Aryans married/settled throughout India, forming small communities and regional kingdoms around Hinduism and the Caste System.



Buddhism

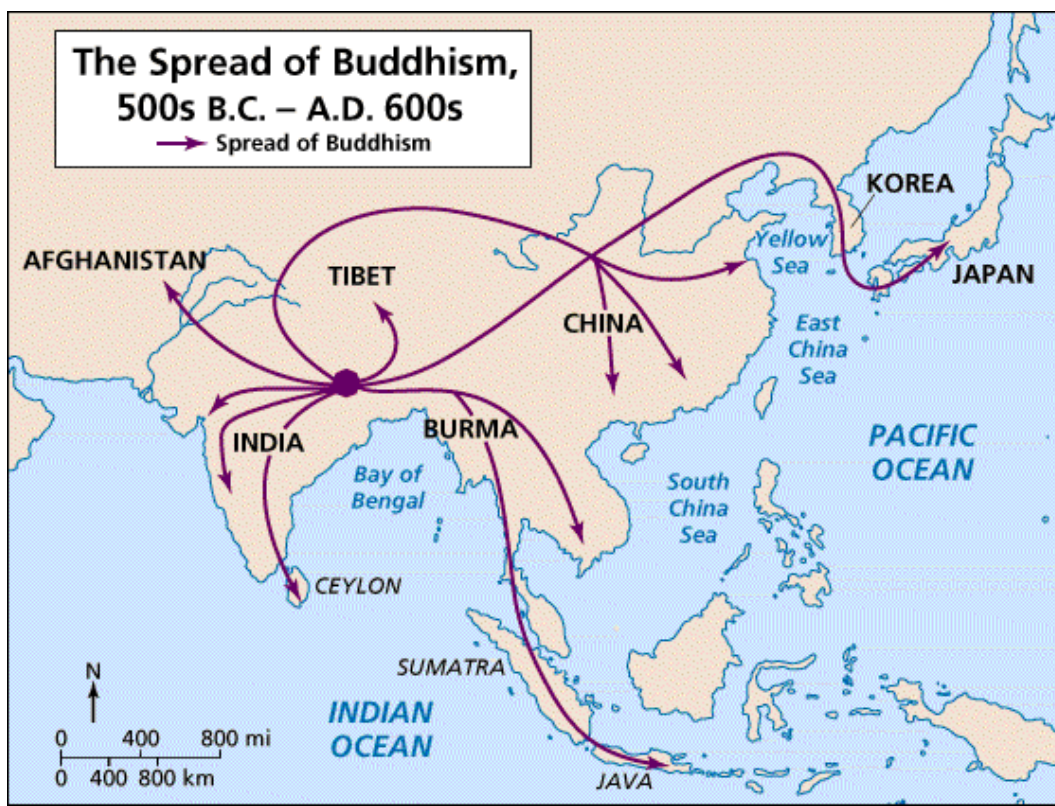
Around 450, Siddhartha was a Hindu Prince who sought to reform the religion. After a life of luxury, Siddhartha explored the world of India and was met with great suffering. Upon seeing the suffering in the world, he promoted the ideas that would become the foundation of Buddhism:

- The Four Noble Truths (Summary): Life is suffering caused by your unmet desires
- The Eight Fold Path (Summary): Living “rightly” will result in the removal of your desires and suffering.

Siddhartha (aka: the Buddha) and his students evangelized, or taught and sought to convert, people to this new teaching. However, by the time of Siddhartha’s death, the number of people following Buddhism was quite small.

Mauryan Empire and the Spread of Buddhism

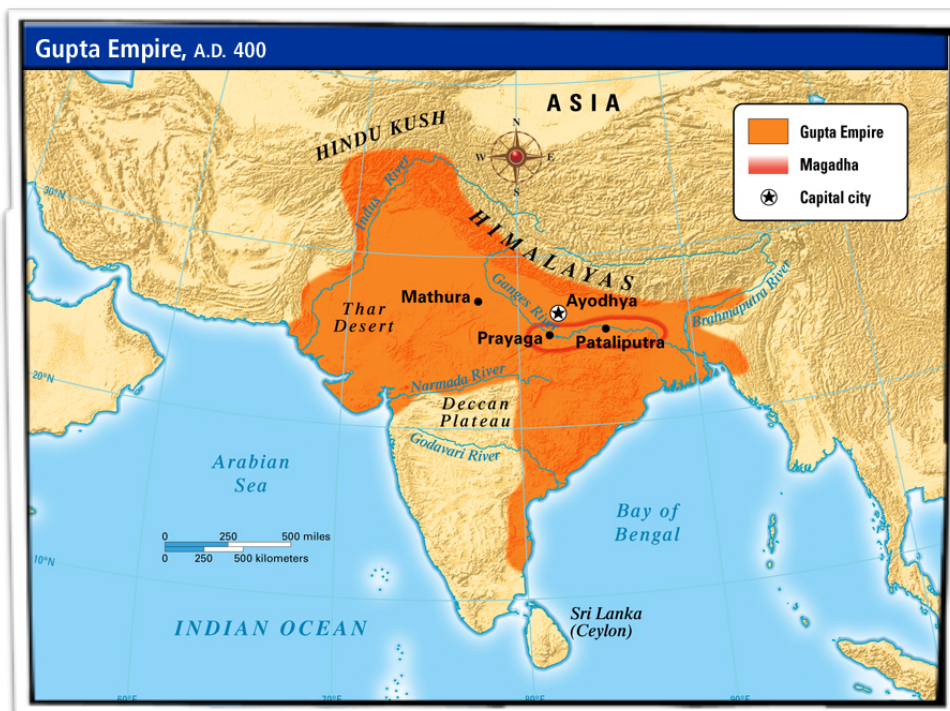
In 324BCE, Alexander the Great came storming into India, conquering all in his path. After Alexander’s men mutinied to return home, a young Indian Lord Chandragupta became inspired by a vision of unifying India in an “Alexander-esque” military campaign. Chandragupta was successful in uniting almost all of India under his rule. A later ruler, Ashoka the Great converted to Buddhism after seeing the destruction of a bitterly fought battle. Ashoka worked to base his empire on Buddhist teachings and spread Buddhism across all of India. Buddhist monks continued to evangelized, or encouraged people to join their religion, along the Silk Road trade route. This caused Buddhism to spread across Southeast Asia and China.



Gupta Empire

The Maurya Empire was followed by the Gupta Empire. The Gupta allowed regions to have their autonomy as long as they paid the taxes. Pay Taxes = Autonomy, or freedom to make laws and decisions. Refuse taxes = Death. Under the Gupta empire, many great achievements were made: discovering the world is round and rotated around the sun, the idea of gravity, the decimal system, the number zero, chess, and major medical surgeries.

The Gupta Empire collapsed around 470 CE. The collapse of Han Dynasty had caused a sharp decline of trade. This caused financial trouble for the Gupta. Added to this trouble, “barbarians” were invading along the northern border. These factors weakened the central government, which was already suffering from weak leadership. Regional powers rose up in rebellion, causing the Gupta empire to collapse into warring states.



ASSIGNMENT

- 1) Read & Update the Content Matrix
- 2) Fill out this chart with the the strengths/positives and weaknesses/negatives of each region.

Region	Strengths	Weaknesses
South Asia		

- 3) Create an impact chart. As you read you are to evaluate each area on the level of impact the people in that region had on the world culturally, militarily, and economically.
 - Rate each area as to how impactful you believe them to be at the Beginning of Time (**B**), at 300 BCE (■) and at 300 CE (▲).
 - Draw arrows to show whether they grew or shrunk in impact and influence.
 - If there is change, ask yourself “What caused them to grow or shrink or stagnate in their influence?” and make note of it on your chart.

How to rate each region:

- Local: Mainly Hunter/Gatherers and Small Villages; people barely impacting those outside of their small circles.
- Regional: Kingdoms, Small Empires.
- Continental: Large empire(s) that span across/impact/consume most of the continent.
- Inter-Continental: Massive empire(s) that span across/impact/consume multiple continents.
- Global: Massive empire(s) that span across/impact/consume most of the world.

Examples

