

HISTORY OF INDIA
Ancient Times

MAURYAN DYNASTY

325-175 B.C.

DEPARTMENT OF
HISTORY

Timeline of History

✦ *Vedic Civilization : 5000 B.C.*

✦ *Indus & Saraswati Civilizations : 2500 - 1000 B.C.*

✦ *Birth of Jainism and Buddhism 563 - 400 B.C.*

✦ *Golden Age of Indian Unity & Govt : Mauryan Dynasty : 325 - 175 B.C.*

✦ *Golden Age of Indian Arts & Sciences : Gupta Dynasty : 300 - 650 A.D.*

✦ *Regional Kingdoms and Muslim Invasions : 700 – 1200 A.D.*

✦ *The Mughal Empire : 1300 - 1700 A.D.*

✦ *The British East-India Company : 1600 A.D.*

✦ *The British Empire : 1700 - 1900 A.D.*

✦ *India's Freedom Struggle : 1857 - 1947*

✦ *Independence : 1947*

✦ *Modern India 2020 Vision : 20th and 21st Century*

Jainism (Mahavira 599 –527 B.C.)

- ✦ The word Jain is derived from the term ‘Jina’, a person who conquers his lower nature, i.e. passion, hatred, etc
- ✦ Person who has conquered Jinās and serves as guiding force is called ‘Tirthankara’. Mahavir (Vardhamana) is the 24th and last Tirthankara of Jainism.
- ✦ Mahavir: Born in 599 B.C. He was born in Magdha in a warrior (Kshtriya) family. Lived in Vaisali, North of Patna. Married had one daughter.
- ✦ At 28, he renounced world and joined ascetic order founded by Parsvanth. Practiced austerities for 12 years to become Jina.

Jainism contd..

- ✦ Started preaching at age 40. Gained large following by his teaching. Organized community in two classes, monks and householders.
- ✦ Later around Christ era, Jainism split into 2 parts Digambaras and Svetambaras, based on rules for monks. Digambaras believe sky is their cover, Svetambaras wear white robes.
- ✦ Two austerities of Jainism: Extended fasting, and Yoga.
- ✦ No special doctrines. Follow many Hindu customs and rituals. However, they do not accept authority of Vedas.

Principles of Jainism

- ✦ Fundamental principles of Jainism are: Non violence, Non acquisition, and Right Action.
- ✦ Meat eating is strictly forbidden in Jainism. Hurting bugs and insects is also not acceptable; monks carry feather dusters to clean path as they walk and wear veils.
- ✦ Jainism also promotes human values like Good deeds, charity, compassion, hospitality and selfless service.
- ✦ Followers of Jainism gave up agriculture to reduce violence against insects and took to business and trade.

Mahavir Statue



Adinath Jain Temple Ranakpur (Rajasthan)



Buddhism

- ✦ Siddhartha Gautama was born in Kapilavastu (U.P.) in 563 B.C.
- ✦ Story of upbringing, marriage with Yasodara, encounter with infirm **old** man, very **sick** man, and a corpse (**death**). Renounces at age 29.
- ✦ Siddhartha's path to renunciation, austerity, contemplation and meditation leading to enlightenment. This led to him becoming Buddha (Man of Enlightenment).
- ✦ Buddha's message is for us to lead a moral and well ordered life, by taking middle course between self indulgence and extreme asceticism.
- ✦ Buddhist monks spend entire lives in monasteries to obtain Nirvana.
- ✦ Influence of Buddhism spread during Emperor Ashoka's reign.
- ✦ By 1 A.D. the greater vehicle of Nirvana (salvation) was developed and Buddha was started to be worshipped as deity.

Buddha Statue



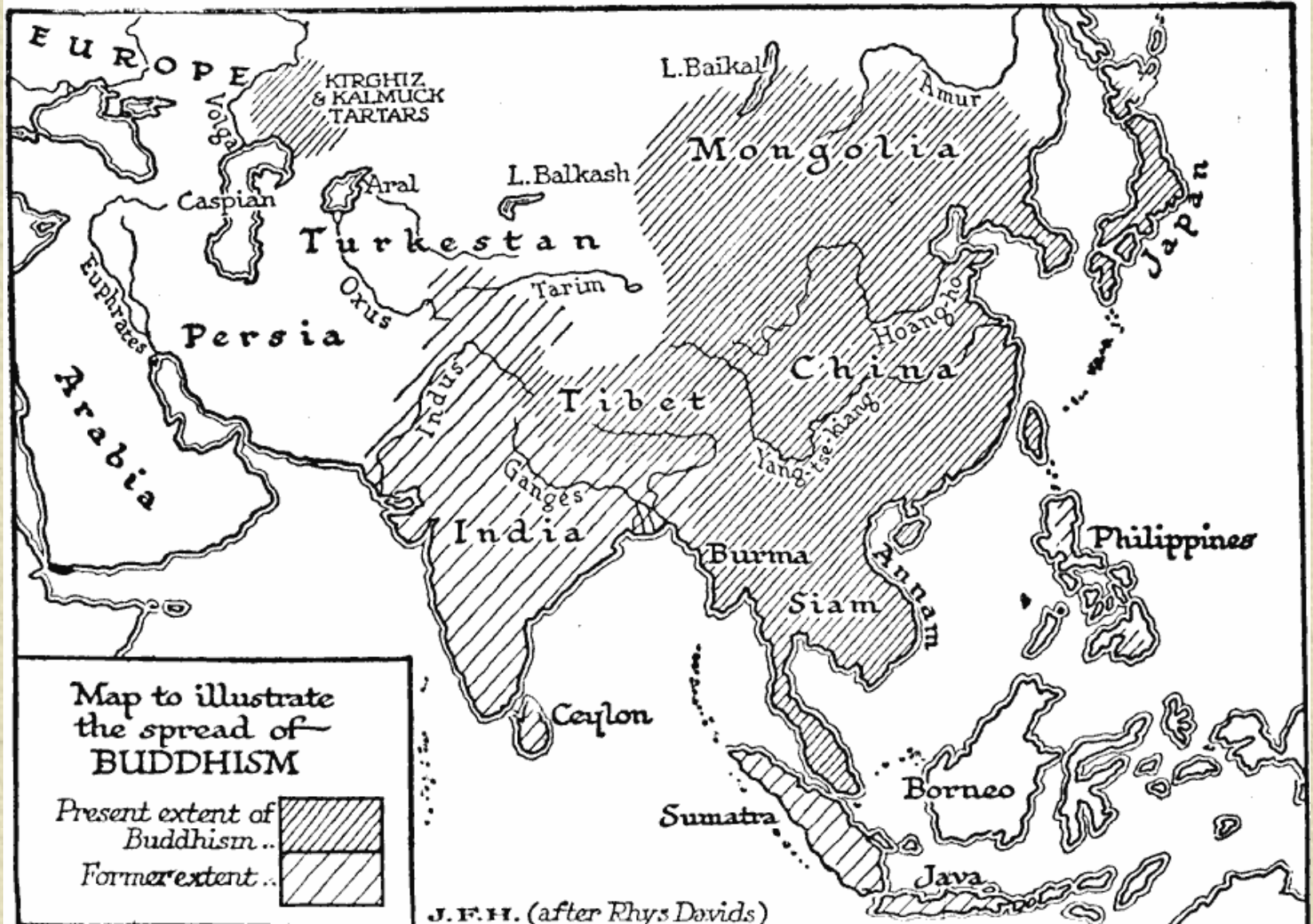
Buddhist Monastery (Temple) Thailand



Spread of Buddhism Map



Spread of Buddhism Map



Buddhism contd..

- ✦ Buddhist do not believe in transmigration of souls and theory of Karma.
- ✦ Never rejected the theory of Vedic Gods. Only disagreed with “Rigveda’s” animal sacrifice part.
- ✦ Teachings: Four Great Truths:
 - ◆ Human existence is pain
 - ◆ Desire is the cause of pain
 - ◆ Release from pain is won by victory over desire
 - ◆ To achieve this victory, one must follow the eight fold path
- ✦ Eight Fold Path: Right Views, Right Resolve, Right Speech, Right Conduct, Right Doing, Right Effort, Right Recollection, and Right Meditation.
- ✦ Hindu scriptures written by Jaydeva, call him 9th Avatar of Vishnu.
- ✦ Practice of Vipassana in modern age by S.N.Goenka

Buddhist teachings contd..

✧ Karma

- ◆ Actions have consequences; so our lives are conditioned by our past actions.

✧ Liberation from Karma

- ◆ By following the Buddha's path one escapes the cycle of craving and suffering.

✧ Enlightenment

- ◆ Highest goal of life is to reach Enlightenment; a state of being beyond suffering.

✧ Dharma

- ◆ The teachings and hence the way to Nirvana.

Pagoda planned in Mumbai India



Essence of Buddha's teaching...

FACING THE TRUTH

The Buddha taught that the human tendency is to avoid the difficult truths of life and this in turn leads to suffering.

By enabling the mind to be at peace through meditation a human being can confront reality and overcome hatred and craving.

Alexander The Great (356 – 323 B.C.)

- ✦ Alexander III, Emperor of Macedonia, Greece
- ✦ Disciple of Aristotle who inspired him to develop world empire held together by common ideology and culture.
- ✦ Marched to India through North West conquering all countries in the way in 326 B.C.
- ✦ King Ambhi of Gandhara (Pakistan) offered no resistance, defeated King Porus, ruler of Pauravaa (Punjab) in battle. Later appointed King Ambhi and King Porus as Governors.
- ✦ After army's refusal to move forward, Alexander decided to return. He fell ill on the way and died in Babylon in October 323 B.C.

ANCIENT INDIA

(500 B.C.)



Ancient Map of India

Alexander's route to India



Impact of Alexander's Invasion on Aryan Culture

- ✦ Greek sculpture and architecture found in Taxila, capital of Gandhara (King Ambhi's kingdom).
- ✦ Created awareness about invaders, and motivated Chandragupta Maurya of Magadha to unite whole of North India into Mauryan empire.
- ✦ Megasthenes became first Greek historian in Chandragupta's court.
- ✦ Most Greek Governors returned back from India, and long term effects was insignificant.

Chaanakya aka Kautilya aka Vishnugupta

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- ✦ Son of Rishi Channak, studied in Taxashila (Rawalpindi) University.
 - ✦ Chaanakya's childhood in Patliputra, studies, and encounter with King Dhananand.
 - ✦ Teacher of Political Science at Taxashila University.
 - ✦ Came to Patliputra and devised strategy to over throw the King Dhananand of Magadha empire. This established the empire for Chandragupta Maurya.
 - ✦ Celebrated as one of the greatest Diplomats of the world.
 - ✦ Neetishastra, Chaanakya Neeti and Artha Sastra are some of well known scholarly works.
 - ✦ Chaanakya envisioned India as a united nation which is strong politically, economically and socially. Architect of the Mauryan Empire.

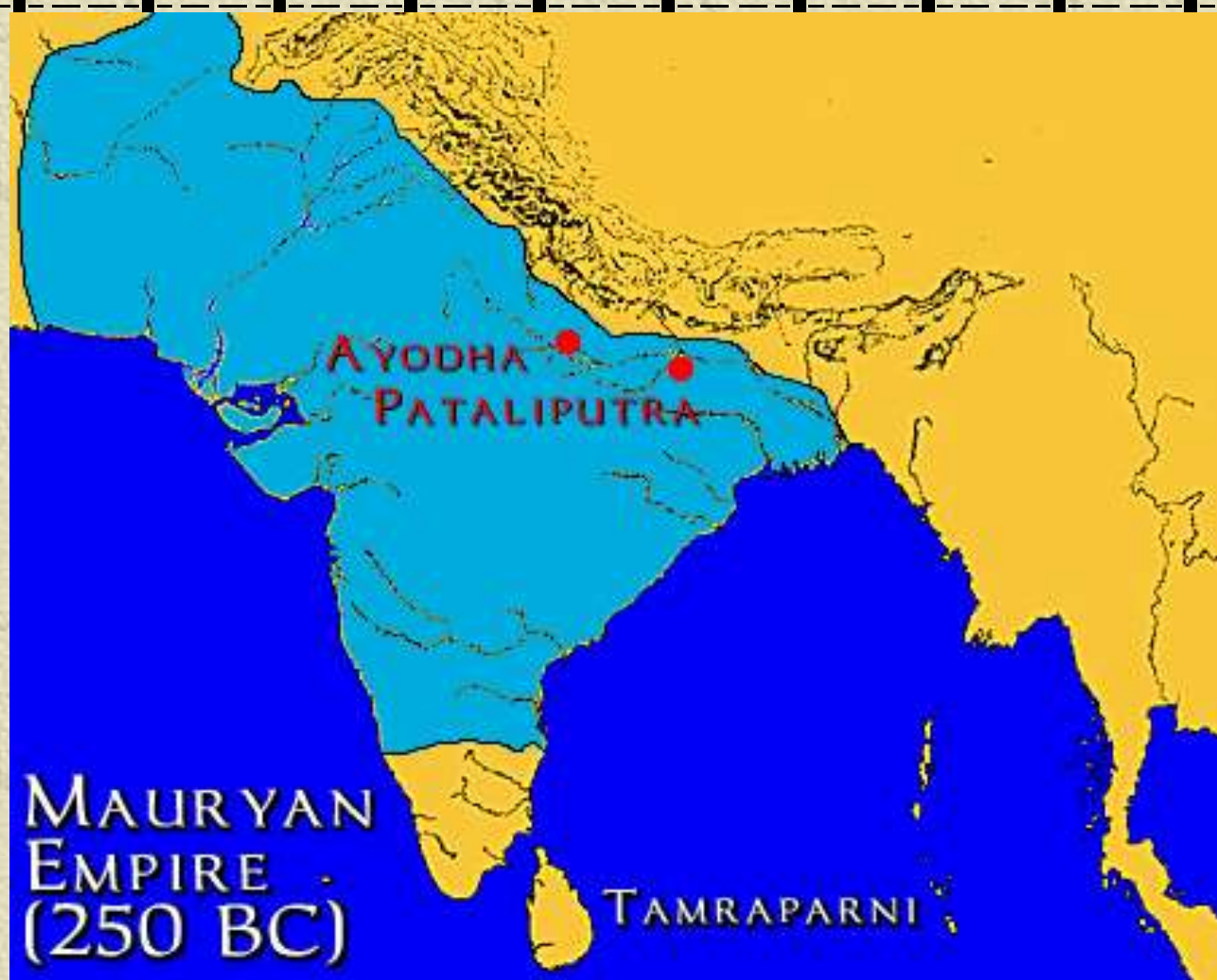
Taxshashila (aka Taxila) University

- ✦ Situated in Rawalpindi (Pakistan) area.
- ✦ Accommodated more than 10,000 students.
- ✦ Offered courses spanning more than 8 years.
- ✦ Subjects offered: Science, Philosophy, Ayurveda, Grammar, Mathematics, Economics, Astrology, Geography, Astronomy, Surgical Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, Political Science, Archery, Hunting, Elephant-lore, Knowledge of Four Vedas.
- ✦ Students were admitted after graduating from their own countries.
- ✦ After graduating, students recognized as best scholars in the sub-continent.

Birth of Mauryan Empire

- ✦ Chandragupta Maurya was a protégé of Chaanakya, also known as Kautilya, who raised him to become the Emperor of United India.
- ✦ Through Chaanakya's guidance and strategies, Chandragupta created and mobilized a revolutionary army which overtook Nanda king in Magadha (Patliputra, ie Patna) and ascended to the throne in 320 B.C.
- ✦ They further took advantage of the power vacuum created by Alexander's departure, and conquered most of North West region stretching all the way to today's Afghanistan.
- ✦ On the East, all the minor kingdoms were brought under one central government by Chandragupta Maurya.
- ✦ Except for the South India, Chandragupta's empire covered the whole of India from Arabian Sea to Bay of Bengal. This was first time in Indian history that all this territory came under one administration.

Map of Mauryan Empire



Administration in Mauryan Empire

Military Administration

- ✦ Empire was divided into provinces which were administered by most trusted generals appointed by the Emperor.
- ✦ Army was organized into 4 major divisions:
 - ◆ 600,000 infantry
 - ◆ 30,000 cavalry
 - ◆ 8,000 chariots
 - ◆ 9,000 elephants

Kings Schedule

King's routine schedule was as follows:

✦ 4.5 hours : sleep

✦ 3 hours : bath, meals

✦ 3 hours : private study

✦ 13.5 hours : state related work

Administration

Civil Administration

- ✦ Various Departments of Secretariat were created such as Industry and Commerce, Tax Collection, Foreign Affairs, Vital Statistics, Maintenance of public places like markets and temples.
- ✦ Council of Ministers – Diwan, Purohit, Senapati, Yuvraj, Pradhan Mantri.
- ✦ The administration principles were guided by ‘Artha Sastra’ (Science of Polity) written by Chaanakya himself.

Arthasastra from Chaanakya – Science of Polity

- ✦ Discuss duties of King, of his ministers, and councilors.
- ✦ Defense and fortifications are also dealt with in Arthasastra. Winning over enemy factions without wars.
- ✦ Trade and commerce, law and law courts, municipal governments, social customs, marriage and widow marriage, rights of women.
- ✦ Taxation and revenue, agriculture, mines and factories, irrigation and waterways, ships and navigation,
- ✦ Institution of Spies, census operations, passports and jails.
- ✦ Protection safety of Kings and Princes. Conduct of Kings and princes is detailed as well.

Arthashastra Social Policies

- ✦ Widows could remarry.
- ✦ Dowry was allowed.
- ✦ Steps for Judgment:
 - ◆ Magistrate
 - ◆ Local Assembly
 - ◆ King
- ✦ Capital Punishment was permissible.

Arthashastra Trade Policies

- ✦ Heavy Taxes
- ✦ Donor to State were given higher places
- ✦ Regulation of Prices by State
- ✦ Trade tactics were similar to today's world trade.
- ✦ Trade with China was common
- ✦ Severe Penalty for Smuggling

Silver and Copper Coins were used. Note that 1st Gold coins in India came around 1 B.C.

Arthashastra Foreign Policies

- ✦ State knows no law and justifies any means to ensure it. This includes:
 - ◆ War
 - ◆ Conciliation
 - ◆ Bribery of Dissension
 - ◆ Treachery
 - ◆ Propaganda or Diplomatic manoeuver
- ✦ Destroy the enemies from roots.
- ✦ Wherever there are earnings or financial gain, that place is motherland.

Quotes from Chaanakya Neeti

“If you were to choose between evil person and a snake to keep company with, opt for the snake. Because a snake will bite only in self-defense but an evil person can put a bit for any reason and any time or always.”

Quotes from Chaanakya Neeti

“Strange is the character of noble souls. They don’t give much weight to the importance of riches yet when riches comes to them the weight of the money bends them down into more humility.”

Quotes from Chaanakya Neeti

“You can win over; a greedy by offer of money, a proud person by cowering before him, a fool by agreeing with him and a scholar by speaking the truth.”

Quotes from Chaanakya Neeti

“Do not live in a country that does not allow you; self-respect, honor, means of living, a family, kith and kin, friends, well wishers, ways of education and self-development. Quit such country. It is not fit for living. ”

Quotes from Chaanakya Neeti

“Be content with what you have already got as wife, food and income. But don’t ever be content with your knowledge, self-improvement and charity.”

Quotes from Chaanakya Neeti

“Treat your kid like a darling for the first five years. For the next five years, scold them. By the time they turn sixteen, treat them like a friend. Your grown up children are your best friends”

Ashoka the Great (304 – 232 B.C.)

- ✦ Ashoka (son of Bindusara), grandson of Chandragupta, became king in 273 B.C.
- ✦ Fought many wars and won the neighboring kingdoms.
- ✦ Won the war of Kalinga at terrible cost to human life (100,000 people).
- ✦ After the war, Ashoka took refuge in Buddhism, but also supported Hinduism.
- ✦ Sent emissaries to spread Buddhism. Spent time for common good of people.

Ashoka Pillar (found at Sarnath)

✦ Ashoka pillar has 4 lions at the top and wheel. The lion symbolizes both Ashoka's imperial rule and the kingship of the Buddha

✦ The wheel represents *Dhamma* or Law of Piety (religious principles). He had ruled the country not by force, but according to Dhamma.



Ashoka's Administration

- ✦ No killing of animals, birds were allowed in the kingdom.
- ✦ Wells, trees, houses, education, roads and shelters were built all over kingdom to help poor and needy people.
- ✦ Built around 84,000 stupas (pagodas) across his empire to house the sacred relics of Lord Buddha.
- ✦ Respect for other faiths/religions. Buddhism, Jainism, Hinduism co-existed.
- ✦ Peace and Prosperity prevailed during his reign.

Ashoka's Declaration

“All men are my children. I am like a father to them. As every father desires the good and the happiness of his children, I wish that all men should be happy always.”

Dharma Principles under Ashoka

- ✦ Non-violence.
- ✦ Tolerance of all sects and opinions.
- ✦ Obedience to parents.
- ✦ Respect for the Brahmans and other religious teachers and priests
- ✦ Liberality towards friends, humane treatment of servants.
- ✦ Generosity towards all.

Map of Ashoka Empire



