

I. Indus River Culture

A. South Asia is the home of one of the world's oldest civilizations (in Mohenjo-Daro & Harappa).

1. Created uniform system of weights & measures.
2. Created a system of _____ (has not been decoded, called Indus script)
3. Language family unknown, possibly _____.
4. They lived in houses made of mud and brick. Ruins still exist today.

II. The Aryans Arrive

A. The _____ of Persia (a warrior people from present day Iran) began crossing the _____ in 1500 BCE and settled in the northern Indus plain, an area called "the Punjab."

1. They spoke an _____ language.
2. Their language is called _____, and the oldest Hindu texts, the _____ (prime source of Aryan culture), are written in this language (boys in the *Brahman* caste still learn Sanskrit from these epic stories).
3. They lived in houses of wood and bamboo, thus leaving no archaeological or artistic record.
4. They showed _____ for the native peoples who they described as "dark-skinned."
5. Cattle was served as a measure of _____. They did eat beef.
6. We know they lived in tribes headed by a chief called a _____.
 - a. Aryans divided their people into 3 _____ of warriors, priests, & commoners (precursor to _____).
 - b. Later this social class system became more complex. They divided their people into 4 _____ ("social order"). The word *varna* means "skin covering."

III. The Caste System

A. The Aryans placed themselves in the three highest classes of _____ (*brahmins*), _____ (*kshatriyas*), and other Aryans citizens, called *vaishyas*. A term later used to describe _____ & artisans.

B. At the bottom of the *varna* system were the _____, the dark-skinned native peoples who they conquered and reduced to slavery or serfdom. They were forced to perform _____ tasks (servants)

C. Each *varna* had its own color and was believed to have all originated from a part of the original cosmic man-god:

Brahman - _____, came from his mouth

Kshatriya - _____, came from his arms

Vaishtrya - _____, came from his thighs

Sudras - _____, came from his feet

D. A great social gap existed between the top 3 castes (Aryan conquerers) and the *sudras* (Dravidian conquered).

E. The *sudras*, however, were not at the very bottom of society. Other people were not considered a class at all and were called "_____ " based on the work they did: attendants of cremation grounds, working with animal carcasses, leather workers, etc...

1. The "untouchable" class are called "_____ " today. Dalit means "ground; suppressed; crushed and is derived from Sanskrit.

F. The fact that the highest caste became brahman priests in what was a warrior society shows the importance of religion to the Aryan culture.

VI. The *Jati* System - “castes within castes”

A. Within the 4 castes and the “untouchables” there is another social system called the “_____.” It affects people’s lives more intimately than the castes.

B. Because many different local Dravidian languages were spoken...the way the *varna* was implemented was slightly different in various regions.

C. *Jati* groups:

1. are _____ (married within their group) & and you are _____ into your *jati*, your *jati* was like your family
2. share a common religious heritage & traditional values
3. have their own way of life & dietary rules
4. frequently have the same _____
5. to be outcast from your *jati* is like being shunned by your family & no other *jati* will accept you

V. The Aryans Expand & other Cultural Influences

A. The Aryans expanded into northern India, but not as much into southern India due to the rough terrain between the Ghats.

1. Because of this, the southern people of India who were there before the Aryans arrived were able to retain their culture, with only some Aryan influence.

2. The people of southern India continue to speak _____ (ex: Tamil) languages to this day (different language family from Indo-European)

B. By the 6th ct. BCE there were 16 kingdoms, the largest being Magadah in the northeast along the Ganges River

C. In modern day Pakistan during this period, the _____ (modern day Iran) invaded and took over the northwest, thus Persian culture influenced the region.

D. Alexander the Great of Macedonia conquered the Persian empire and introduced _____ culture to the region.

VI. Natural Cultural Boundaries Take Shape

A. Several _____ came and went & between 321-181 BCE there existed the great Mauryan Empire of India.

B. After the death of Alexander, the Mauryan empire’s founder, Chandragupta made a treaty with Seleucus, one of Alexander’s generals and founder of the Seleucid Empire. They drew a _____ (cultural border).

C. The Aryan’s were at their height during this period, but the empire would fall and splinter. From there it would be 500 years of political divisions in India.

VII. Languages

A. Hindi & English are the _____ languages of India.

- Define official language _____

1. English is considered a _____ language and many Indians are bilingual.

2. There are many other languages spoken as well: Bengali, Tamil, & Urdu

B. _____ is a mixture of a form of Hindi with Arabic script & is the official language of Pakistan.

C. In Sri Lanka, 2 major languages are spoken: the Sinhalese speak _____ & the Tamils speak Tamil.

D. In all there are over _____ languages & dialects spoken in India alone.

1. Mainly Indo-European in the north of India;
2. _____ languages in the south.

VIII. Religion

A. The main religion of India is Hinduism, but 3 other religions were founded in South Asia:

1. _____ - built around an extreme code of nonviolence (influenced Gandhi)
2. Buddhism - at its height during the reign of Asoka who converted and helped spread it into Sri Lanka (and from there SE Asia), after his death, Hinduism regained its importance.
3. Sikhism - combines aspects of Hinduism & strict monotheism (from Islam). They follow and/or wear the _____ symbols of faith:
 - (a) Kesh - uncut hair
 - (b) Kara - a steel bracelet
 - (c) Kanga - a wooden comb
 - (d) Kaccha - undergarments made from cotton
 - (e) Kirpan - a _____ (or dagger in places like the U.K.)
 - (1) Sikhs are known for their military might and the British used them as troops. They have also been used as _____ by Indian leaders until Indian PM Indira Gandhi was assassinated by 2 of her Sikh bodyguards.

B. The Parsi (means "Persian") are a small community of people in South Asia who migrated from present-day (Iran) after Muslims began invading Persian territory.

1. They arrived in South Asia as refugees and follow the oldest monotheistic religion in the world: _____ (at one time one of the most powerful religions in existence).
2. Today the community is in danger from being TOO successful. Women are well educated and married couples are not having as many children. _____ are being addressed by the communities.

IX. Speaking of Islam...

A. Islam was brought to India by Arab traders in 700s BCE. It spread in areas that were Buddhist [Punjab in the northwest (think Pakistan) & Bengal in the East (think Bangladesh)]

B. Muslim invasions began in the 1200s and the _____ was founded in the 1700s (_____ and other buildings survive from this time period)

C. Muslims form an important _____ in India, but are the majority in Pakistan & Bangladesh.

D. Arab traders also traded across the Indian Ocean spreading they religion to the _____ and other islands as well as present-day Indonesia.

X. Ethnic Conflicts

A. Sri Lanka (SL) was a politically stable country with a growing economy after independence until the 1980's. Despite deaths from ethnic conflicts, SL has the _____ life expectancy rate in South Asia.

1. Sri Lanka is ethnically divided between the mainly Buddhist _____ (majority) in the central and southern part of the island and the Muslim Sri Lankan _____ in the north (minority).
2. The Tamil people (both of Sri Lankan & Indian origins) began fighting for their "rights" and a defined Tamil "homeland" or "_____."

(a) Problems arose after independence due to government policies that favored the Sinhalese (example: the Sinhala Only Act of 1956 that made Sinhala the only official language thus restricting many government jobs to only those who could speak Sinhala. There were also changes to university admission policies that favored the Sinhalese causing the Tamils to lose educational opportunities.

3. An attack on the SL military by the rebel group the “_____” AKA the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in 1983 and the anti-Tamil riots that followed began the civil war that has raged in SL ever since.

(a) There have been several peace deals and truces, as well as a concession by the SL government by making Tamil an official language alongside Sinhala.

(b) Casualties have grown to over 65,000 in the last 30 years.

B. India & Pakistan have been fighting since independence. The countries were created based on language, but religion is the main reason for continued conflict today as well as territory such as Kashmir.

1. _____ conflicts in India between the Hindu majority and the Muslim & Christian minorities.

C. Nepal has been a monarchy through most of its history and is mainly Hindu despite being associated with Buddhism. In the 1980's it became a constitutional monarchy.

1. The monarchy ended in 2008 when the Communist party of Nepal won the majority of parliamentary seats. The government had been battling Maoist rebels since the 1980's. In 2009, the Maoist-led government was overthrown, but in 2011 that government was overthrown and a new Communist PM was chosen. In 2014, an agreement was met between the main parties.

D. In summation, the geographic concentration of different ethnic groups in South Asia, strong feelings of cultural pride, and perceptions of being excluded and discriminated against politically, culturally, & economically by a dominant group all form a potent mix that has led to nationalistic fervor & ethnic strife.