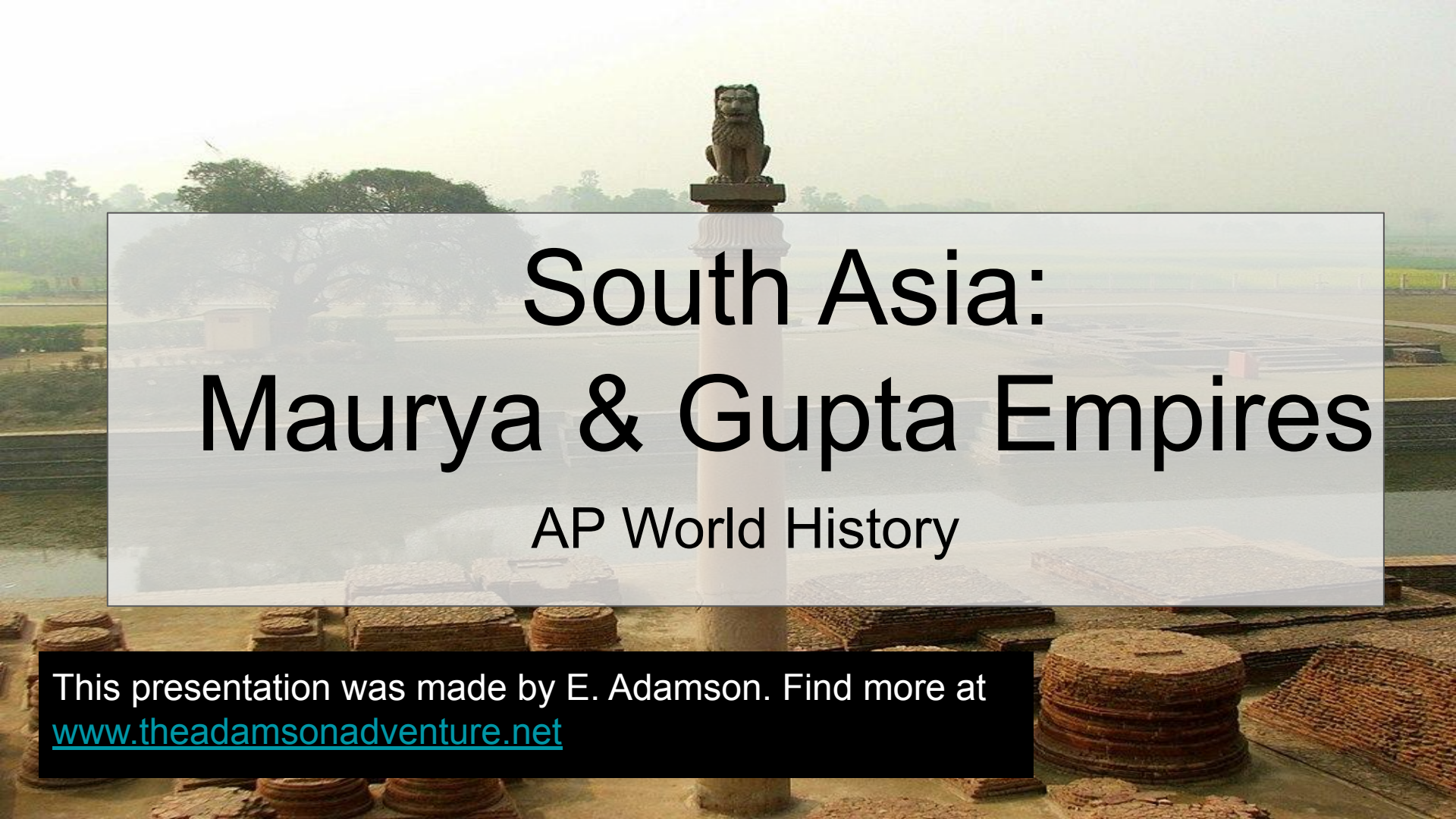


South Asia: Maurya & Gupta Empires

AP World History

This presentation was made by E. Adamson. Find more at www.theadamsonadventure.net

Your Summer Assignment

This presentation will give you the information you need to complete the following:

- **Gupta** on **Classical Empires** graphic organizer
- **Hinduism** on Belief Systems graphic organizer
- **Buddhism** on Belief Systems graphic organizer



South Asia = India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bhutan

Development of States and Empires

As the early states and empires grew in number, size, and population, they frequently competed for resources and came into conflict with one another. In quest of land, wealth, and security, some empires expanded dramatically. In doing so, they built powerful military machines and administrative institutions that were capable of organizing human activities over long distances, and they created new groups of military and political elites to manage their affairs. As these empires expanded their boundaries, they also faced the need to develop policies and procedures to govern their relationships with ethnically and culturally diverse populations: sometimes to integrate them within an imperial society and sometimes to exclude them. In some cases, the successes of these empires created further problems. By expanding their boundaries too far, they created political, cultural, and administrative difficulties that they could not manage. They also experienced environmental, social, and economic problems when they over-utilized their lands and subjects and when disproportionate wealth became concentrated in the hands of privileged classes.

Development of States and Empires

Empires and states developed new techniques of imperial administration based, in part, on the success of earlier political forms.

In order to organize their subjects, in many regions the rulers created administrative institutions, including centralized governments as well as elaborate legal systems and bureaucracies. (*Ex. of new administrative institutions: China, Persia, Rome, South Asia)*

Imperial governments promoted trade and projected military power over larger areas using a variety of techniques, including issuing currencies; diplomacy; developing supply lines; building fortifications, defensive walls, and roads; and drawing new groups of military officers and soldiers from the location populations or conquered populations.

Development of States and Empires

The Roman, Han, Persian, Mauryan, and Gupta empires created political, cultural, and administrative difficulties that they could not manage, which eventually led to their decline, collapse, and transformation into successor empires or states.

Through excessive mobilization of resources, erosion of established political institutions, and economic changes, imperial governments generated social tensions and created economic difficulties by concentrating too much wealth in the hands of elites.

Questions to Consider

- What specific methods did the Mauryans and Guptas utilize for managing their vast, diverse empire?
- What specific administrative institutions did the Mauryans and Guptas utilize in order to manage their empire?
- Did the Mauryans/Guptas integrate diverse populations or exclude them?
- What environmental, social, and economic problems did the these empires experience?
- How did these empires utilize religion/belief systems to consolidate their power?


Maurya & Gupta Empires
Maurya Empire
c. 232 B.C.
Gupta Empire
c. A.D. 400
BACTRIA
HINDU KUSH
Khyber Pass
Taxila
GANDHARA
PUNJAB
Indus River
Yamuna R.
Plateau of Tibet
Allicchatra
HIMALAYAS
Brahmaputra R.
Mathura
Ganges River
Ayodhya
SIND
Pataliputra (Patna)
Nalanda
MAGADHA
Ujjayini
Narmada R.
Bharukaccha
20°N
Ajanta
KALINGA
Arabian Sea
Deccan Plateau
Bay of Bengal
10°N
© eMapshop
0 300 600 mi
0 300 600 km
SRI LANKA (CEYLON)
© GeoNova
70°E
80°E
90°E

Timeline of Indian achievement

- **320 BC** Candragupta Maurya becomes the first Mauryan emperor.
- **301 BC** Candragupta Maurya relinquishes the throne to become a Jainist monk.
- **270 BC** Asoka becomes the second Mauryan emperor.
- **261 BC** Asoka's empire gains great power, and he leaves to become a Buddhist.
- **AD 375** Candra Gupta I invades and conquers northern India and brings Hinduism, prosperity, and a strict caste system back into popular culture.



MAURYAN EMPIRE

INDIA'S FIRST EMPIRE

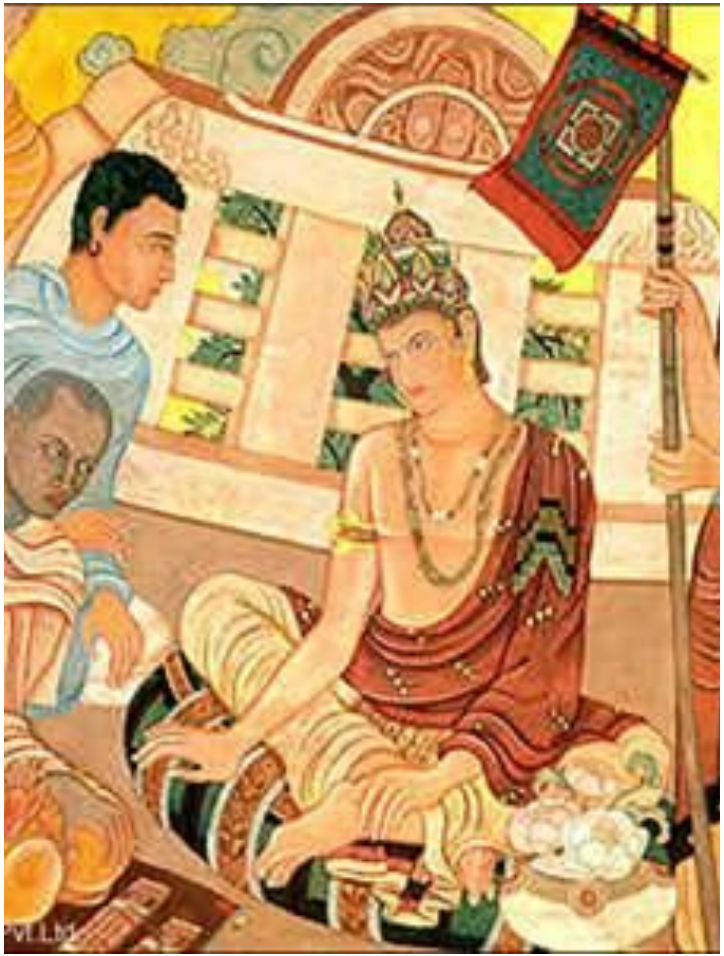
Mauryan Empire



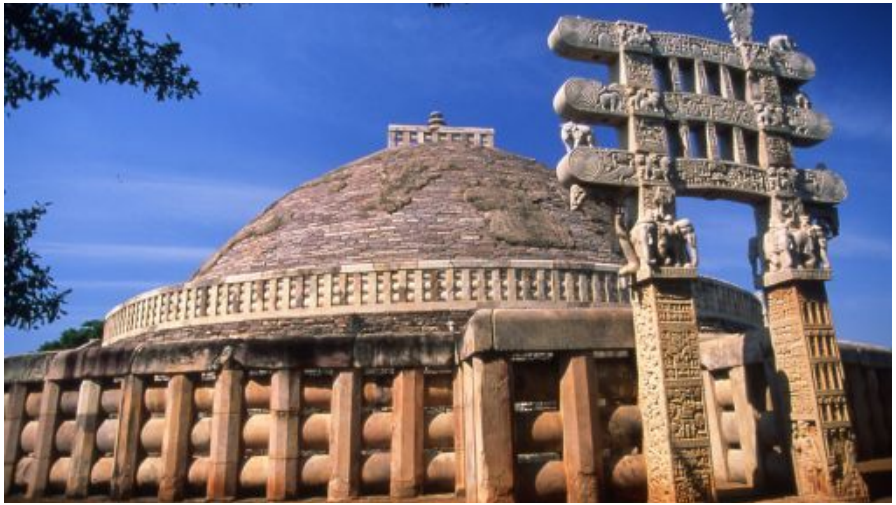
- Equivalent to Persian, Chinese, and Roman empires
- Population of 50 million people
- Large military with 600,000 infantry soldiers, 30,000 calvary, 8,000 chariots, and 9,000 elephants
- Civilian bureaucracy had many ministries and spies to relay information
- State operated many industries such as spinning, weaving, mining, shipbuilding, and armaments
- Taxed trade, herds of animals, and land
  - Monarch claimed 1/4th of all crops harvested
- Best known for **Emperor Ashoka** (r. 268-232 BCE)
  - Converted to Buddhism and built rock pillar edicts around his empire

Emperor Ashoka

- Left record of his beliefs and deeds on carved rock pillars around the kingdom
- Edicts spread his Buddhist beliefs
- Converted to Buddhism
- Enlightened ruler who sought to govern in accord with the religious values and moral teachings of Hinduism and Buddhism
- Empire broke apart soon after Ashoka’s death



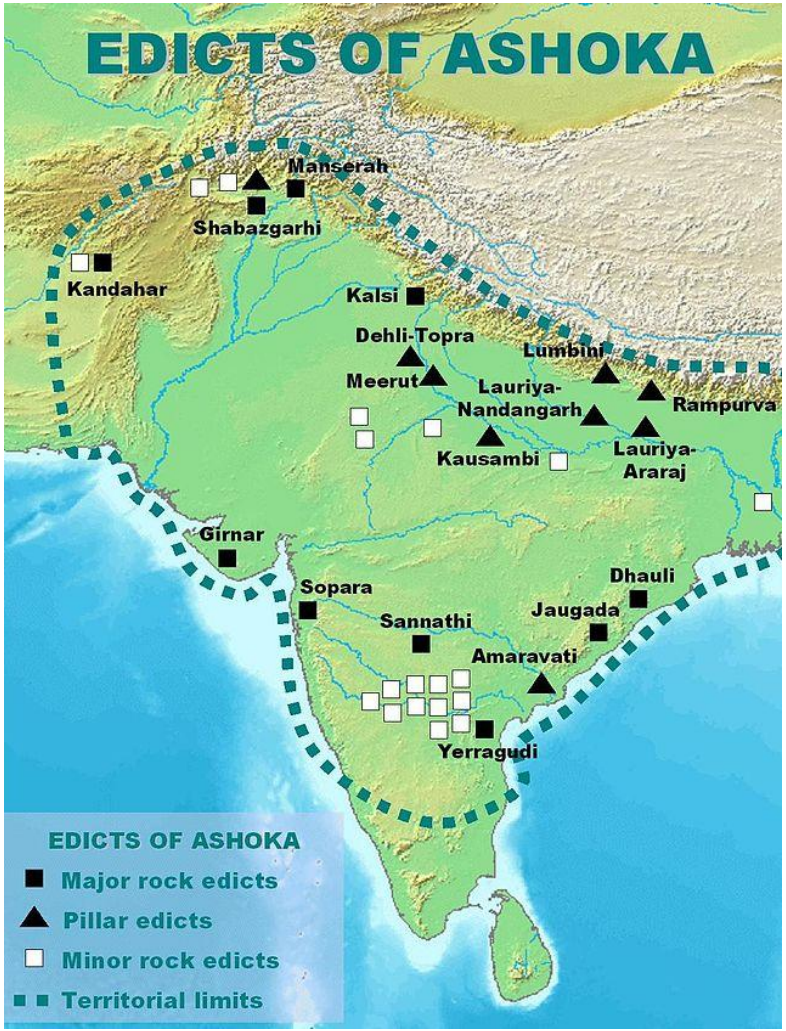


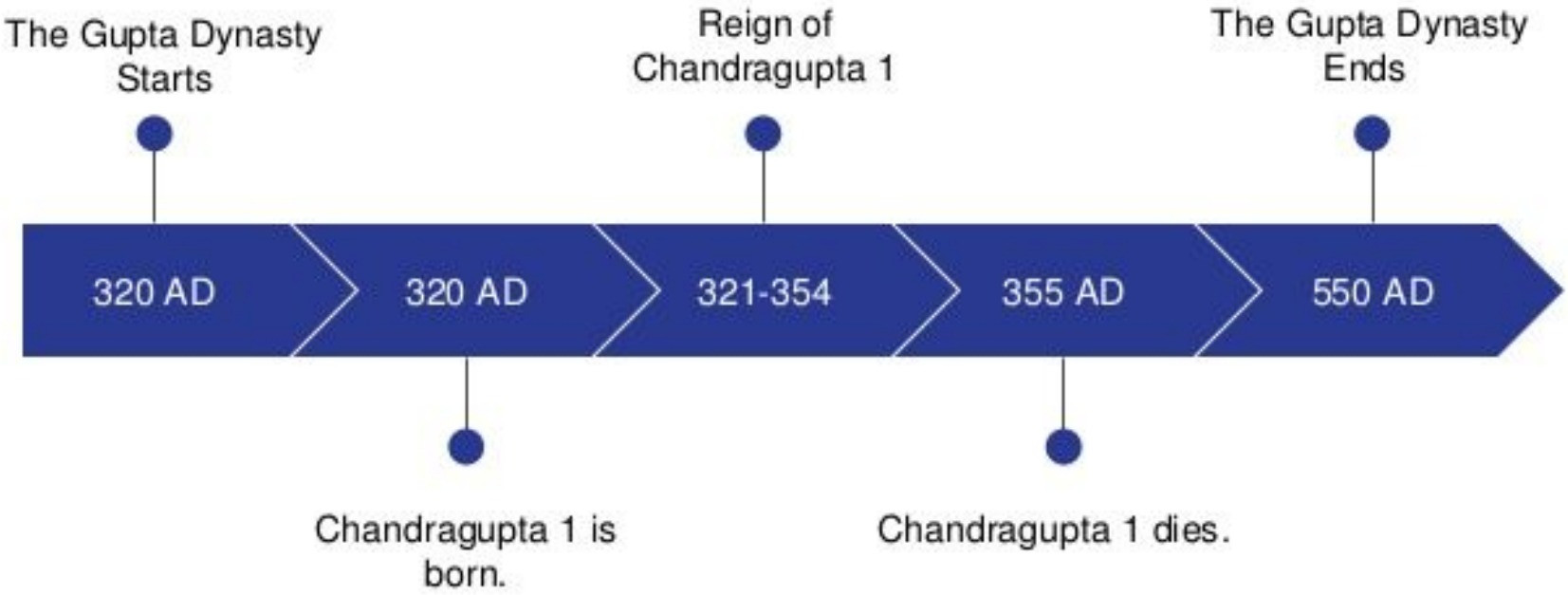




Pillars of Ashoka



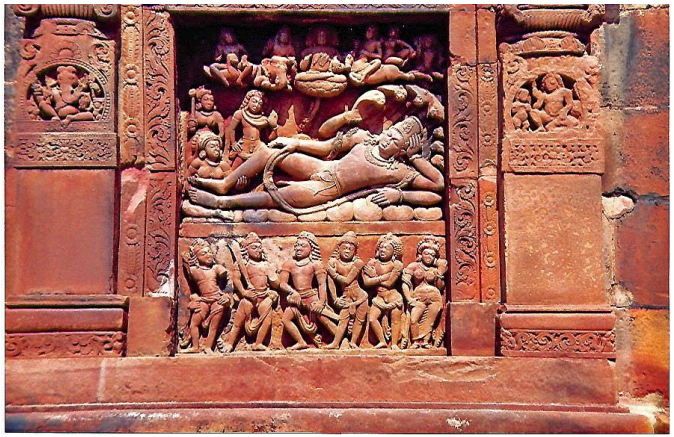

EDICTS OF ASHOKA
Manserah
Shabazgarhi
Kandahar
Kalsi
Dehli-Topra
Meerut
Lumbini
Lauriya-
Nandangarh
Rampurva
Kausambi
Lauriya-
Araraj
Girnar
Sopara
Dhauli
Jaugada
Sannathi
Amaravati
Yerragudi
EDICTS OF ASHOKA
Major rock edicts
Pillar edicts
Minor rock edicts
Territorial limits



- This timeline shows approximate years.
- This timeline shows content related only to Chandragupta 1.


GUPTA DYNASTY
GOLDEN AGE OF PEACE AND ENLIGHTNMENT
c. 320–550 CE





Gupta Empire 320-550 CE

- The Mauryan Dynasty was overthrown in the 2nd century BCE
  - The empire fell apart and and India was in political discord
  - Led to several hundred years of disunity
- The **Gupta Empire** arose 600 years after the Mauryan Empire
- Generally peaceful and tolerant
- Flourishing of art, literature, temple building, science, mathematics, and medicine
- Trade with China and Rome increased
- Elements of Buddhist and Hindu culture took root
- Culturally diverse with frequent outside invasions
- Use of the caste system

Gupta Political Organization

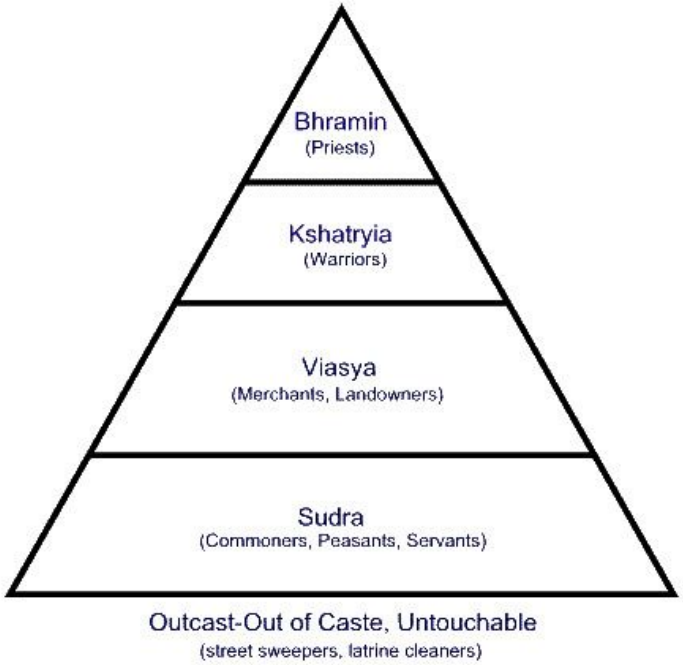
- The emperor held supreme authority over military, taxation, justice, and religious matters
    - Famous emperors like Chandragupta I, Samudragupta, and Chandragupta II expanded and stabilized the empire
- The emperor was seen as a divinely appointed ruler, often portrayed as the protector of dharma (cosmic order)
- The empire was divided into provinces and a complex bureaucratic government managed political and economic affairs
- Each province was ruled by a governor (often a royal prince) who acted on behalf of the emperor
- Governors oversaw local administration, collected taxes, maintained law and order, and managed military forces
- Gupta emperors made use of their strong militaries to expand the empire



Coin showing Gupta emperor Chandragupta II who reigned c. 375 to 415 CE

Gupta Social Organization

- The **caste system** organized society into rigid social groups, or varnas, with little mobility between them
- Gupta society was **patriarchal**, with men holding most power in public and private life.
    - Women were expected to be obedient daughters, faithful wives, and devoted mothers
    - Education and inheritance were mostly reserved for men



Gupta Economy

- Government controlled the working of gold and silver, the mining of salt and minerals, coinage and arms manufacture
- Famous of their cotton textile industry (a continuity for South Asia)
- Taxation included forced labor on public works
- Provided luxury goods such as spices, jewels, ivory, and fine cloths for export
- Traded with the Roman Empire
- Utilized both Indian Ocean and Silk Road trade routes



Coin issued by one of the Gupta emperors

Gupta Culture

- "Golden Age of India," was a period of great cultural flourishing in art, science, literature, religion, and education
- **Hinduism** became more dominant and widely practiced
  - The Bhagavad Gita and Puranas were widely studied and circulated
- **Buddhism** continued to thrive, especially in art and education, but gradually declined in India
- Religious tolerance was common; multiple traditions coexisted
- Scholars studied math, astronomy, medicine, philosophy, and literature
- Sanskrit was the language of scholarship and literature
- The concept of zero and place value were developed
- Advances were made in:
  - Algebra and geometry
  - Astronomy (calculating eclipses, planetary movements)
  - Medicine (surgery, herbal treatments, detailed medical texts)



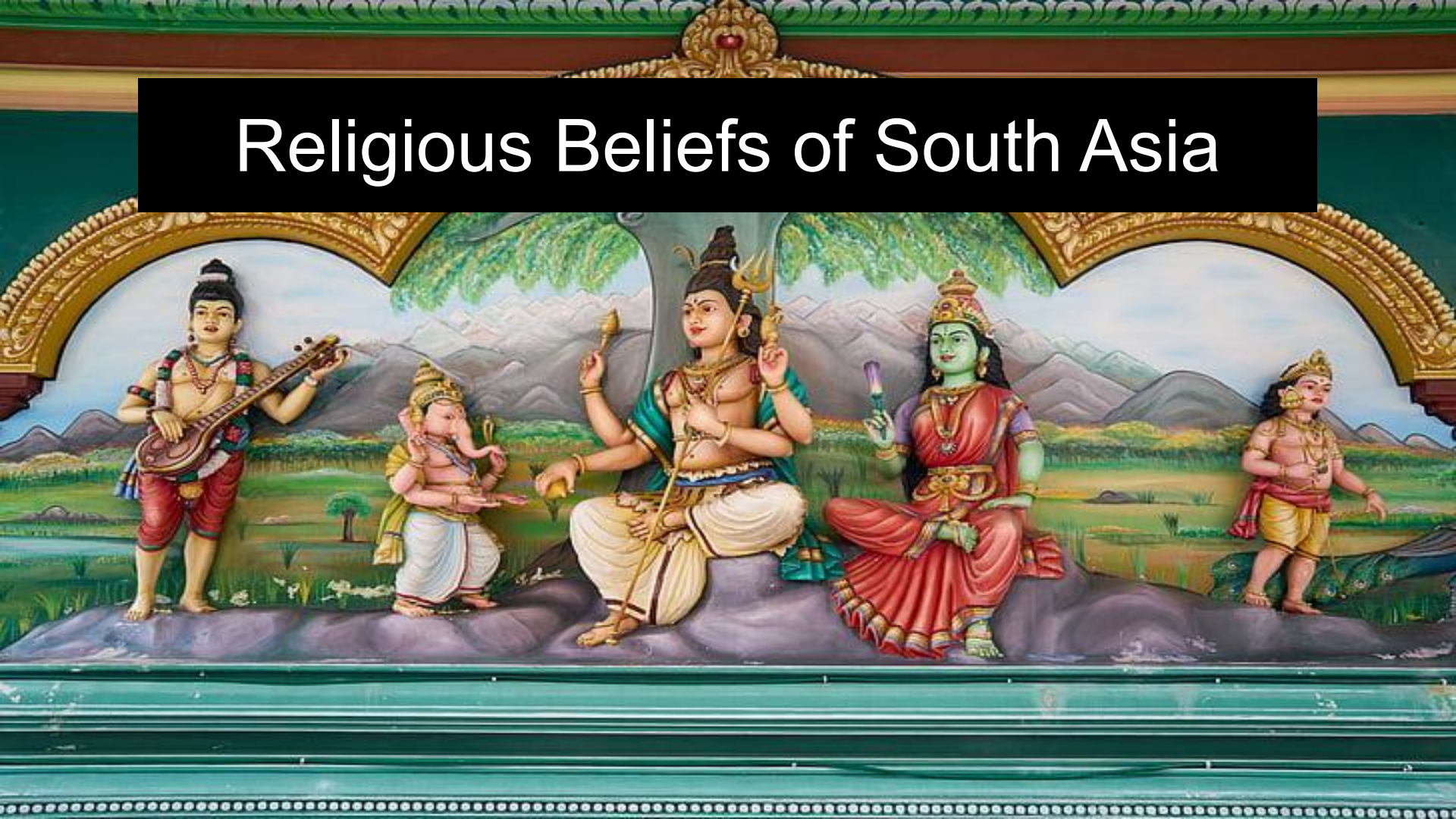
End of the Gupta

- A group of nomads called the “White Huns” defeated Gupta forces and made themselves masters of Northern India (480 CE)
- This occurred around the same time the Roman Empire in the West was being invaded

Gupta Empire



Religious Beliefs of South Asia





Key Terms in Hinduism

- **Atman:** individual soul
- **Brahman:** the ultimate formless reality
- **Dharma:** your caste duty
- **Karma:** the law of cause and effect - your actions shape your future (do good and good will come and vice versa)
- **Samsara:** the cycle of death and rebirth
- **Moksha**: Ending of samsara (reincarnation) and joining with the Brahman



Hinduism

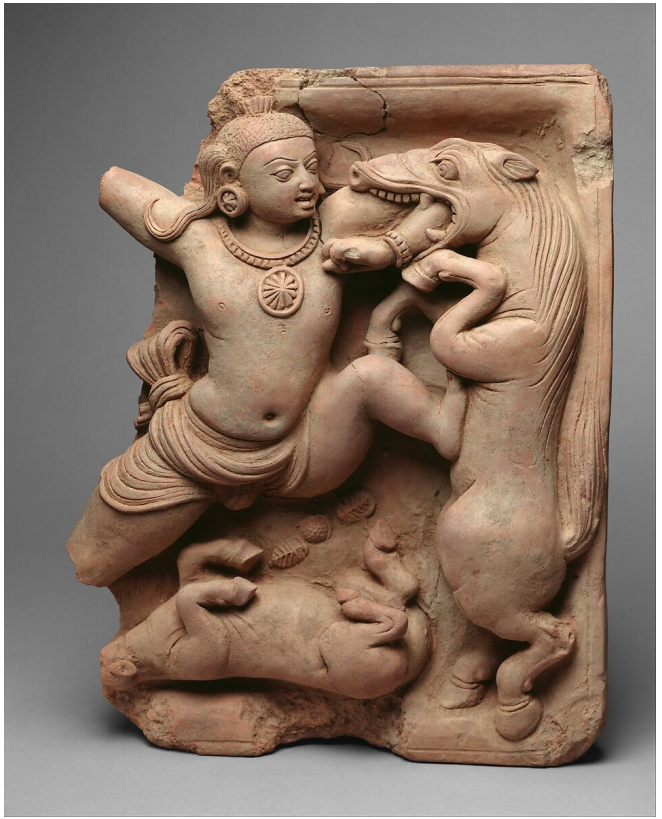
- The core beliefs outlined in the Sanskrit scriptures formed the basis of the Vedic religions — later known as **Hinduism**
- A monistic belief system
- Beliefs included the importance of multiple manifestations of brahman and teachings about **dharma** and **reincarnation**
- Contributed to the development of the social and political roles of a **caste system**

Monistic Religion

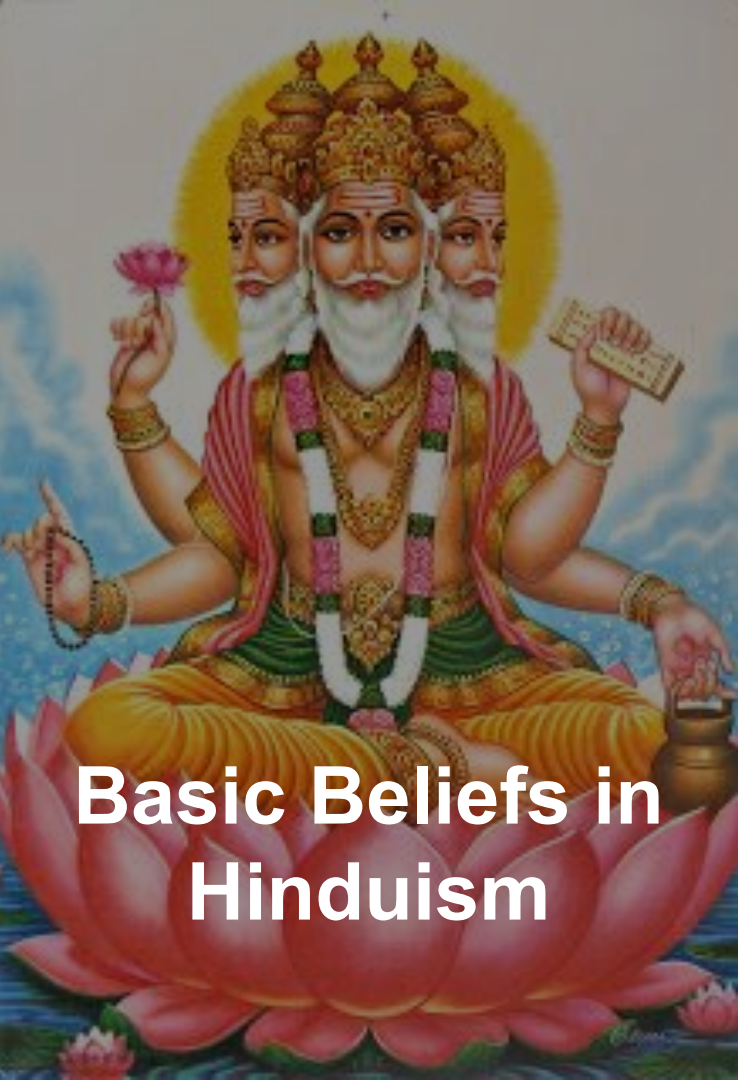
- Hinduism is **monistic**
- Monism is the belief that all reality is ultimately one—that everything in the universe comes from a single source or essence.
- In Hinduism, this idea is expressed through the belief that all living beings and the universe itself are part of one divine reality called **Brahman**

Origins of Hinduism

- **Hinduism** is one of the oldest living religions in the world, with no single founder
- It developed over thousands of years in the Indian subcontinent
- Earliest roots trace back to the Indus Valley Civilization (c. 2500–1500 BCE), where archaeologists found sacred symbols, animal worship, and ritual bathing (precursors to later Hindu practices)
- Hinduism evolved gradually over time:
    - Pre-Vedic period (before 1500 BCE): Indigenous religious practices in the Indus Valley.
    - Vedic period (c. 1500–500 BCE): Arrival of the Indo-Aryans brought Vedic religion, which became the foundation of Hinduism.
    - Post-Vedic period (after 500 BCE): New ideas like karma, dharma, moksha, and reincarnation developed, forming Classical Hinduism.







Basic Beliefs in Hinduism

- The individual human soul (**atman**) is part of the Brahman
- Beyond the usual pursuits of humans, the final goal of humankind is union with the Brahman, an end to our perception of a separate existence
- This is **moksha**, liberation from the cycle of reincarnation, **samsara**
- Pure actions, appropriate to one's caste resulted in rebirth at in a higher caste



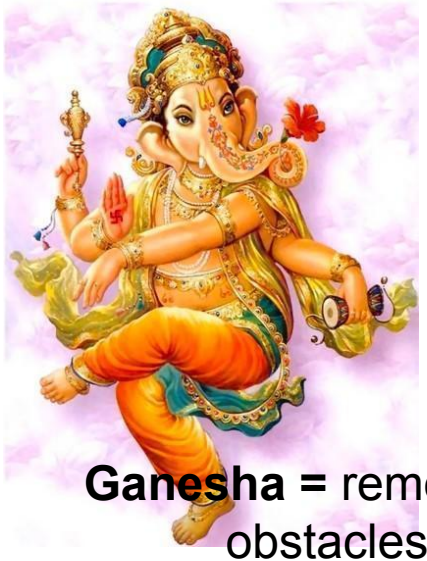
Key Texts in Hinduism

- *Rigveda* (1500 – 1200 BCE) – verses compiled by Aryan brahmins
- *Upanishads* (800 – 500 BCE) – philosophical treatises
- *Mahabarata* (300 BCE – 300 CE) includes Bhagavad-gita)– prayers and stories
- *Ramayana* (300- BCE – 300 CE): epic poem about Rama

Some of the Deities of Hinduism

Vishnu (Krishna) = protector and preserver of creation, associated with mercy and goodness





Ganesha = remover of obstacles



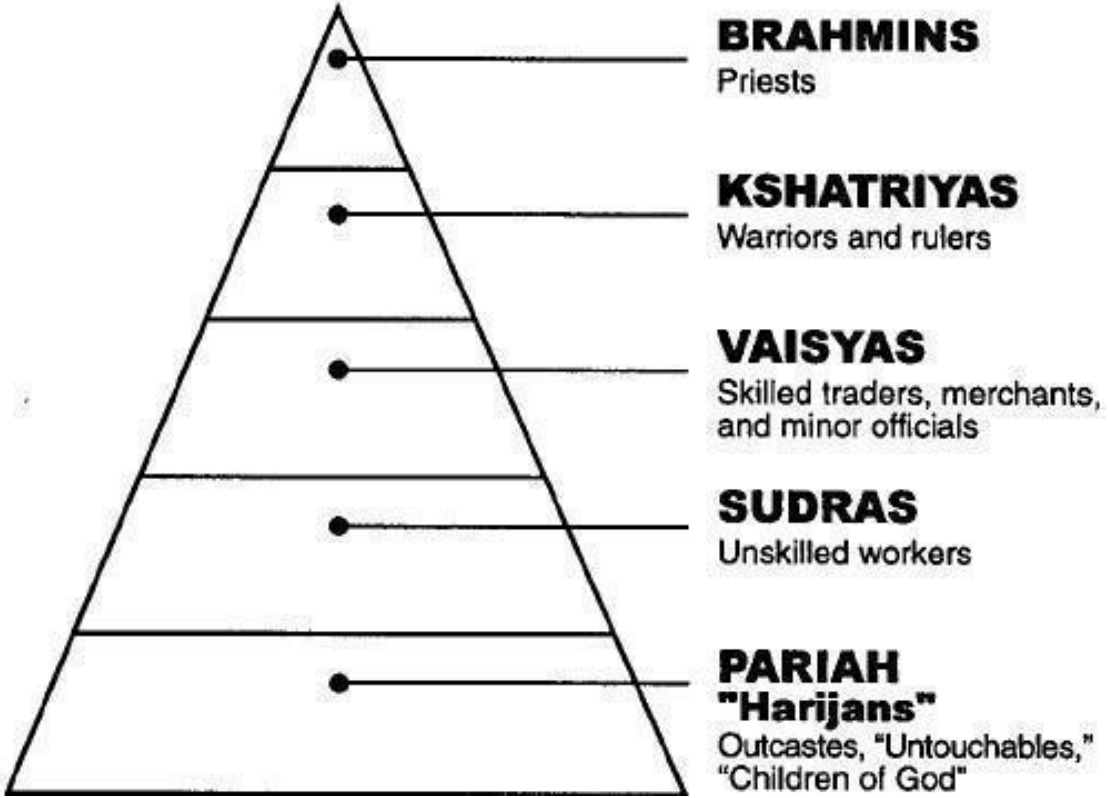
Shiva = god of destruction

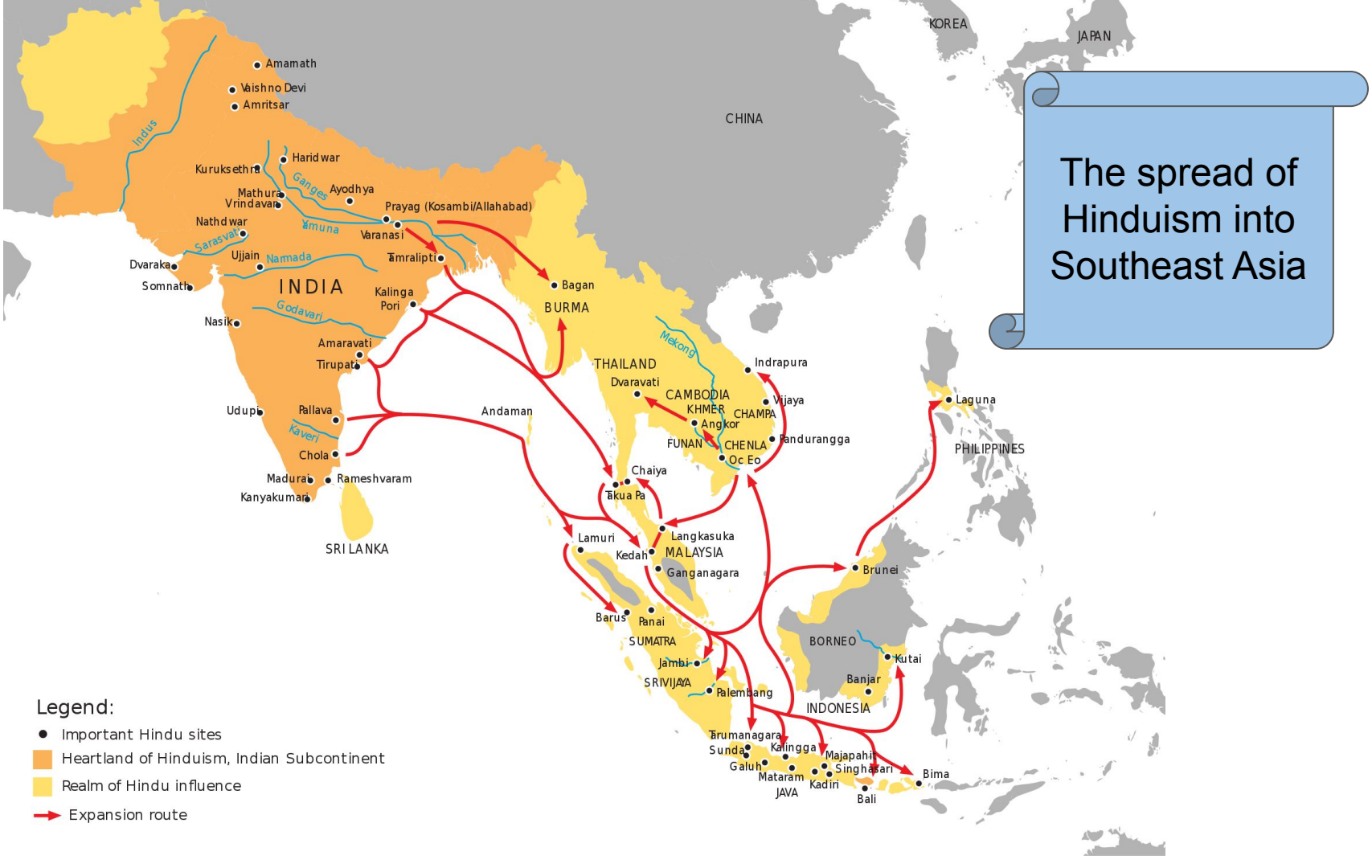
Social Life and Duty in Classical India

Caste (Varna)	Color/Symbolism	Part of Purusha	Duties
Brahmin	White/spirituality	Head	Priests, teacher
Kshatriya	Red/courage	Shoulders	Warriors, rulers
Vaisya	Yellow/wealth	Thighs	Farmers, merchants, artisans
Sudra	Black/ignorance	Feet	labor

Untouchables were outside the varna system – thus no color and not associated with Purusha

Hindu Caste System



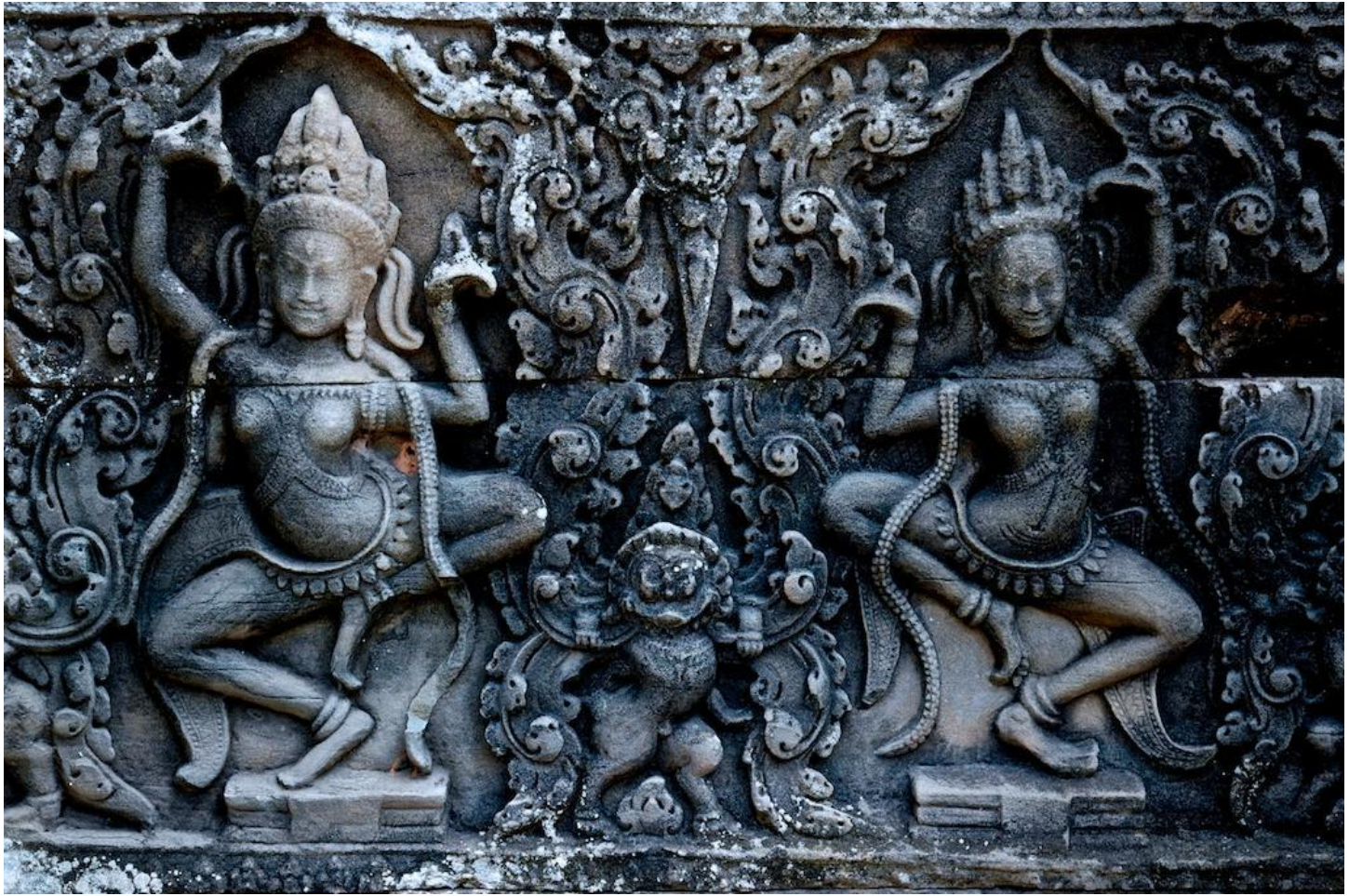

The spread of Hinduism into Southeast Asia
KOREA
JAPAN
CHINA
Amamath
Vaishno Devi
Amritsar
Indus
Haridwar
Kuruksethra
Ganges
Ayodhya
Mathura
Vrindavan
Prayag (Kosambi/Allahabad)
Nathdwar
Yamuna
Varanasi
Sarasvati
Ujjain
Narmada
Tamralipti
Dvaraka
Somnath
INDIA
Kalinga
Pori
Bagan
BURMA
Godavari
Nasik
Amaravati
Tirupati
Mekong
THAILAND
Indrapura
Dvaravati
CAMBODIA
Vijaya
KHMER
CHAMPA
Angkor
Laguna
Udupi
Pallava
Andaman
FUNAN
CHENLA
Pandurangga
PHILIPPINES
Kaveri
Chola
Oc Eo
Chaiya
Madurai
Rameshvaram
Takua Pa
Kanyakumari
Lamuri
Langkasuka
Kedah
MALAYSIA
SRI LANKA
Ganganagara
Brunei
Barus
Panai
SUMATRA
BORNEO
Kutai
Jambi
Banjar
SRIVIJAYA
Palembang
INDONESIA
Tarumanagara
Sunda
Kalingga
Majapahit
Galuh
Singhasari
Mataram
Kadiri
Bima
JAVA
Bali
Legend:
Important Hindu sites
Heartland of Hinduism, Indian Subcontinent
Realm of Hindu influence
Expansion route

Angkor Wat – Evidence of the Spread of Hinduism

- Angkor Wat is a temple complex in Cambodia (SE Asia)
- It is the largest religious monument in the world as it is made up of hundreds of temples
- Began as Hindu but became Buddhist
- Built in Siem Reap, Cambodia in the 12th century CE
- Evidence that Hinduism spread out of South Asia (India) to Southeast Asia (Cambodia)
    - Indian traders sailed across the Indian Ocean and South China Sea, establishing coastal trade networks with Southeast Asia.
    - Along with goods like spices, textiles, and gold, they brought religion, language (Sanskrit), scripts, and art.
    - Cambodian ports became key stops on these routes, creating cultural contact zones.

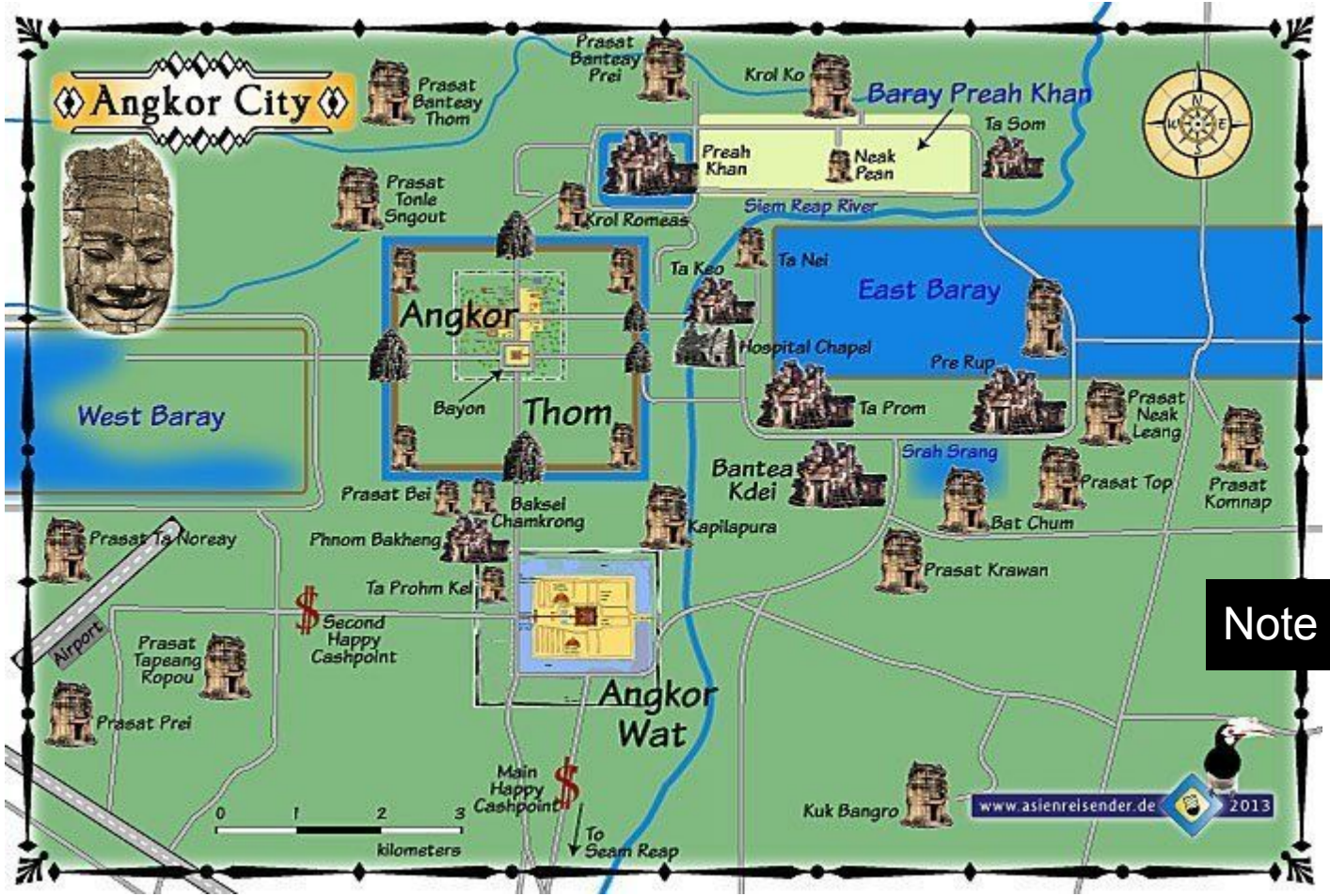






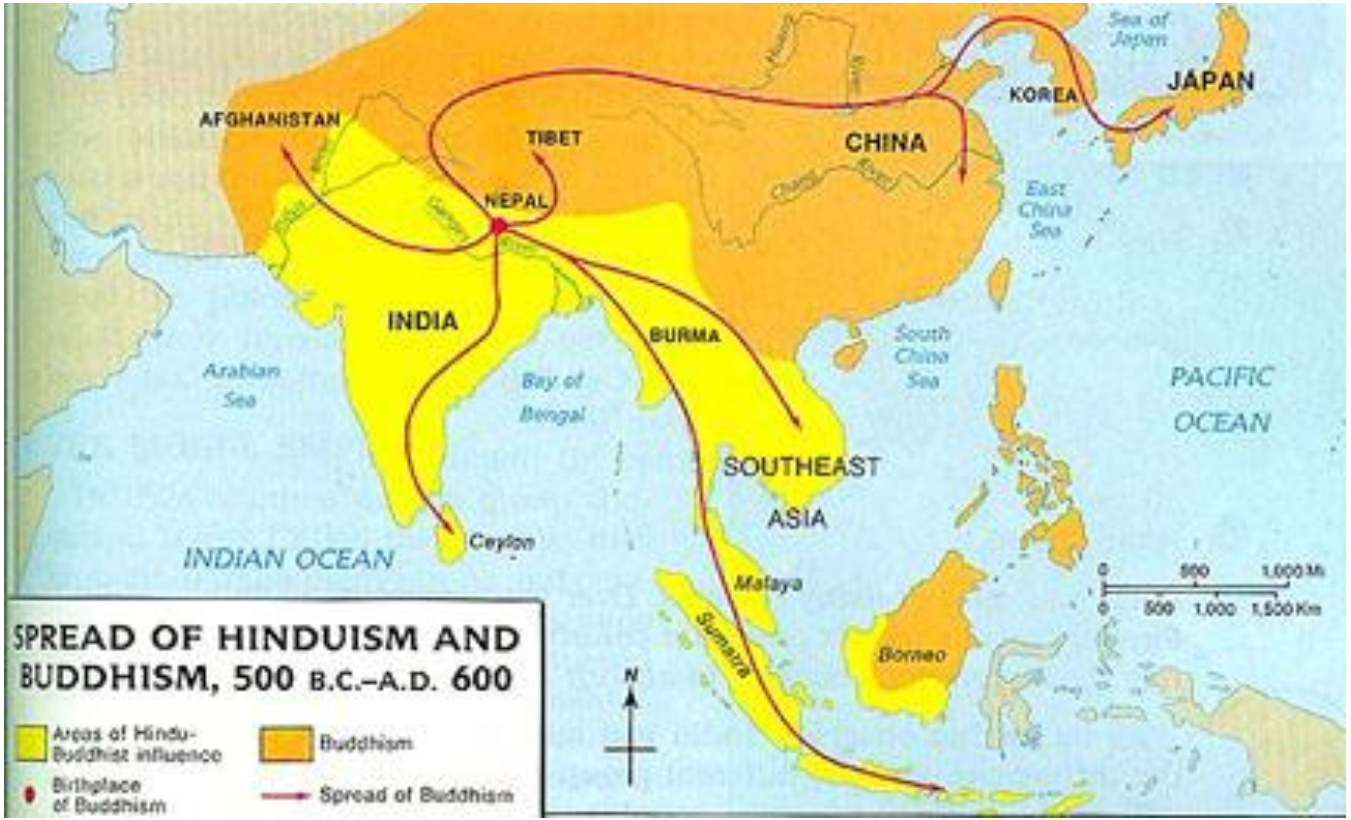






Note all of the temples!

Hinduism and Buddhism

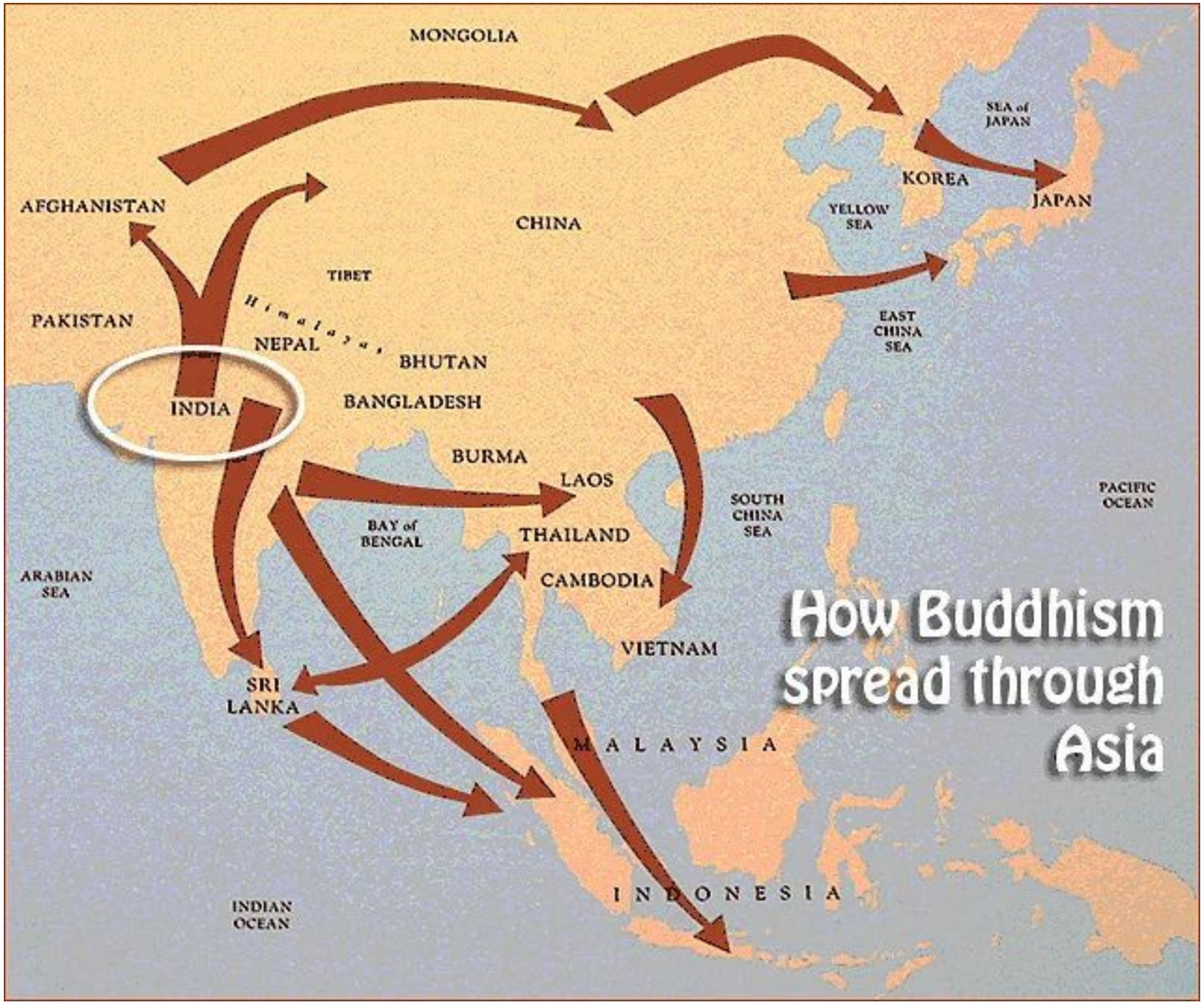



Buddhism

Origins of Buddhism

- **Buddhism** was founded by **Siddhartha Gautama** (born c. 563 BCE in present day Nepal), into a wealthy Kshatriya (warrior) family
- He lived a sheltered life in luxury, but at age 29, he encountered suffering—old age, sickness, and death—and began to question the meaning of life
- He left his home in search of spiritual answers, practiced extreme self-denial, and eventually meditated under the Bodhi Tree, where he achieved enlightenment (**nirvana**).
- Began in India but spread to Sri Lanka, Central Asia, China, Korea, Japan, and Southeast Asia.
- Buddhist **missionaries**, like those sent by Emperor Ashoka in the Maurya Empire, helped spread the religion across Asia
- Trade routes such as the Silk Roads and Indian Ocean trade also facilitated the spread of Buddhism




MONGOLIA
SEA of JAPAN
KOREA
JAPAN
YELLOW SEA
AFGHANISTAN
CHINA
TIBET
Himalaya
PAKISTAN
NEPAL
BHUTAN
EAST CHINA SEA
INDIA
BANGLADESH
BURMA
LAOS
SOUTH CHINA SEA
PACIFIC OCEAN
BAY of BENGAL
THAILAND
ARABIAN SEA
CAMBODIA
VIETNAM
SRI LANKA
MALAYSIA
INDONESIA
INDIAN OCEAN
How Buddhism spread through Asia

Beliefs and Practices of Buddhism

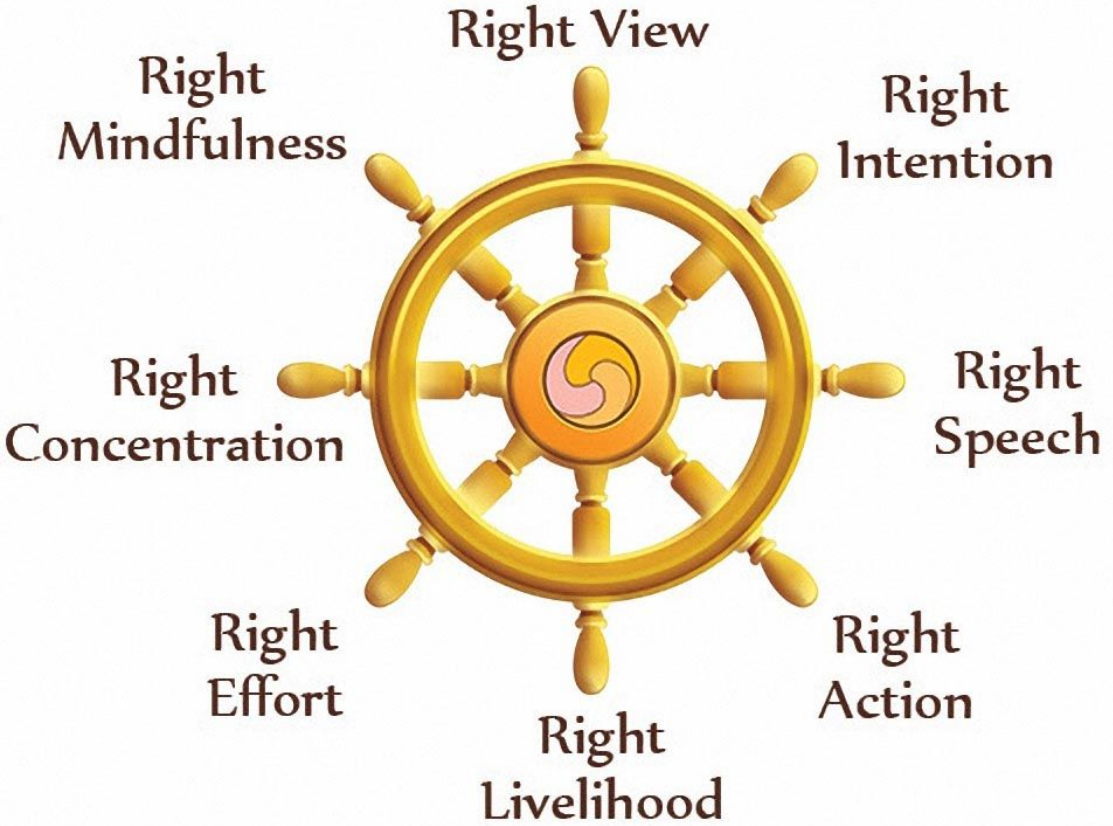


- Belief in the **Four Noble Truths**
  - Life is suffering
  - Suffering is caused by desire and attachment
  - We can end suffering by ending desire
  - The way to end desire is through the Eightfold Path
- Following the Eightfold Path
- Meditation
- Ethical living
- Pilgrimages to holy sites
- Some may join monasteries and devote their lives to spiritual study and service

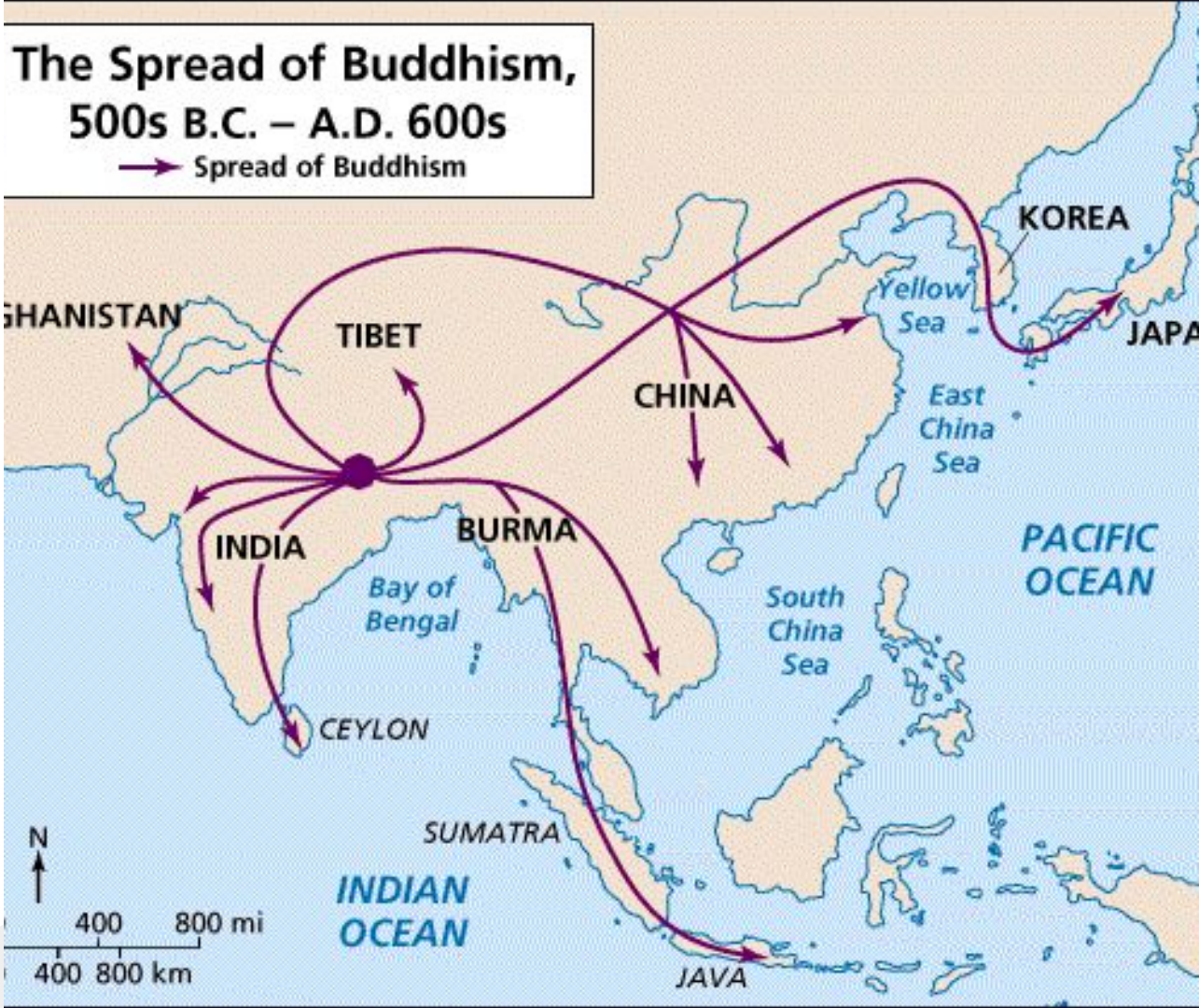


I teach but one thing suffering and the end of suffering.

The Eightfold Path



- Buddhism appealed to the impoverished, women, and those in low castes as it offered hope and an end to suffering.
- It spread quickly via merchants and missionaries, especially along the **Silk Roads**.
- As it spread, it changed to adapt to new populations creating **Mahayana Buddhism**.



Mahayana Buddhism

- As Buddhism spread, some of the early features (rigorous and time-consuming meditation, focus on monks and nuns withdrawing from ordinary life, absence of supernatural figures to offer help and comfort) proved difficult for many converts
- The religion adapted – forming **Mahayana Buddhism** which offered greater accessibility
- Enlightenment became accessible to everyone and was possible within the context of ordinary life, not just a monastery
- Due to the popularity of Mahayana Buddhism, many Bodhisattva figures became prominent

Theravada vs. Mahayana

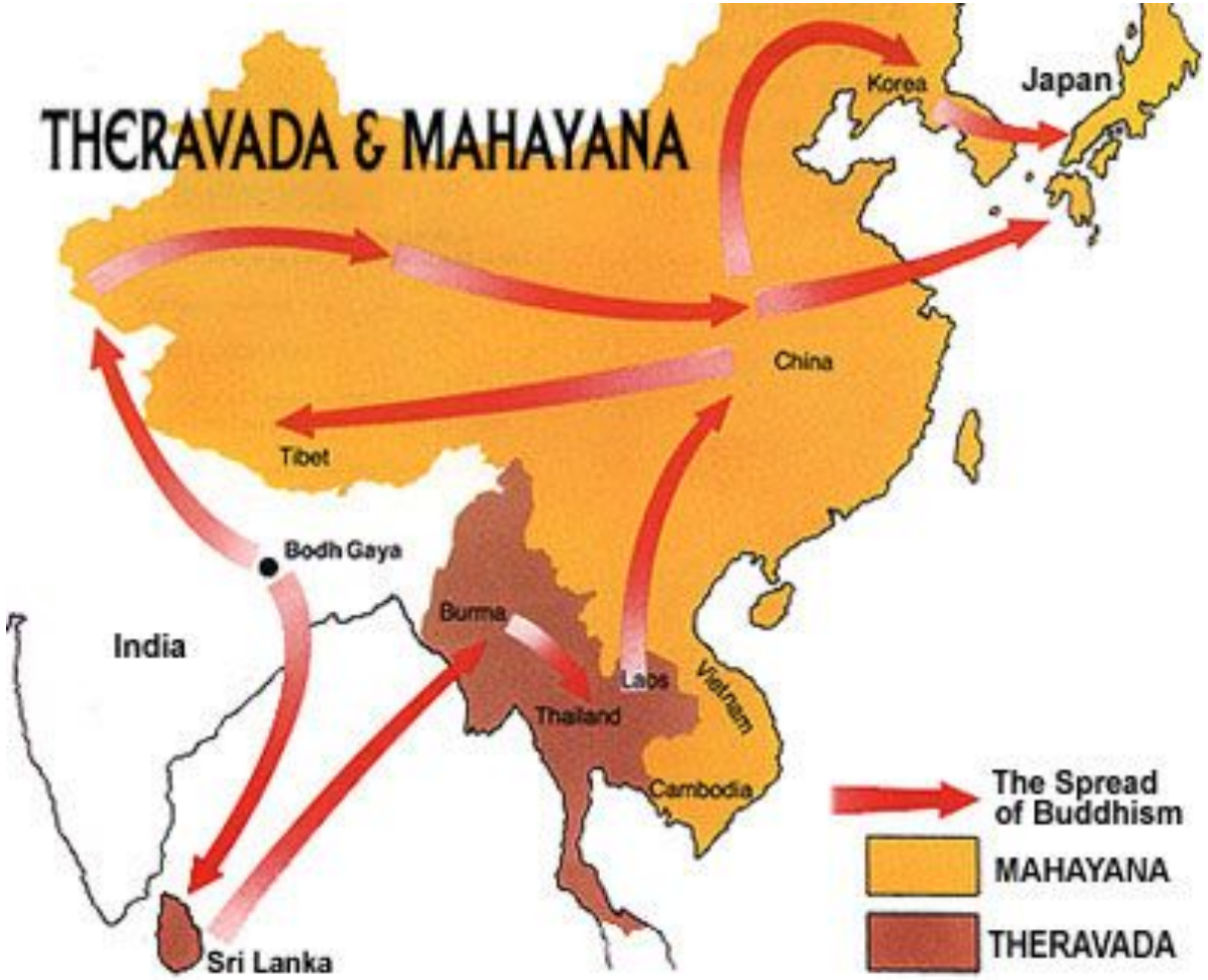
Theravada Buddhism	Mahayana Buddhism
Austere doctrine of self-effort	**Bodhisattvas assisted those who were still suffering**
Usually just monks and nuns who withdrew from society in quest for enlightenment	**Buddha was something of a god and available to help**
More psychological than religious	Became a religion of salvation (supernatural beings, levels of heaven and hell)
Set of practices rather than beliefs	Religious merit which leads to salvation can be earned by acts of piety and devotion
Gods played limited role in assisting believers in their search for enlightenment	**Much more accessible and popular form of Buddhism**
Buddha was portrayed as wise teacher but NOT divine	

Bodhisattva

(in Mahayana Buddhism) a person who is able to reach nirvana but delays doing so out of compassion in order to save suffering beings.

Guides others in their pursuit of Nirvana.




THERAVADA & MAHAYANA
Korea
Japan
China
Tibet
Bodh Gaya
India
Burma
Laos
Thailand
Vietnam
Cambodia
Sri Lanka
The Spread of Buddhism
MAHAYANA
THERAVADA



Buddhist Symbolism

For five centuries after Buddha's death (5th century B.C.E) artists represented Buddha as an empty throne, a horse with no rider, a tree, a wheel, or some other symbolic way. Among the most popular symbolic representations of the Buddha were images of his footprints.

Buddhist Symbolism

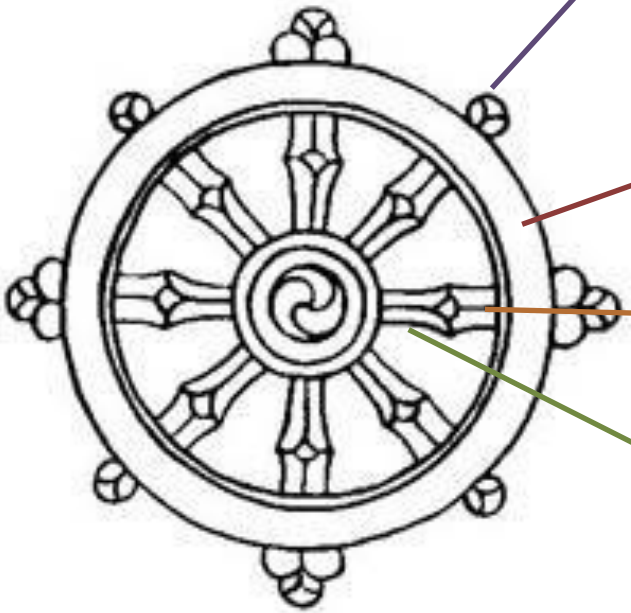
Yakshis: Indian female earth spirits suggesting fertility. Position of hands conveys respectful greeting



Lotus flower: represents Buddha's purity

Dharmachakra: wheel-like structure that symbolizes Buddha's teaching

Triratna: symbolizes the three things in Buddhists can take refuge: Buddha himself, his teaching, and the sangha (the Buddhist community)



The tire = wisdom

The spokes = rules of pure conduct

The hub = modesty & thoughtfulness

The axle = unchanging truth

The Lotus as a Symbol in Buddhism

Lotus flowers often appear in Buddhist art and statutes. With its roots in the mud, the lotus emerges on the surface of the water as a pure, beautiful, and fragrant flower.





Gandhara Buddha

- By the first century C.E. the impulse to depict the Buddha in human form had surfaced.
- Earliest examples of depictions of Buddha come from Gandhara (S.E. Asia – modern Pakistan) – had been part of empire of **Alexander the Great** and **Hellenistic** successors
- Early images reflect this Greco-Roman influence, depicting Buddha with face similar to the Greek god Apollo – dressed in a Roman style tog, and with curly hair characteristics of those in the Mediterranean region




Created by Thomas A. Lessman
www.WorldHistoryMaps.info
Updated: 5-23-2008
Saami
Ugrian Peoples
Paleo Siberian Taiga Hunter - Gatherers
Finnish Tribes
Germanic Tribes
Baltic Tribes
Tungusic Peoples
Caledoni?
Hibernians?
Britons
Silures
Belgi
Venadae (Slavs)
Yenesei Kyrgyz
Sarmatians
Turko-Mongolian Tribes
Gauls
Celtic Tribes
Scythians
Thyssagetae
Aspisi
Donghu Tribes
Helveti
Raetians
Panonni
Dacians
Siraces
Sushen (Yilou)
Aquitani
Liguri
Gauls
Venceti
Bosporus
Saceans (Scythians)
Massagetae
Wusun (Issedones)
Xiongnu Tribes
Gallaeci
Cantabri
Astures
Illyrians
Getae
Legae
Sakas
Gojoseon
Lusitani
Iberians
Celtiberians
Rome
Colchis
Iberians
Pontus
Albania
Khorasmii
Tocharians (Yuezhi)
Armenia
Dahae
Tarim Basin States (Tocharian speakers?)
Hu
Yan
Zhao
Qi
Wei
Jin
Empire of Alexander "the Great"
Kashmir
Chiang
Jung
Qin
Han
Empire of Carthage
Numidians
Syracuse
Crete
Berber Tribes
Proto - Tibetan Tribes
Chiang
Chu
Shu
Ba
Cyrene
Amorites
Nabateans
Lybians
Garamantes
Matsya
Burmese Peoples
Bo
Bi
Yue Peoples
Kamarupa
Nanda Dynasty
Dian
Yelang
Arabian Tribes
Gerrha
Nishada
Ganga-ridai
Taiwanese Peoples
Ma'in
Mascat
Surashtra
Ashmaka
Kosala
Pyu Peoples
Khmer Peoples
Văn Lang (Lac Viet)
Saharan Pastoral Nomads
Blemmyes
Meroe
Danywhadi
Konkana
Kalinga
Assaka
Andhras
Dong Son Culture
Saba
Hadhramaut
Kishkindha
Mande Peoples
Damot
Qataban
Gomanta
Sa Huynh Culture
Mon Peoples
Axum
Dravida
Mushika
Gur
Chadians
Cholas
Cheras
Pandyas
Nok Civilization
Kwa
Nilotic Peoples
Cushites
Anuradhapuras
Malays
Bantu Peoples
Malays
Malays
Bantu Peoples
Bantu Peoples
Empire of Alexander the Great 323 BC
Numbered Countries:
1. Marseille (Greek Colony)
2. Etruscans
3. Picentis
4. Samnites
5. Lucani
6. Bruttii
7. Tarentum
8. Epirus
9. Sparta
10. Bithynia
11. Chou
12. Shangtang
13. Zongshan
14. Lu
Blue Names = Hellenistic Nations
Green Names = Iranian Nations

Gandhara Buddha







Compare this Buddha statue to the Greek statue of the god Apollo. How are they similar? How are they different?





This is not supposed to represent Buddha.

This is Budai, the historical Chinese monk who is often identified with and venerated as the future or Maitreya Buddha in Chan Buddhism and Buddhist scripture.

With the spread of Chan Buddhism (a branch of Buddhism), he also came to be venerated in Vietnam, Korea, and Japan.

Budai is said to have lived around the 10th century CE in the Wuyue kingdom.

The following images show how Buddha is actually portrayed in Buddhist states today.

Thailand




Thailand
พระสมเด็จเจ้าเกาะยอ


Burma


Japan

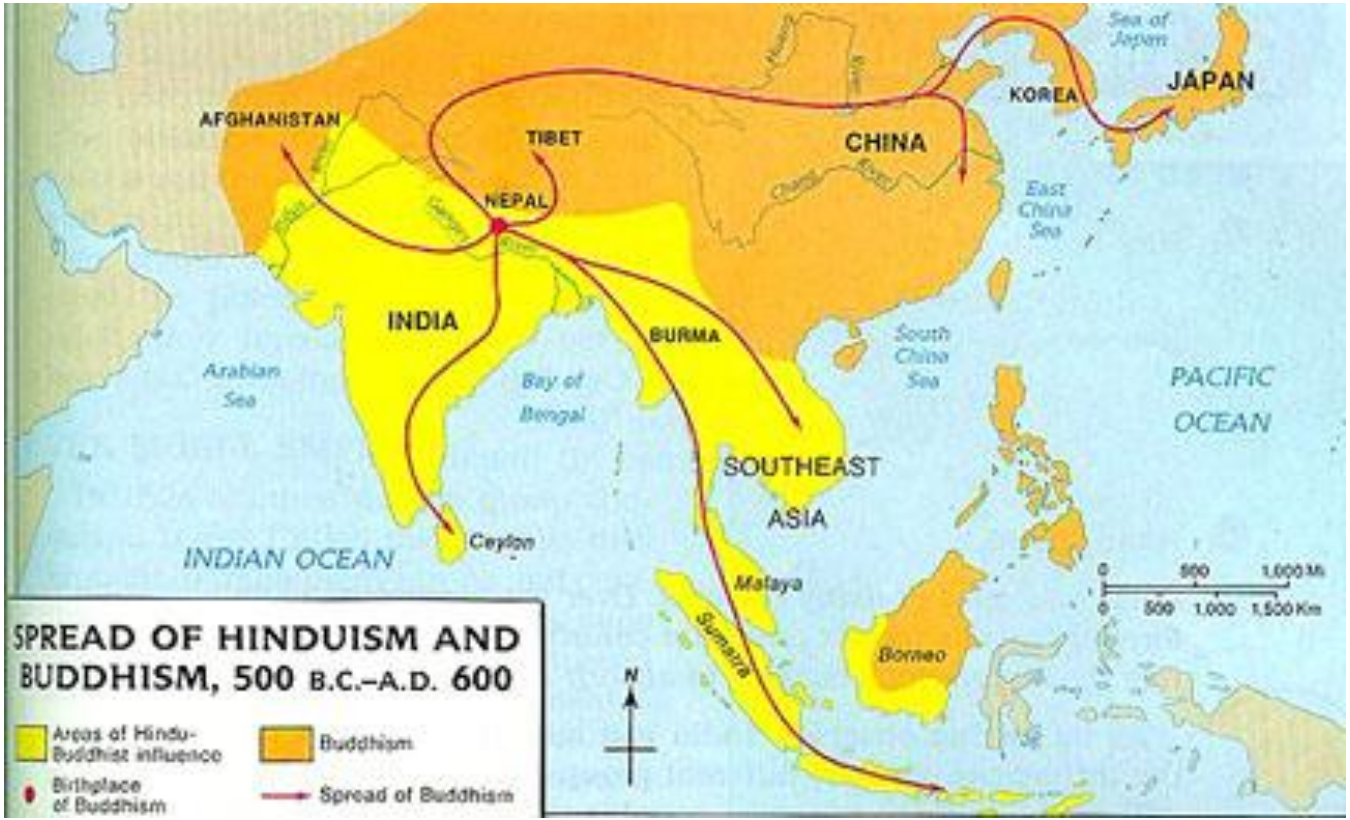

Japan


Indonesia

Korea



The Spread of Hinduism and Buddhism



Chinese Popular Religion

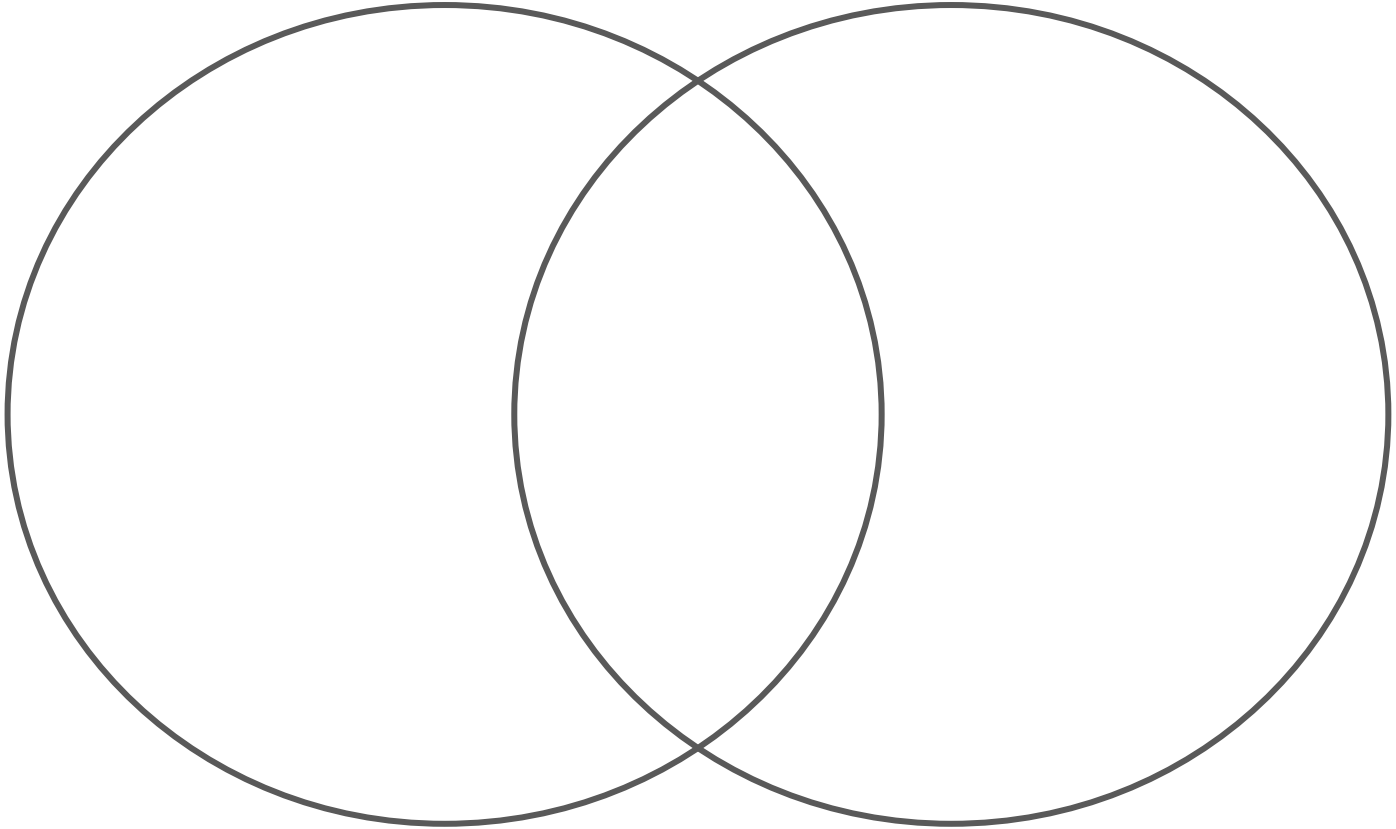
- The term **Chinese Popular Religion** is used for the blend (syncretism) of Daoism, Confucianism, and Buddhism practiced by many people in China
- Especially popular with people in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, and Singapore
- Synthesis of faiths emphasizes the immortals, the festivals, and other religious observances



Why did Buddhism's Popularity Decline in India?

- Buddhism began to decline in India around 700–1200 CE, and by around 1200 CE, it had largely disappeared from most of the Indian subcontinent as a major religious force
- But why did this happen?
- Buddhism was absorbed into Hindu traditions
- Growing wealth of monasteries separated leaders from ordinary people
- Competition from Islam after 1000 C.E.
- *Bhakti* (worship) movement encouraged strong devotion to a specific god or goddess which made Hinduism more popular
- Growth of popular Hinduism as seen in the epics *Mahabharata* and the *Ramayana*
- Though Buddhism began in South Asia, it had a greater cultural and social impact on East and Southeast Asia after 1200 CE

Buddhism **Hinduism**



Comparing Buddhism & Hinduism

Buddhism



Hinduism



Similarities

- Origins in India
- Reincarnation
- Meditation
- Goal is to reach higher state of being
- Women play subservient role
- Emphasize selflessness
- Karma
- Religious texts
- Hope for final relief from cycle of rebirth
- Ordinary life is an illusion

Differences

- Use of missionaries
- More of a way of life rather than religion
- Social mobility
- Rejected the caste system
- Monastic communities
- Not as focused on rituals and sacrifices
- Not interested in abstract speculation about creation of the world
- Women had some status when joining Buddhist monasteries
- Nirvana

- Caste system (social hierarchy)
- Monistic
- Bathing in Ganges
- Centered mostly in India/Sri Lanka
- More accessible to the average person
- Moksha

Confucianism's Impact on China / E. Asia

Hinduism's Impact on India / South Asia

