



India's Great Civilization

AP NOTES: CHAPTER 4

EURASIAN EMPIRES: CLASSICAL INDIA

Aryans

- Developed a new civilization in modern-day India
- Located in the Ganges Plain & the Indus River Valley



Ways of Life



- **Loosely organized into tribes of nomadic herders**
 - Each tribe was led by a rajah = chief
- **Cattle were the basis of their diet & economy**
 - Also served as money
- **Tribes were often at war; raided each other's cow herds**

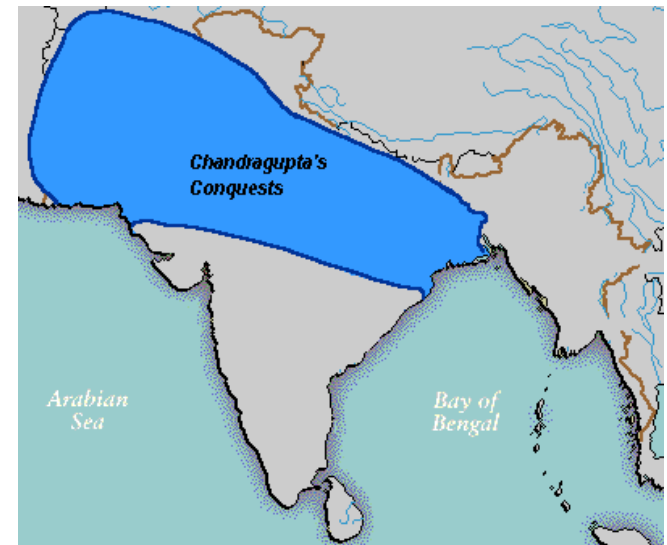
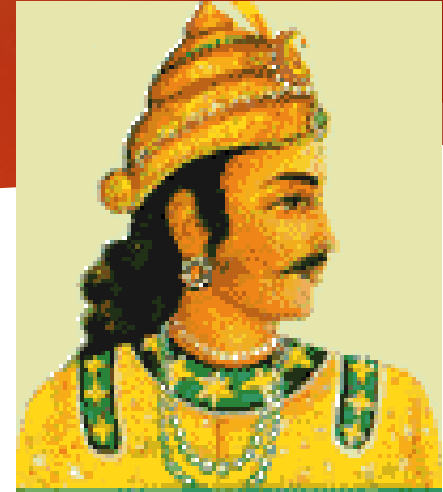
Ways of Life

- Indus River Valley was ideal for farming --> so people eventually settled down into agricultural communities
- People also hunted game; ate bananas & cucumbers
- Men dominated the society
 - Women didn't challenge their authority
- Boys & girls of high rank attended school



Mauryan Empire

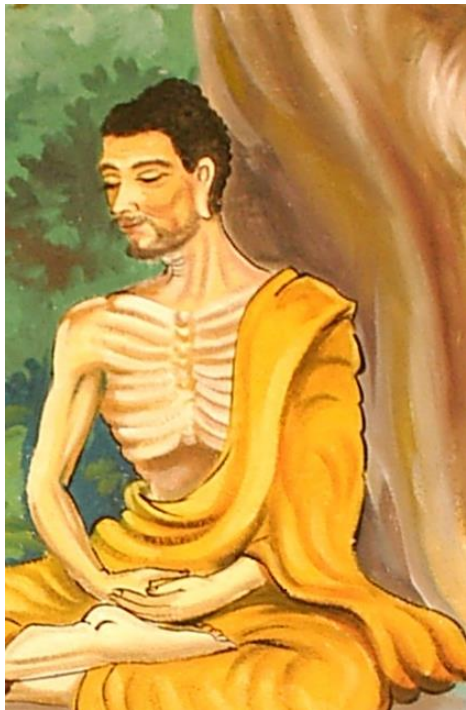
- **Led by Chandragupta Maurya**
 - Strong leader
 - Developed a postal system
 - Maintained a strong army
- **Located in northern & central India**



Mauryan Empire

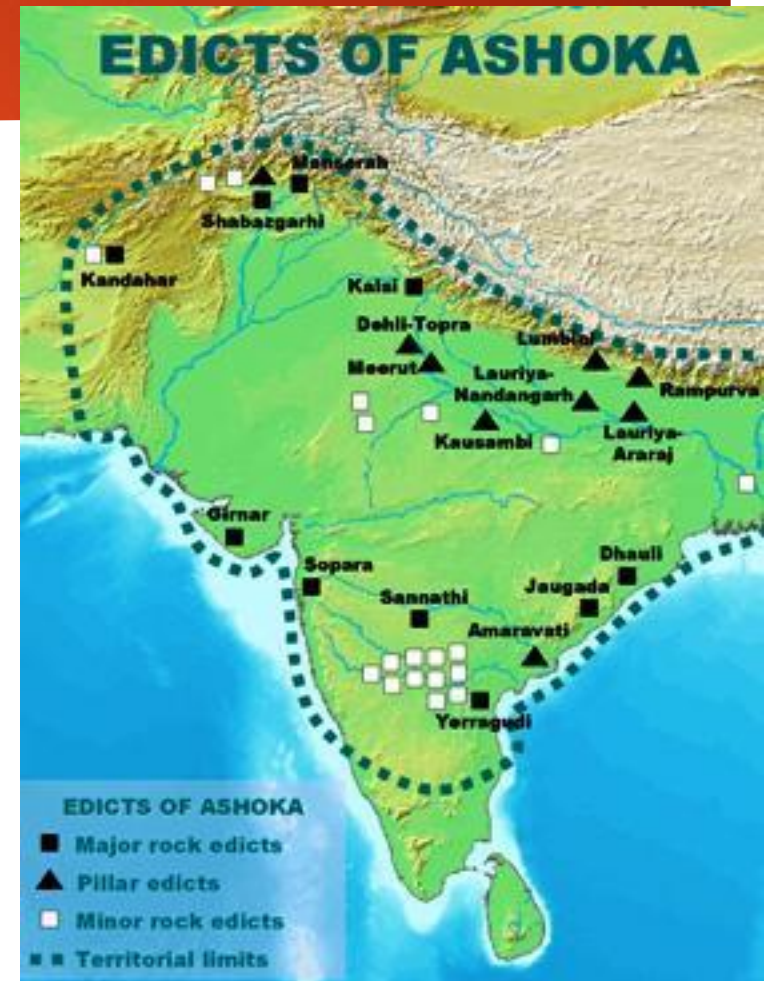


- **Ashoka = Chandragupta's grandson**
- **Indian civilization blossomed under his reign**
- **His empire covered 2/3 of the subcontinent**
- **Gained this land with fierce wars of conquest & merciless armies**
- **After witnessing the horrors of battle, he vowed to never go to war again**
- **Followed the teachings of Buddha**



Ashoka

- Created laws called the Rock Edicts --> laws were carved on rocks throughout the empire
 - Stressed concern for other human beings
- Set up free hospitals, roads, and rest houses



Mauryan Empire



- **Empire declined after Ashoka's death**
 - **His successor's charged heavy taxes**
 - **Also took crops from poor workers**
 - **People turned against them**

Gupta Empire

- Developed 500 years after the Mauryan Empire (around 310 AD)
- Started by Chandragupta I (no relation to the other)
- Ruled northern India for more than 200 years
- This period is called India's Golden Age
 - Arts & sciences flourished
- Maintained authority with trained soldiers, spies, & assassins



Gupta Religion

- Hinduism was the official religion
- Built Hindu temples
- Temples decorated with brightly painted sculptures of Hindu epic tales



Gupta Life

- Empire reached its height under Chandragupta II who gave people more freedom
- However, status of women declined
 - Parents chose husbands/wives for their children
 - Child marriages were common



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Gupta Achievements



ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY RUSSO

- Court welcomed poets, playwrights, philosophers, and scientists
- Learning & education promoted
- Writing focused on religion & folktales

Gupta Achievements



- **Made advances in mathematics --> mostly algebra**
 - **Invented concept of zero**
 - **Explained concept of infinity**
 - **Created Arabic Numerals (#s 1-9)**

Gupta Achievements



- **Astronomy**
 - Said the Earth was round
 - Had some knowledge of gravity
- **Medicine**
 - Set bones, performed surgery, invented instruments

End of the Gupta Empire

- **Empire failed after Chandragupta II's death in 415 CE**
- **As government weakened, the empire faced invasions**