

# **World History: Connection to Today**

## **Chapter 3**

# **Early Civilizations in India and China (2500 B.C.–256 B.C.)**

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## **Chapter 3: Early Civilizations in India and China (2500 B.C–256 B.C.)**

### **Section 1: Cities of the Indus Valley**

### **Section 2: Kingdoms of the Ganges**

### **Section 3: Early Civilization in China**

# Cities of the Indus Valley



- How has geography influenced India?
- How has archaeology provided clues about Indus Valley civilization?
- What theories do scholars hold about the decline of Indus Valley civilization?



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# Geography of the Indian Subcontinent



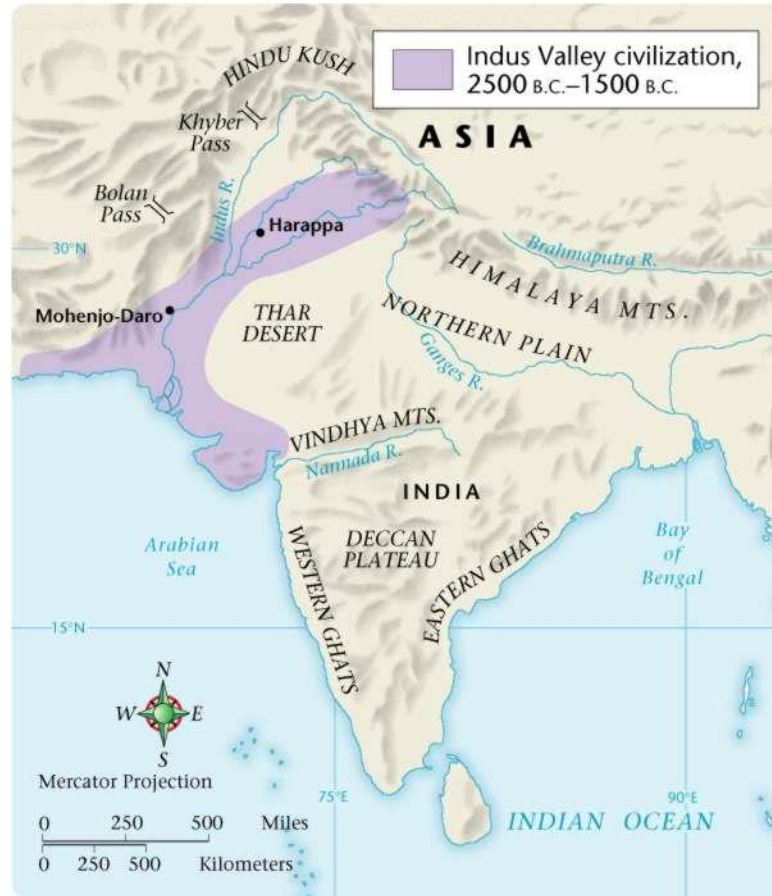
The Indus Valley is located on the **subcontinent** of India.

The mountains in the north limited contact with other lands and helped India to develop a distinct culture.

The subcontinent is divided into three major zones: northern plain, Deccan, and coastal plains.

The rivers of India, particularly the Ganges, are considered sacred.

The **monsoon**, or seasonal wind, is a defining feature of Indian life.



# Indus Valley Civilization



The earliest Indian civilization flourished for about 1,000 years, then vanished without a trace. Archaeologists have only recently begun to uncover evidence of these early people, whose civilization included the following characteristics:

Well-organized government

Modern plumbing and sewer system

Carefully planned cities

Most people were farmers

First people to cultivate cotton

Covered largest area of any civilization until the rise of Persia 1,000 years later

Traded with distant lands, including Sumer

Polytheistic; honored mother goddess; worship of sacred animals influenced the later **ver**eneration of cattle



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# Decline and Disappearance of Indus Valley Civilization



No one knows for certain why the cities were abandoned and forgotten. Scholars have proposed a number of theories:

- Too many trees were cut down.
- A devastating earthquake destroyed the region.
- A volcanic eruption caused the Indus to flood the city.
- Aryan invaders overran the region.



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# Section 1 Assessment



**Which of the following is true about the Indus Valley civilization?**

- a) Its people were monotheistic.
- b) Its people were polytheistic.
- c) Most people were merchants.
- d) Its people were the first to grow corn.

**Which geographical feature helped India to develop a distinct culture?**

- a) river
- b) plain
- c) mountains
- d) plateaus

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# Section 1 Assessment



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# Kingdoms of the Ganges



- What were the main characteristics of Aryan civilization in India?
- How did expansion lead to changes in Aryan civilization?
- What do ancient Indian epics reveal about Aryan life?



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# Aryan Civilization



The Aryans destroyed and looted the civilization of the Indus Valley and built a new Indian civilization, which reflected the following characteristics:

Nomadic warriors

Built no cities and left no statues

Felt superior to the people they conquered

Polytheistic

Religious teachings from the Vedas

People born into **castes**, or social groups, which they could not change



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# Aryan Civilization



Expansion led to change in Aryan civilization because they

- mingled with the people they conquered;
- gave up their nomadic ways and settled into villages to farm and breed cattle;
- learned such skills as ironmaking and developed crafts of their own;
- fought to control trade and territory;
- moved toward the idea of a single spiritual power;
- some **rajās**, or tribal chiefs, became hereditary rulers;
- developed the written language of Sanskrit.



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# Epic Literature



**Two great epic poems, the *Mahabharata* and the *Ramayana*, tell us about Aryan life and values.**

The *Mahabharata* celebrates battle and reflects important Indian beliefs about the immortality of the soul.

The *Ramayana* celebrates a daring and adventurous hero and portrays the ideal woman as loyal and obedient to her husband.



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# Section 2 Assessment



Which of the following is *not* true of the early Aryans?

- a) They built magnificent palaces and temples.
- b) They were nomadic warriors.
- c) They organized people into castes.
- d) They believed in many gods.

What is one way that expansion changed Aryan civilization?

- a) People settled into villages and took up farming.
- b) The Aryans isolated themselves from the people that they conquered.
- c) The Aryans stopped trying to gain additional lands.
- d) The Aryans developed a more complex religious system, which involved the worship of many more gods.

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# Section 2 Assessment



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# Early Civilization in China



- How did geography influence early Chinese civilization?
- How did Chinese culture take shape under the Shang and the Zhou?
- What were key cultural achievements in early China?



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# The Geography of China



China was the most isolated of the civilizations studied thus far.

Long distances and physical barriers separated China from Egypt, the Middle East, and India.

Isolation contributed to the Chinese belief that China was the center of the earth and the only civilization.

As in Egypt and Mesopotamia, Chinese civilization began in a river valley, the Huang He.



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# Chinese civilization took shape under the Shang and Zhou.



<b>Shang Dynasty</b> (1650 B.C.–1027 B.C.)	<b>Zhou Dynasty</b> (1027 B.C.–256 B.C.)
<p>Gained control of corner of northern China along Huang He.</p> <p>Drove off nomads from northern steppes and deserts.</p> <p>Held complex religious beliefs.</p> <p>Developed written language used by all Chinese people.</p>	<p>Overthrew the Shang.</p> <p>Promoted idea of Mandate of Heaven.</p> <p>Set up feudal state.</p> <p>Economy and commerce grew.</p> <p>Population increased.</p>



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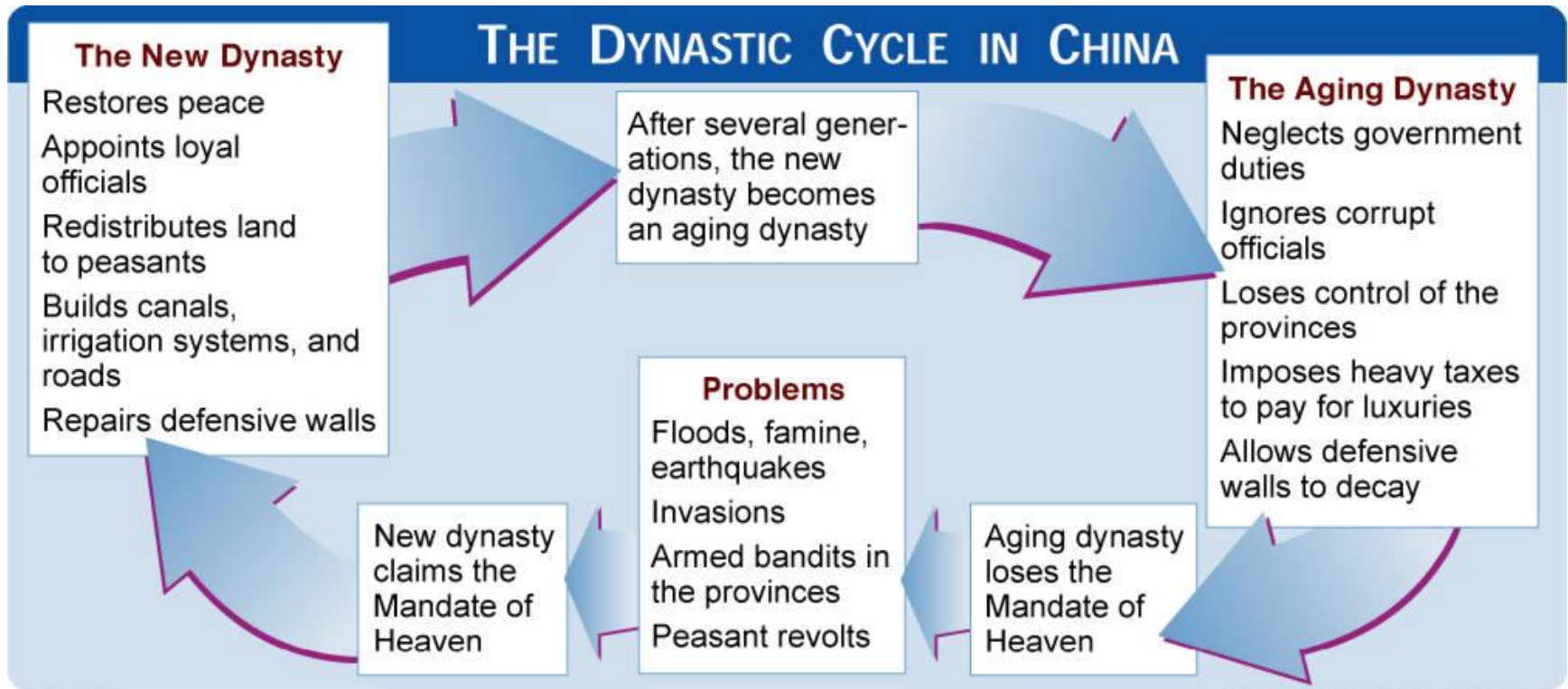
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# The Dynastic Cycle in China



The **dynastic cycle** refers to the rise and fall of dynasties.



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# Cultural Achievements



The Chinese made progress in many areas during the Shang and Zhou periods.

Discovered how to make silk thread. Silk became China's most valuable export. Trade route to the Middle East became known as Silk Road.

Made the first books from wood or bamboo.

Studied the movement of planets and recorded eclipses of the sun.

Developed accurate calendar with 365 1/4 days.

Made remarkable achievements in the art of bronzemaking.



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# Section 3 Assessment



**What does the dynastic cycle explain?**

- a) why the Chinese had developed complex religious beliefs
- b) why there are floods and famine
- c) why there are peasant revolts
- d) why dynasties rise and fall

**Why was the development of silk making so important?**

- a) It gave the peasants something to do.
- b) Silk became China's most valuable export.
- c) It provided a way for the Chinese to get rid of annoying silkworms.
- d) Chinese experts traveled to foreign countries to teach silk making techniques.

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# Section 3 Assessment



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