

Ancient India

(4000 - 300 BCE)

Religion

Religions got their roots from Neolithic Period, with cremation and the value of cleanliness

Buddhism believes life is suffering. Suffering caused by greed, ignorance, and hatred. It can be ended by following path

Caste system
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Priests
Kings
Specialists
Labour Force

Main religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism. Goal was to end the reincarnation cycle by having good karma

Hinduism is polytheistic with one true God, has many rituals. Study ancient hymns, and meditate. Search for truth

Jainism believes all living things have souls. Vegetarian, self-guided (no priests)

Government & Social Structure

A caste is inherited, and a person can never leave that caste

Governance is based on religion. The priests interpret god in the making of laws and dealing punishment

The king was the head of all 3 branches of government. He was assisted by elected officials.

Spy work was critical to being better prepared for events, and for the government to check on public opinion of the king's rule

Urban Culture

Villages were very developed. City plans had drainage systems, street lights, granaries, baths, and wells

Ancient India was a monarch government with forms of a democracy in some kingdoms

The Chandragupta Mauryan Empire was the largest empire, which combined 16 individual kingdoms into one.

Art was a major influence in life. There are many examples of advanced dance, painting, and sculptures

Tools for agriculture were made in urban areas out of local materials such as copper and bronze, and clothes out of wool

The civilization was very dependent on trade, within the Empire, and regions in Mesopotamia

Traded gold, silver, lapis lazuli, turquoise, metals, flint, seashells, pearls, terracotta, pots, and beads

Developed trading routes with the Middle East, the Roman Empire, and Southeast Asia

Writing Systems

Some believe was first literate society.

After attack in 1500 BCE, the civilization lost written language for 1000 years

Economics

Besides agriculture and animal domestication, the Indus also made tools from tin, copper, and bronze

Roads were built for trade

Though none have been deciphered, there were 4,000+ characters, reading right to left

There are, on average, only 5 characters per piece of text

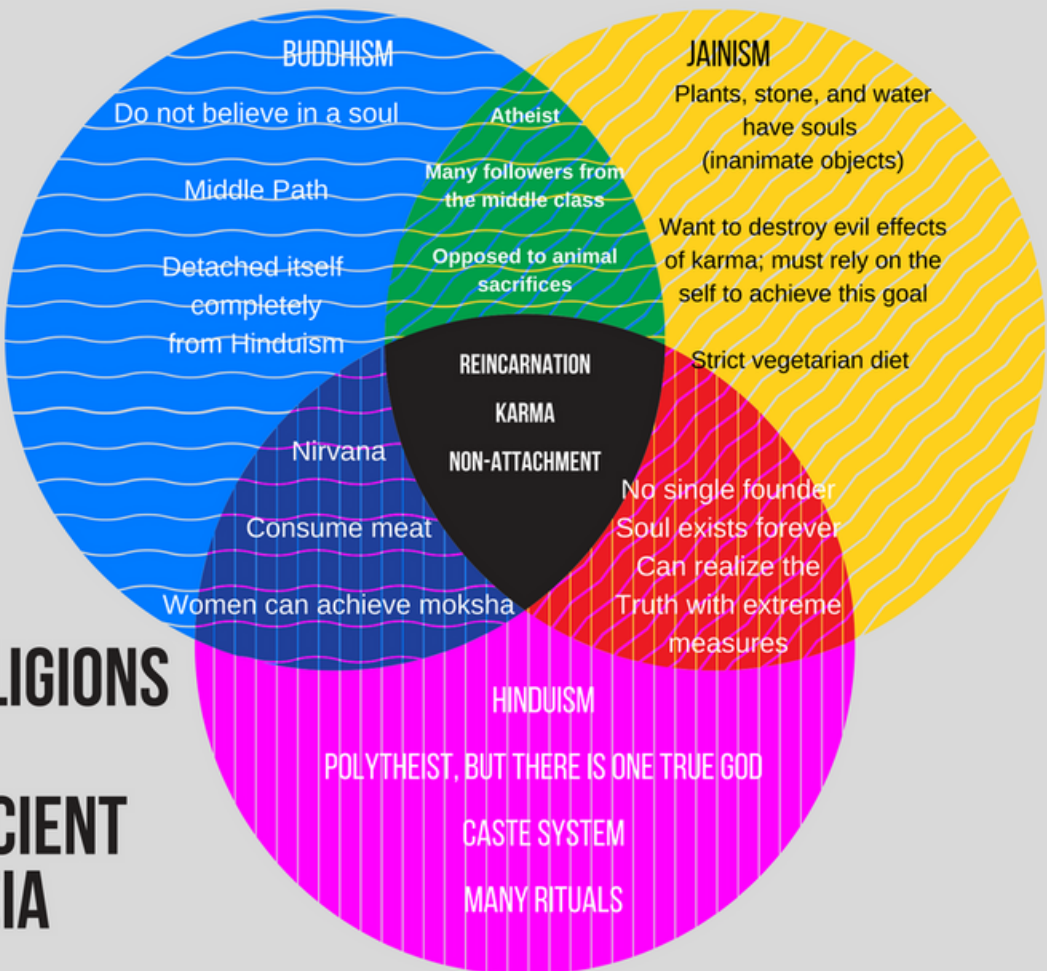
Map of Ancient India



Pictures of Ancient India



Venn Diagram of Ancient Indian Religions



**RELIGIONS
OF
ANCIENT
INDIA**